

Minutes DLAI Agenda July 4, 2009

Call to Order and Introduction of the DLAI Executive - 10:10am

Attendance

25 Members; Directors & DLAI executive- Jim Brown, Ron Jones, Rick Dunn, Judy Hall, Susan Mitchell, Pat Jones & Christine Stewart

Acceptance of Minutes - Judy Hall Read the minutes. Moved by Susan Mitchell - Seconded by Bob Spratt.

Financial Report - Pat Jones read the Financial Report

Guest Speakers

Marilyn Barnett - (MERA) August 22 - 23rd. Mississippi River Heritage Festival to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the High Falls loggers feud and the importance of the logging and natural heritage of our mighty Mississippi River.

Funding was obtained from the Department of Canadian Heritage. Many events are scheduled for; Centennial Beach, Mera, Sylvania Lodge and the Agricultural hall.

Some of the planned events include; A traditional dinner and dance at the Agricultural Hall, a sunrise service at Sylvania lodge at 7:30am on Sunday morning as well as Canoe and Pontoon Boat rides up the river and a Bon Fire to commemorate the settling of the feud.

Tickets for the dinner and dance are not yet available and there are only 299 spots available.

A Plaque will be erected at the head of the lake and unveiled on the 20th of August. MERA - Applied to the Ontario Heritage trust for the cost of the plaque.

Volunteers are required and Judy will send out the program with areas and time slots for the volunteer requirements highlighted.

Marilyn mentioned that it would be great if everyone dressed up in period costumes.

Constable Bruce Wilcox - OPP Marine Unit (part time marine constable)

There are 2 Full time Marine Patrol constables in the area.

Bruce - discussed boating Safety and accidents... Most at risk are Older gentlemen, teens and those using alcohol.

Boat Registration: Register your boat with Services Canada. Registration available on-line at servicecanada.gc.ca.

Boat Operators Certificate: On September 15th boat operators cards are required for everyone and any size of craft. Regulations for visitors coming from another country and who have their own boat are on page 68 of the Safe Boating Guide.

Important to conduct safety inspections each year. Check your boat, fuel and the weather each time you go on the water. Checklist on page 20 of the Safe Boat Guide. At a minimum invoke the checklist each spring. Minimum Safety equipment requirements per craft on page 22 of the Guide.

By Law, life jackets need to be in good repair. If anything is missing or it is not a quality life jacket it is technically NOT a life jacket or PFD e.g. missing belt. As well, chair cushions, very old life jackets and ski belts no longer qualify.

Mr. Xxxxx mentioned a few items missing in the Guide and lessons learned from the drowning on Dalhousie Lake Last year. Judy and Brian thanked Mr. Xxxx for his courage to come forward and for the actions he and his family took last year to assist with the tragedy.

Councilor Brian Stewart

Discussed passing of the Budget for this year and the Tax increase.

He mentioned that the Official Plan review is currently underway in the Township. Brian encouraged the members to get involved in the public meetings as those with lake front property would be highly affected. He also recommended that the seasonal members subscribe to the Lanark Era as a resource for information pertaining to the decisions made by council and things that are happening around the area.

Brian mentioned the Status of the Water and Sewer for the village of Lanark Highlands. Costs continue to rise!!

On a positive note, the Highland Line has been approved for upgrade including hard topping as part of a stimulus package from the Ontario and Federal governments. The Highland line will be brought up to a good standard this year which will benefit the residents and tourists to the area.

The old buildings at the dump will be taken away and the dump area and buildings will be cleaned up. Brian commended Chris Amstead and local volunteers who have done a great job.

The Farmers Market has been doing well and MERA has purchased a new pizza oven. This endeavor has been very successful and the oven is available for rent.

Brian mentioned the Logging Festival and how positive it will be for the area.

Garbage tags are no longer being used and a new line item has been added to the budget. Brian has received a lot of questions around this new initiative. Brian stated that he was not in agreement with the process as he believes in a user pay system and that in the end the township will be paying more for dump fees as dump users will take advantage and throw away recyclables and large items at will.

Council and Committee Meetings are held each 2nd and 4th Tuesday's and Thursday's of each month. Brian is encouraging member participation. All meetings are open to the public and the Agenda's are posted on the Lanark Highlands Website.

North Shore Road will be completed at the end of this Season.

Brian highlighted the Hogue Zoning application and the cost to the township to oppose the building of a small camp on Widow Lake.

Lastly Brian canvassed the group for donations for the Lanark Highlands Youth Centre and talked about its importance in the community. He mentioned that there is no core funding for the youth centre and that they rely heavily on donations. However, this year the County provided money to pay for a staff member. This centre is for all youth within the township boundaries and a place for local youth to gather, learn new things and even has computers for the kids who don't have Internet access at home. .

Website Update - Christine Stewart

Christine stated that she has used her personal equipment at home to develop and maintain the DLAI Website and over the years. However, the website remained static for the last year as her computer system crashed and she needed to rebuild it. Due to time constraints last year, she was unable to spend any time getting it running however, it is now up and going and she plans to update the site in the near future. Stay tuned....

Lake Water Testing - Judy Hall

Water testing is quite scientific.... It is very technical and quite overwhelming if you don't understand the terminology. The company that does the testing stated that we do not necessarily need to be too concerned for our water quality as we do not have any Farms on the water's edge and therefore do not need to invest in extensive and expensive testing. Jim Cristini, mentioned that it is advisable to test the water in August and September for phosphorus and ecoli. Jim recommended that the testing should be done in two locations twice a year.

Judy mentioned the fish study that took place last year and that we will be getting a copy of the report. She understands that the fish will be tested for mercury. As well, the water temperature logger will be retrieved and exchanged with a new one by MVCA. In addition, if needed, there are summer students available during the summer to assist us with anything we deem important.

Judy asked that we give that some thought.

Water temperature study is extensive and on-going.

Judy chose not to pay for the Loon Survey this year.

Flotilla Report 2009- Judy Hall

This year, we had 7 or 8 Boats participate on Wednesday July 1st. Fun was had by all.

Other

Carol Thivierge mentioned that she will be putting an order in for Cottage Life apparel. This year, Carol raised aprox \$250.00 for the DLAI out of a 10% commission on sales.

50/50 Draw

Elizabeth White won \$18.00. Congratulations Elizabeth !!

Adjournment - Judy called the meeting adjourned at 12:15pm