

Minutes – 2019 Spring Meeting
Saturday, May 18, 2019, 9:00 am
Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve

(The Minutes were endorsed by the KLCOA Board of Directors at their meeting on August 2nd. They were approved by the Membership at the AGM on August 31, 2019.)

1. Welcome & Call to Order – Deb Wratschko

KLCOA's By-laws set quorum for Members' meetings at 25 members present and entitled to vote at the meeting. Joan Middleton, Membership Director confirmed that quorum had been achieved. The following Directors were in attendance: Gino Ariano, Graham Beach, Arlene Burch, Grant DeMarsh, Scott Durie, Brian Evans, Tina Fagg, Sheelagh Lawrance, Joan Middleton, John Middleton, Terry O'Connor, Janis Parker, Jim Prince, John Smith, and Deb Wratschko.

President Wratschko introduced all the Board members and their associated responsibilities and KLCOA activities.

Motion to Approve Agenda for the Meeting

M: Tony Lepine

S: Grant Demarsh

All in favour

Motion to Approve Minutes of 2018 AGM (September 1, 2018) as posted on the KLCOA website.

M: Jeff Maissan

S: Brian Evans

All in Favour

2. Remarks by Mayor Andrea Roberts

Mayor Roberts began her remarks congratulating KLCOA for having such an active organization, and noted the recent roadside clean-up.

She reviewed the new Dysart Council's work over the past six months, including a brain-storming session with Council members and staff, and looking at the implementation of on-line tax bills. She noted that it had been a tough winter for roads in Dysart and a study was being undertaken on road conditions in order to direct the budget to the areas most in need of repair. She acknowledged KLCOA's Director John Middleton for the amazing work he was doing as the organization's Roads liaison with the Township. She reminded members to call the Township's after-hours number with any road issues on nights and weekends.

With regard to telecommunications, Mayor Roberts advised that the Province has committed \$51M for improved cell service, province-wide. The County of Haliburton currently has more than 10% dead zones. She also noted the pressure on lower tier governments with proposed provincial cuts to library services, and healthcare. In response to a question, Mayor Roberts indicated that both the County and Township have been active in letting the Province know what the implications of the proposed cuts will be locally.

3. Remarks by Councillor John Smith

Councillor Smith began his remarks with a discussion on fireworks. He noted that there had been a lot in the media regarding a new by-law on fireworks. He advised that nothing has been passed yet, and it was not designed to limit large community displays, but to bring some control on retail fireworks and individual displays.

With regard to waste management in Dysart, Councillor Smith chairs the environmental committee. They are looking to educate residents to reduce their waste and cut down on the material that is taken to landfill. In addition, an infrastructure committee is currently looking at the management of Dysart's assets including property, and making recommendations going forward in terms of retention.

He noted that short-term rentals are becoming an issue, and that Council is concerned about liability issues, overloading of septic systems, and fire safety. One member indicated that she felt that the Township should not be involved in short term rentals.

Another member asked what the county was doing to improve the region from an economic perspective. John mentioned some of the initiatives that were being considered, including discussions to make the area a foodie destination. He also added that there are a number of indicators which show economic improvement in the region – an increased number of building permits for example. One of the biggest issues is looking for young skilled workers to fill the number of jobs available in the area. Many jobs are going unfilled and limited the expansion of area businesses. In wrapping up his presentation, Councillor Smith indicated in response to a question that individual composters are being looked at and should be available shortly.

4. Local Business Update -Doug Mahood/ Chad Burden – Kennisis Marina

Doug Mahood announced his retirement. Chad Burdon thanked members for supporting the marina and announced that the store is now open. A new part-time mechanic has been hired.

5. OPP Update and Boating Safety – Constable Peter Allore

Unfortunately, Constable Allore was not available to speak as he was out on patrol. Should there be any update, it will be posted on the KLCOA website.

6. 2019 Update – Deb Wratschko President, KLCOA

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 18, 2019 Spring Meeting Charts)

President Wratschko provided an extensive summary of what has happened since the 2018 AGM, as well as the many programs and events that are upcoming. She thanked the many volunteers who play an integral role in KLCOA's programs.

