

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



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August 1, 1998 At Bennett's Boathouse

The meeting began at 10:16 am with greetings from the '97 /'98 President Wayne Lennox. A moment of silence followed, in remembrance of association members and other lake residents who have died in the past year: Donald Robertson; Sue Swift; Mid Mundy; Mrs. Saisbury.

Wayne Lennox introduced and thanked the executive for '97/ '98: Ross Willett - past-president; Duncan Robertson - treasurer. Members of the Board of Directors: Andy Vurma; Dalton Ferris; Paul Thomson; Mike Busenhart; Gary Kindree ; Lynn Abbott-Lennox - secretary (appointed)

Parliamentary Procedures

Approval of the minutes of the '97 Annual General Meeting, Moved by Bernie Deuchars Seconded by Wayne Potter Motion carried

Approval of the Treasurer's report (January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997), Moved by Frank Squires Seconded by Ken Taylor Motion carried

Approval of the Auditor's report for 1997, Moved by Bob Johnston Seconded by Eric Disley. Motion carried

Ratification of the actions of the officers and executive for 1997, Moved by Stuart Price Seconded by Terry Tweed Motion carried

Elections for executive (Officers are elected for a two-year term, and therefore not all were up for re-election at this time. Positions on the board are decided by the elected executive).

Wayne Lennox, Nominated by Joe Zahody Seconded by Don Draper. Motion carried

Dalton Ferris, Nominated by Eric Disley Seconded by Wayne Pofter. Motion carried

Duncan Robertson, Nominated by Ginnie Sperry Seconded by Bob Johnston. Motion carried

Ken Taylor, Nominated by Terry Tweed Seconded by Bill Auld. Motion carried

Motion to close nominations, Moved by Stuart Price, Seconded by Don Corrie Motion carried

A new auditor is needed and Ted Heggart volunteered to stand for the position. Moved by Andy Vurma Seconded by Kirby Brock Motion carried

Wayne Lennox thanked Bert Ellingham for his work as auditor, as well as Paul Thomson for his work on the executive.

Frank Camenzuli asked if in the future the executive would agree to prepare a budget for the membership to vote on. Wayne responded favourably to the suggestion and has agreed to the inclusion of budget projections for 1999 in the November newsletter (President's note: Obviously, we can prepare budget projections for 1999, but the first budget that the membership will be able to vote will be for the fiscal year 2000).

Dam Committee

Andy Vurma made a thorough presentation about the dam - "The Millenium Project". He introduced his committee: Kirby Brock (Big Lake); George Comrie (Big Lake); Eric Disley (Indian Narrows); Ted Heggart (Top Lake); Andy Vurma (Top Lake). His committee has spent many ,many hours in the past year working towards their mandate:

"To develop and present to the 1998 Annual General Meeting, a workable plan to rebuild the Wah-Wash-Kesh Dam by the year 2000."

Andy outlined, with assistance of visuals, the following: economic impacts of the dam washing out; the key issues (dam design, support from the government, and funding); what the committee has done so far; the committee's recommendations; the fund-raising needs, the committee's expenditures so far; the proposed mandate for a fund-raising committee (the objective would be to raise \$20,000 to be placed in a trust fund to be used to fund an initial engineering study to rebuild the dam); the dam committee's new mandate; and a proposal for what the membership can do to support the efforts of the committee.

The committee members distributed to those present a handout: "A proposal to partner with the Ministry of Natural Resources to rebuild the Dam on Lake WahWashKesh", which has been prepared to encourage support from the Ministry of Natural Resources. This document details: the history; the efforts to rebuild the dam; the environmental impacts; the economic impacts; the partnership recommendations; and the benefits to the MNR of supporting the rebuilding of the dam.

Discussion from the floor took place around the budgeting, the cost and possible benefits of replacing or repairing the existing structure, the flooding in spring of 1998, the commitment that we will all need to show, and the concern that the government may throw obstacles in the path. Bill Auld made a strong case for support for the '\$20,000 trust fund' outlining some history of the lake and the dam.

A question was raised about the number of members we now have, as we are going to require help from everyone on the lake to undertake this enormous project. Lynn Abbott-Lennox reported that there are, including this morning's registrations, 252 Association members (a new high), but cleared up the misconception that this means we have members from nearly all cottages

(presuming that there are approximately 250 cottages on the lake). In fact some cottages have many Association members, (as many as 7 from one family) while others have none. We are encouraged to speak to our cottage neighbours about the importance of becoming members and supporting the important work of the Association.

Motion: "The Association will fundraise \$20,000 in the next three months to be held in trust and to be used for an initial engineering study."

Moved by Terry Tweed Seconded by Joe Zahody

Motion: "The funds that the committee will seek will be in cash rather than in pledges." Moved by George Ross Seconded by Bill Philip Motion carried Motion: "The words three~month'target' will be added to the initial motion, creating the wording "The Association will fundraise \$20,000 in the next three months (target) to be held in trust and to be used for an initial engineering study."

