

SDRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
July 3, 2010
Pineview Free Methodist Church

Directors Present:

Kent Farrow	President
Jim Osborne	Vice President
Hermann Balon	Treasurer
Bill Garnish	Secretary
Gordon Birnie	Director
Gord McCulloch	Director
Jane Falby	Director
Derek Mendham	Director - Sheldrake
Gary Evans	Director
Karen Stacey	Director
Cathy Hook	Director
Regrets: Rosemary Teed	Director/Lake Steward

1. Welcome: Kent Farrow

- Meeting called to order at 10:07 a.m. Henry Hogg, current Reeve for Addington Highlands was introduced and although not on the AGM Agenda the members were advised he may be available for questions.
- Meeting agenda is very full so therefore we need to get through the formal part of the meeting quickly.
- Kent advised that many issues keep surfacing that affect us all (Skootamatta, Sheldrake & Pringle), such as the RFP, Loon Lake Lodge, KFLA Septic inspections, AH Official Plan and the current MLFI Logging Plan. Kent advised that with the creation of the Official Plan the SDRA would ask that council recognize them as partners in the plan. Henry Hogg corrected Kent that it is the upcoming review of the existing Official Plan approved in 2006, not the creation of the Official Plan.
- Kent advised that we have 3 guest speakers that he hopes the members will find informative and that Tom Richardson from MLFI will speak about the Logging Plan.
- Kent advised that additional workload faced by the Executive is more than what they are normally used to and this has contributed to additional stress and time commitments. The stresses faced by the Executive can be distance related job relocation, personal or health issues. These factors have caused some Executive members to reconsider their involvement and they have left us.
- The Board looked at restructuring and continues to assess that structure and will be looking to the formation of committees to re-distribute the workload. At our May Executive meeting 3 new officers were elected: Kent is again President, Jim Osborne is Vice-President and Bill Garnish is Secretary. Despite all of this we believe the current Executive is the strongest we have had in years. The creation of an Officers Committee comprising of the 4 officers has reduced the amount of involvement of all Directors in every issue. Kent also thanked Cathy Hook for her terrific job on the Newsletter production. Kent also commended Gary Evans for all his hard work on the SDRA website.
- Kent introduced Lynn Garnish to come forward and thanked her for her 17 years of service and noted the various positions she held throughout her tenure, such as Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, sometimes all at the same time. Kent stated that Lynn is an example of what volunteerism is all about.
- Kent also mentioned that Lynn had considered running for Addington Highlands Council but due to personal reasons she has had to withdraw her candidacy. Kent then presented Lynn with a carved Loon, stating that it was not paid for using SDRA funds, but was donated by a board member. Lynn thanked the SDRA Executive and anonymous donor and further thanked the members stating it had been her honor to serve them.

2. Motion to Accept the Minutes of the 2009 SDRA Annual General Meeting

- The 2009 AGM minutes have been available for viewing on the SDRA website since last year.
- Karen Stacey moved that the minutes be adopted.
Derek Mendham seconded the motion.

- Kent asked the members if there were any questions. None put forward. Carried.

3. Constitution Amendments: Jim Osborne

- Jim Osborne discussed the need for the Board to consider changes to update the constitution due to the increased workload facing the Board. The revised Constitution was distributed along with the Newsletter and currently there has been no feedback from any members.
- A late additional change is also required that will allow any Board member to call a Board meeting.
- Jim Osborne moved that the revised Constitution be adopted.
Bill Garnish seconded the motion. Carried.