She ended her presentation by advising that KLCOA is always looking for volunteers for events and to sit on committees and she invited those interested to approach any of the Board members. In addition, 2019 is an election year and invited anyone interested to approach her about running for the Board at the AGM.

7. Financial Review – 2018 Actuals & 2019 Budget – Grant DeMarsh, Treasurer, KLCOA

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 18, 2019 Spring Meeting Charts)

Grant began his presentation advising that the organization continues to be in good shape financially. Next Grant provided an overview of the 2019 revenue (membership and advertising) and expenses (programs and events) , details of which are contained in the slides. He then reviewed the 2019 Budget, noting that while he is budgeting for a slight loss, there is an expectation that it will be run a \$1900 surplus break-even situation at year end. There were no questions.

Motion: That the 2018 actuals and 2019 budget be accepted.

M: Denise Evans

S: Keith Rodd

All in favour

8. Stewardship Updates – Jim Prince, Sarah Ariano and Gino Ariano

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 18, 2019 Spring Meeting Charts)

Jim provided an introduction to the presentations and gave an overview of the three pillars on the lake stewardship initiatives: water quality monitoring and septic health and shoreline protection. Sarah Ariano led off with a discussion on KLCOA's water quality monitoring program, as well as presented recent results.

Next, Jim advised that two Shoreline Restoration Workshops would be held on July 7th and 28th. Registration information will follow shortly in an eBlast.

Gino reviewed the progress in developing an inventory and documenting traditional rights of ways in and around the Kennisis Lakes. He noted that the goal was to keep portage areas open for future generations. A number of members expressed thanks for doing the research and working towards clarifying rights of ways in the community.

9. Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve – Malcolm Cockwell, Managing Director

Malcolm introduced Tegan Legge, the General Manager of Tourism and Recreation. Tegan reviewed the many programs offered in the Forest. She highlighted the renovation of the canopy tour, and the new pup at the Wolf Centre and advised that a membership program was available. She encouraged cottagers to take out a Season's Pass for access to the Forest. She next reviewed the kennel tours, sawmill tours, and Tuesday night natural history speakers' series.

Next, Malcolm Cockwell gave an overview of some of the other business areas of the Forest. He announced that the Cookhouse has a new chef, with a new menu and operating ours. He encouraged members come for a meal and provide feedback.

With regard to forest products, there has been a 20% growth in terms of revenue. In addition, the Forest has purchased an additional lumber mill in South River – this will double the annual output. Living Woodwork, located in what was the Forest Woodshop is a joint venture and does custom furniture and assorted woodwork pieces. He advised that 30 dendrometers had been installed around the forest to measure tree growth, with one being located near the Cookhouse.

Malcolm announced that a research institute has now been established, with more deliverables. He noted for example that a study was underway to look at how logging affects lake quality. In addition, stewardship services are now available to landowners.

Malcolm noted that the number one concern continues to be beech bark disease adding that there is little hope for the tree. Giant hogweed has also been found in the forest and is being exterminated. He suggested that members check out the OFAH's website on invasive species information.

10. The Environmental Effects of Spraying for Mosquitoes – Dr. Chris Brew

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 19, 2018 Spring Meeting Charts)

Jim Prince introduced Dr. Brew, who gave an extensive and detailed presentation on the environmental effects of spraying mosquitoes. She covered the background on what is being sprayed, discussed the application practices, reviewed scientific studies on the negative impacts on diverse wildlife populations and she alleged that there are existing and potential dangers to human health. She summarized her presentation with actionable suggestions on what we can do, as well as alternatives to spraying.

11. Mandatory Septic Inspections – John Smith

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –May 19, 2018 Spring Meeting Charts)

Jim Prince reviewed the program and noted that there were still 600 inspections to be done on the Kennisis Lakes. He encouraged members to book their inspections as soon as possible to meet the year-end deadline. Some members gave some descriptions of their inspection experiences. One member indicated that he had a lot of problems with his tank- it was undersized and had tree routes growing in it. In spite of having to replace this system, he had no regrets, and noted that it was better than having the effluent going directly into the lake.

At the end of the presentation, members received a sample roll of toilet paper.

12. Q & A and Discussion from the Floor

There were no further questions.

13. Adjourn