Moved by Jamie Laws Seconded by Stuart Price Motion carried

Ron Jubenville (Deep Bay Hunt Club) and Frank Squires will head up the fund-raising effort for the \$20,000 trust fund.

Frank Camenzuli proposed that we record that the trust fund monies shall not be spent until the membership is clear how the entire project funding is to be accomplished.

Andy Vurma stated that in the event that the dam project did not proceed, money would be refunded to all donors.

A question was raised about having another firm provide an estimate, as well as Stanley Consulting, which is the firm the local MNR has suggested. The committee will follow up on the suggestion.

The committee distributed sample letters for us to send to government representatives who may be able to provide assistance.

Motion: "The Association recommends that individual members contribute a minimum of \$100.00 per cottage property to the "dam" project."

Moved by Jaimie Law, seconded by George Ross; Motion carried

It was decided that cheques or pledges for the trust fund would be collected at the end of the meeting and that other cheques should be made payable to the Association, in trust, and sent to Duncan Robertson, Treasurer.

Dock Committee (and dock business)

Mdy Vurma reported that past motions from 1997 have been followed through. The Federal Dock in Bennett's Bay has been transferred to the MNR. The Association has been negotiating with the MNR to manage both of the docks. The committee needs a chairperson, and Barry Kentrier offered to take the role. Those who volunteered to be on the committee were: Eric Disley, Rob Gall, Ross Willett, and Jay Murdoch.

Barry Kentner, representing Linger-Long Lodge, asked that last year's request for Linger Long to have Association support, in principle, to place a dock for the use of the Lodge, be revisited. There was misinterpretation by the Executive of an October,

1997 letter from Brian Kempster, owner of Linger Long. The Executive had mistakenly understood that the request from Linger Long was being withdrawn. Wayne Lennox found on file and read for the membership, the letter which created the confusion. The request will be dealt with anew pending a follow-up letter from officials at Linger Long.

Land Use Committee

Wayne Lennox recognized members of the committee: Bob Johnston, Jamie Laws, Bernie Deuchars and Ross Strong. He then summarized the work of the Land Use Committee beginning with the background circumstances (ie the MNR altered its model for determining lakeshore capacity) that led to the Ontario Municipal Board hearing regarding the Longhorn Subdivision in 1995. The main conditions that the developer agreed to included frontage (60 metres), area (.4 hectares), vegetative buffer, and construction above the 4.5m level. Two subsequent plans of subdivision (administered solely by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) adopted essentially the same conditions.

Longhorn subdivision still in limbo as developers did virtually nothing for 2 years, but in last year have tried to ram the project through. Agreement ends in November 1998.

We learned in the spring that, as part of the downloading process the MMAH plans to transfer responsibility for planning over to the Parry Sound and Area Planning Board. Wayne and Mike Wynia (our planner) attended a meeting in May regarding a proposed bylaw that the PSAPB plans to implement for the unorganized townships, bylaw would require minimum frontage (60m) and area (.4h) only. Mike made presentation calling for more extensive conditions (similar to ones won at OMB hearing). Board rejected our proposal but increased frontage to 70 metres and .5 hectares. Board must present this bylaw at a public meeting.

Committee will continue to work with Longhorn group (impasses could mean a return to the OMB to resolve differences). Committee will attend public meeting of the PSAPB to pitch for better bylaw (we might appeal to the OMB if we are rejected, and we may or may not attend with planner).

Fish Committee

Ken Taylor reported on the work of this committee since the last meeting. He referred to a May, 1998 letter from the MNR; this correspondence confirmed that the Association would receive \$2500 from the MNR to complete fish studies. (The committee has already been approved \$500 of Association funds for this project). Volunteers for the study are needed. Please contact Don Comrie to volunteer or Ken Taylor for more information.

Political Action Committee

Dalton Ferris reported. Don Easterbrook and Dalton have tried to stay abreast of happenings on the political front. Restructuring in the area that would include Hagerman, McKellar and 7 unorganized townships, including McKenzie, is being considered. This year our taxes will probably stay the same, but next year we will see changes based on our new assessments. Give any input on the changes to these two committee members.

Interim Financial Report

Duncan Robertson distributed a financial report for the first part of 1998.

Constitutional Amendment

Gary Kindree explained that we must have a permanent mailing address for corporation purposes and proposed that the address be at Wah-Wash-Kesh Lodge. Ed Bennett has agreed to this proposal.

Motion: "The place of business of the Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Association, for address purposes, be the Wah-Wash-Kesh Lodge." Moved by Bill Auld Seconded by Ross Willett, Motion carried

Other Business

Jim MacDonald suggested that we might want to examine the possibility of a medical helipad. Jim will head a committee to study this issue. Any interested individuals should give their names to him.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 12:20, Moved by Joe Zahody Seconded by Bert Ellingham Motion carried