



FRIENDS OF STOCO LAKE

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MINUTES - 8th ANNUAL FOSL AGM, JUNE 7th, 2014

Tweed Library, 9am-10:30am

In Attendance: Vicki McCulloch (Chair), Katharyn Rouse (Secretary), Carolyn Johnston, Gwen Johnstone, Dan Collins, Jean and Ross Copas, Doug and Julie Hipgrave, Bill and Lorraine Philip, Liz VanDijk (Director), Ruth James (Director), Don DeGenova (Municipality of Tweed), Maya Navrot (Quinte Conservation). Regrets: Bonnie (Treasurer) and Larry Jones (Lake Steward).

Introductions and welcome: Vicki McCulloch, FOSL Chair, welcomed everyone and introduced Katharyn (Kathie) Rouse, Secretary, Directors and Zone Reps who were present, Councilor Don DeGenova, and Maya Navrot, Quinte Conservation Education Coordinator. Vicki noted that 2015 will be an election year for FOSL Directors.

2013 AGM Minutes: were reviewed and motion to accept by Liz VanDijk, seconded by Carolyn Johnston and passed by all present.

2013 Financial Report: was read by Kathie Rouse on behalf of the Treasurer, Bonnie Jones who was unable to attend. The financial report generated some questions which will be sent back to the Treasurer for clarification. Questions as follows:

1. can we get a better insurance rate
2. how many GICs does FOSL hold and what are the details, should appear as an asset, is there any revenue
3. the harvester is an asset
4. bank statements should accompany a financial report.

At the time of the AGM, 47 members had paid their dues for 2014.

FOSL ACTIVITIES:

- A) An overview from 2013 was provided, and proposals for 2014 were discussed:
- Quinte Conservation Rep, Maya Navrot spoke briefly about the important of maintaining the shoreline, especially after the record high waters this past year.
 - Quinte Conservation had supplied to FOSL seedlings which were planted along the shoreline by FOSL members

- Turtle Incubators were supplied and picked up by members who have turtles laying eggs on their property, and more are available by contacting Maya (contact information at the end of the minutes)
- Weeds were harvested summer 2013, but accident on Moira Lake resulted in repairs/down-time and loss of August harvest
- In September, the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up experienced dismal weather and a poor turnout. We are looking for a volunteer to take over from Vicki to organize this in 2014. Don DeGenova pointed out that there seems to a few organizations, for example *Kiwanis that are involved in cleanup activities and maybe FOSL could combine their efforts with one of those, Don will explore this and report back. Vicki noted that the Kiwanis activity is in the spring in conjunction with 'Community Trees', and the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup now has a spring as well as fall activity.*
- The 2013 July 1 Boat Tours of the lake were a great success despite the terrible weather. *It is agreed that FOSL will participate in boat tours on July 1, 2014*
- Communications:
 - A WEB MASTER has not been found for our very outdated site although we are exploring a couple of possibilities. Student hours were felt to be too onerous a task for a student. *Trevor Telford (Black River B&B) has a new web business in town and we will approach him.*
 - *Rachel Hardesty has offered to do a Facebook Page for FOSL; VM will get back to her with 'go ahead'.*
 - It was discussed that social media and website are important to keep an open communication among FOSL members as well as non-members, the Municipality, town and area residents and Trudeau Park to communicate events on a monthly basis
 - Monthly updates were suggested by an attendee.
 - *An article should be prepared for the Tweed News / other local papers regarding the AGM and future events/activities e.g. Boat Tours*
 - It was suggested that Winter events, musical events, festivals etc. should all be promoted through FOSL Facebook and Web sites and the Tweed News. Vicki noted that the Municipal website and Facebook pages are existing sources of information on non-FOSL events that members should look at with respect to 'community happenings'. Avoid duplication of effort
 - Links with Land of Lakes Tourism Association, Municipality of Tweed sites to be looked into by communications sub-committee
 - Brochure(s) could be developed
 - Don DeGenova encouraged sending pictures to "Our Backyard" on the municipal site /FB page, and to share FOSL events with the Municipality's on-line calendar



