

Lake Wah-Wash-Kesh

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



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August 04 , 2001- Bennett's Boat Barn

Dalton Ferris –President and Chair called the meeting to order at 9:50 am and provided some opening remarks.

Opening Statement

A moment of silence was called by Dalton.

Bob Johnson moved to approve the actions of the Executive for 2000-2001 , seconded by Pat Murdoch, No discussion, Motion passed.

Ross Willett moved to accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the year 2000, seconded by Wayne Potter, No discussion, Motion passed.

Financial Report

Duncan Robertson distributed a copy of the financial report prior to the beginning of the meeting and then reviewed the same. He thanked Bert Ellingham for auditing and hoped that Bert might be willing to do so next year.

Ross Strong moved to accept the details of the Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by John Kormos, No discussion, Motion passed.

Elections

Three positions, as per executive rotation, were open this year. Andy Vurma and Ted Heggart both indicated that they would be willing to stand again, while George Ross said he would not. The floor was opened to nominations

Ken Taylor nominated Andy Vurma; seconded by Ginnie Sperry
John Kormos nominated Ted Heggart; seconded by Doug Hand
Stuart Price nominated Diane Ovenden; seconded by Bert Ellingham

There were no further nominations. This year's executive consists of:

Dalton Ferris - President
Wayne Lennox - Past President
Andy Vurma - Vice President
Duncan Robertson - Treasurer
Terry Tweed - Secretary
Ted Heggart - Director

Ken Taylor - Director
Diane Ovenden - Director

The Association's Mandate

Dalton Ferris outlined some important aspects of the Association's mandate:

Areas of focus:

a) Lake Stewardship

- Dam Committee
- Fish Committee
- Land Use Committee
- Lake Partner Program (monitoring water quality through volunteer testing)
- Magnetawan Flow Study (watershed management)

b) Membership Communication

- Annual Meeting
 - Newsletter (Lesley Hugill)
 - Recognition Plaques
 - Website (Doug Marks)
- Social Events (Poker Run)

c) Lake Access Management

- Dock Committee
- Parking Issues

d) Outside Contacts

- Member of Provincial and Federal Parliament as needed
- Reeve, Municipal Council and staff
- MNR and other Ministries
- Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations

Actions 2001 and beyond

- a) Newsletter Enhancement
- b) Dam Project
- c) Official Plan submissions
- d) Lake Partner Program
- e) Lake Stewardship Committee
- f) Fish Committee
- g) Dock Management
- h) Political Contacts
- i) Administration, Membership, Budget and Mailings
- j) Archives (Dalton invited submissions re historical information to celebrate upcoming 50th

Dam Committee, Andy Vurma

Andy reviewed the history of the dam project 1997 through 2000. Stressed that there are proponents for the dam project, ie that we are in charge. Listed partners in project

Association
Ministry of Natural Resources
Hydro One
Municipality of Whitstone
Fednor

Estimated cost \$ 385,000 broken down by

27,000 Association
25,000 Hydro One
206,000 MNR (committed)
127,000 Fednor (not committed)

2000-2001 progress reviewed, MNR transfered \$170,000, and Hydro One transferred \$25,000 to the Association. The archeological study was completed, DFO fish compensation strategy can be effected on-site, Environmental Assessment under way , design of weir changed to reduce cost while maintaining the quality.

The next steps are, Public comments by Aug 17th, complete EA process, gain DFO and Coast Guard approvals, secure FEDNOR funding.

We have the following options:

- 1) Wait until normal FEDNOR funding process completed (sept?); this would likely mean postponement until 2002, and an increase in costs.
- 2) Award contract today, and pursue FEDNOR funding while construction proceeds; weir would be built this year but there is a risk that FEDNOR funding might not materialize.
- 3) Lobby FEDNOR and Andy Mitchell (MP and head of FEDNOR) to fast-track approval process; award contract to lowest bidder conditional on FEDNOR funding being approved by August 27th (or lowest bidder's final date for the beginning of construction)

The discussion following Andy's presentation

Joe Zahody moved to accept option 3, seconded by Ross Strong, Further discussion, Motion carried

Jamie Laws rose to acknowledge and thank, on behalf of the Association, the Dam Committee, and the Executive for their commitment to this project.

Magnetawan Flow Study, Ed Bennett

Ed and Ray Corneil are members of this recent initiated study (Ray is the acting chair). This study will be looking at the entire Magnetawan watershed as there are concerns about the water flow along the entire system. Questionnaires and brochures were available to members

Dock Committee, Ted Heggart

Ted thanked the 'dock hands', John Kormos, Rod Anderson, Ross Willett, Stan Harding and recognized Eric Disley's contributions as well. Outlined recent improvements including dock ladders and an increase in tie-up spots. Dock sticker sales are up, and Ted invited suggestions for future improvements which included proper launch ramp, directional lighting for night loading/unloading

Land Use Report, Dalton Ferris

Dalton thanked Ray Corneil for his involvement on the Whitestone Planning Committee. Outlined our involvement in the Official Plan process, and indicated that copies of our submission were available and that comments would be appreciated.

Fish Report, Don Comrie

Don Comrie thanked all who helped the committee in the past year,

Lake Trout, the population in serious condition as the smelt prey on the Lake Trout fry. MNR has refused to restock because of the unique gene pool of Lake WWK trout. The Ministry has suggested collecting some 10,000 eggs to raise to fingerlings and then release

Walleye was very good spring fishing. The MNR has committed to habitat rehab this summer at Gooseneck creek. The committee is trying to get MNR to improve the Whitestone Chutes habitat as well

Bass population seems to be in good shape. Habitat improvement planned with the new dam has been cancelled because of the change in the dam's design (habitat compensation can be done on-site)

The committee is seeking funding for a student to do water sampling and creel surveys next year.. The MNR has committed to

Membership Directory & 911, Andy Vurma

Andy Vurma reported that 911 service will be extended eventually to all of Whitestone Township (has already begun in Dunchurch). The process is complicated by water access properties. Andy thanked Doug Hand and others for their help in compiling water property locations for the township.

Remarks by Reeve Don Carter

After being presented with a petition for a dumpster at Bennett's, Mr Carter said that council would seriously consider the issue. Reeve Carter indicated that money has been set aside for re-alignment study of Wah-Wash-Kesh Road and for an engineering study for the dam. Prompted by a question from the floor Reeve Carter outlined the probable inception of a nursing station for Whitestone Township, which would be staffed by a nurse practitioner. If funding is completed successfully construction could start next November (\$15,000 raised so far towards a target of \$50,000). The bear problem at Auld's Waste Collection Site was also discussed

Recognition

Dalton Ferris recognized and thanked on behalf of the Association, Eric Disley, Pat Murdoch, and Ginny Sperry for their years of hard work and leadership for the Lake WWK Association.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 am on a motion from Stuart Price, seconded by Wayne Lennox, No discussion, Motion carried