- *Liz, Ruth James, Gwen Johnstone and Lorraine Philip have volunteered to sit on communications sub-committee and do promotions for FOSL within the community and develop simple communications plan*
- It was felt that FOSL should work to put in place a Lake Stewardship Plan more in keeping with the Mission Statement (see below)
- The idea of reducing Membership Fees was brought up to encourage more general interest in FOSL as an organization that was looking toward promoting Lake Stewardship, not simply weed harvesting for lake property owners. *Further discussion is required.*
- Municipal Report (Don DeGenova):
 - Due to heavy rainfall, overwhelming spring flooding and increased water levels the River Street and Jamieson Street pumping stations experienced hydraulic overloads resulting in bypass events during early and mid April. These were engineered by-passes and the pumping stations functioned as expected during the periods of rapidly increasing flows. River Street pumping station started bypassing on April 8th and ended April 21st. The Jamieson Street pumping station started bypassing on April 8th, continued for one day then ended. Further flooding caused a second bypass at Jamieson on April 15th which lasted for just under 2 hours; another bypass at Jamieson commenced on April 16th for a total of 12 hours. All regulatory requirements for reporting, sampling and disinfecting were adhered to. Ontario Clean Water Agency provided the required notifications to Ministry of Environment local office, MOE Spills Action and the Medical Officer of Health. The bypasses at the sewage pumping stations were the direct result of the excessive rainfall and flooding and the by-pass events occurred immediately prior to and during the state of emergency declared for the Municipality.
 - Waste water options study is still underway, but want to be ready with a plan to take advantage of federal and provincial funding opportunities as they arise. MOE will support a third lagoon cell, plus aeration. They don't want to see continuous discharge, which is what we'd have with a treatment plant. Municipality is in discussions with land owners and consultants to look at possible land options for a third lagoon cell. There will be public consultation on the results.
 - The Municipality has submitted an application for weed harvesting to MNR and requested a start date of June 26. Generally weed harvesting is not permitted prior to July 1st however MNR has agreed to an early start date the last couple of years. They will determine this as they review the application, and I believe they have guidelines as to how often the weed harvesting can be done. They will outline this in the permit as well.
 - Vicki sent the 2008 'Smart Septic Advice' and 2009 'Lakeside Living' brochures to Rachelle Hardesty in May for posting to website and /or placement with other municipal information at the office.



(B) FOSL Fundraising

- Liz VanDijk reported on the sale of beverage coolers which was very slow at last year's July 1 Boat Tours because of the poor weather
- *FOSL will approach Rachele Hardesty to see if we can sell them in the Jail House*
- Kathie took 12 units to sell at the afternoons meeting of Collins Point Road Association Meeting; Vicki dropped a number off at 'The Food Company', and has taken some for sale to friends.

(C) MOE Lake Study/Stewardship Plan Stoco Lake

- A lake stewardship plan has been discussed for a couple of years. The MOE concluded a study of the lake in 2013.
- Maya suggested that FOSL can apply to have a Stewardship Plan for the lake and that Quinte Conservation has developed a template for lake associations to use for Ontario Trillium funding applications and the study itself
- *Don DeGenova suggested a letter to Council and FOSL drafted by Quinte Conservation suggesting a partnership to seek funds for the study (e.g. from Trillium, others like Community Futures, 'Sustainable Watersheds'). Maya Navrot is drafting a letter.*

5. Weed Harvesting Program

- Jean Copas stated that she still doesn't want to lose focus on the seriousness of the weed growth on the lake and how the ever increasing weed growth is spoiling the enjoyment of the lake residents
- MNR weed control has released a statement that we should not harvest Eurasian Water-milfoil as it only makes it spread more aggressively which will heavily impact oxygen levels, killing fish in the lake as it decomposes, thick mats of it hinder swimming and boating, and create stagnant water areas which breeds mosquitoes
- If you are not sure if Eurasian milfoil is what you have or the native variety, compare it to pictures on the mnr.gov.on.ca OR place a sample in a baggie and take it to Quinte Conservation in Belleville for confirmation
- Bold display of your fire route number on your dock will make sure you get your weeds cut
- Municipality has approached MNR re: cutting on June 26 in advance of Canada Day (see above)
- Cutting for Stoco is the first two weeks of July, August and September for paid members
- Harvesting is \$100 for July and August and \$50 for September
- 38 members have credits from last year's August cut and two members from September's cut, Bonnie has the list
- Cutting fees must be paid by June 20th



6. Next AGM Meeting (2015 is also an Election Year)

- Saturday June 6, 2015 at 9am – 12pm at the Tweed Library (*Kathie has confirmed booking*)

7. Other Business

- *It was decided to call an Executive Meeting as soon as possible to explore all the great new ideas that came out of today's meeting – scheduled for June 19 at Vicki's house*

8. Guest Speaker – Maya Navrot, Quinte Conservation – Services for Lake Associations and Property Owners

- Maya is a great resource for both FOSL and individuals
- Shrubs are an important part of lakefront conservation and introduced the shrub plugs for residents
- Grants are also available, along with a partner for large areas of naturalization of the shoreline at no or minimal cost
- Don DeGenova will be a go between with Council to potentially partner on a Lake Stewardship Plan
- Geese don't like plants along the shoreline
- Contact Maya if you have concerns about any plant or fish species
- Contact Maya if you have concerns about the water levels as she has the information about the operation of the weirs to control summer levels and 24 hour water level forecasting
- Share great pictures with Quinte Conservation or with Maya of waterfront fun, wildlife etc. for their website
- Members congratulated Maya and Quinte Conservation on their great communications during the recent flooding and high water
- Cross promotion is very important so we are invited to share FOSL happenings with Quinte Conservation's Twitter and Facebook
- Quinte has an in-house graphic team to assist us with promotion/brochure templates
- Quinte can host but not manage a website at no charge – this may be something to consider for FOSL
- Quinte Conservation is developing new revised maps of the 100 year high water levels
- Maps of the area and the watershed that affects Stoco are available from Maya in pdf format
- Maya Navrot, ph 613-968-3434 x131, fax 613-968-8240
mnavrot@quinteconservation.ca, Twitter [@quinteca](http://twitter.com/quinteca),
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