4. Election of Directors: Jim Osborne

- Jim detailed the concept of setting up Committees to empower them to deal with issues independently and report back to the full Board. Our previous structure was not set-up to handle committees and this change will allow the SDRA to better manage the many issues we face without overwhelming the entire board. The idea is to divide the work required into “bite size” pieces
- The SDRA is looking for volunteers, and if interested, perhaps starting as a committee member is a good way to get an understanding of what is involved and then later on become a Director. If you love then take the answer the call and join a committee.
- Jim listed the existing committees currently available for joining :
Welcome Committee; FOSSP; Official Plan Review; Election Committee; and the Logging Committee
Please see any Director after the meeting if you are interested
- The May Board meeting agreed to 14 Directors for 2 years; however the current slate does not add up to 14 at this time and if anyone is interested please stand forward. No volunteers identified.
- The current proposed slate is as follows:
Kent Farrow; Jim Osborne; Hermann Balon; Bill Garnish; Gord McCulloch; Gord Birnie; Derek Mendham; Rosemary Teed; Gary Evans; Malcolm Stewart
- Jim Osborne also moved that Paul Lindsey be elected. Bill Garnish seconded the motion.
- Jim asked again if there were any nominations from the floor. None identified.
- Jim moved that the nominations be closed. Bill Garnish seconded the motion.
- Kent spoke that he did not want the motion closed and further detailed the need for volunteers stating that a Director can start out with very few responsibilities
- Debbie Awde said she would be interested if she could have a better understanding of the work involved. Bill Garnish advised he is currently updating job descriptions.
- Gwyneth Morais stated she would be interested in helping out also
- Kent moved that Debbie and Gwyneth be nominated as Directors.
- Motion carried.

5. Guest Speaker: Marcie Martin , OPP Constable

- Marcie identified herself as an 18 year OPP Officer and has been with the Napanee detachment for 3 years. She is currently assigned to Kaladar and does the marine patrols on Skootamatta and surrounding lakes. They are using a 17' boat, not the usual 21' Seaswirl as it gives them more flexibility. Her assistants name is Dean Ewell. In addition to Dean they will be having students assist them through a government funded program
- Their area of coverage is from Denbigh to Napanee and they sometimes are sent to Prince Edward County to help out; although 60-70% of their time is spent on AH Lakes
- If you have any questions during the summer please contact your SDRA Secretary Bill Garnish who in turn will email Marcie. Please make sure you provide cottage/home numbers for contacting
- Life jackets are an issue this year; make sure yours are CSA approved and in good condition as they will be checked
- Boat Operators cards are now mandatory and if you do not have one yet your local marina (Smarts Marina) is an authorized testing agent along with the MTO Office in Flinton
- Lynn Garnish asked if boaters had to have their operators card on their person when in the boat as a lot of time

people wear clothing that does not allow for carrying these things: Marcie stated that Yes the card must be carried at all times

- Marcie also stated that Boat Registrations must also be carried for review by the Officer if asked. Place them in a Ziploc bag on your boat.
- Len Meinhold asked if the OPP recognize Power Squadron certification from the USA and 'Yes' as long as it is state approved.
- Ross Allen asked if USA citizens need an Operators card and the answer was No if the state they are from does not require a license and only if they are operating a US vessel. If a US citizen is operating a Canadian vessel they will need an Operators Card
- Marcie discussed speed limits other than the standard 10km within 30m from shore and stated that at present there are no speed limits for boats. Careless operation is a different thing to speeding.
- Marcie stated there is a zero tolerance for alcohol and they do carry breathalyzers on board
- Jim Osborne asked if they had a schedule of their lake visits (jokingly) and Marcie said no they are all unannounced and can be at any time of the day even up to midnight
- A member asked to speak about an incident; the members were Chris & Nelly Loreti and they had just bought a cottage on Skootamatta this spring and they were vandalized last week with a lot of damage done. They live on Henniger Rd and wondered if anyone else had any issues with break-ins. At this point Brian Duval spoke up and stated that although he recognizes we have a tight agenda he feels this is important as he too lives on Henniger Rd and he too was also broken into the same week. He stated the OPP were following up on the matter and had also taken DNA/forensics
- Marcie stated to always call if you see something suspicious and referred to an incident that Bill Garnish had referred them to late fall

6. 4 Lake Coalition: Derek Mendham

- There has been a perception that organizations (e.g. Township, Provincial Gov'ts and corporations like MLFI) don't listen to us and our concerns and an issue the SDRA Executive have been discussing for some time
- We (lakefront residents) are the majority of the tax base and have the same issues regardless of political boundary (i.e. which Township we reside in)
- We began last fall to contact other lake associations to form a coalition of lake associations to work on common issues and gain a bigger voice in the community
- Our first meeting was May 21st 2010 and we agreed to initially work on three common issues
 - Logging and the MLFI plan for significant cutting in the area around our lakes
 - 2010 Municipal Elections and the best approach to organizing town hall meetings for all candidates in both Townships (Addington and North Frontenac) running in this year's election to discuss our common issues
 - Addington Highlands Official Plan Review -
- Going forward, we are looking to expand the coalition to other lakes in the geographical area to increase the importance of our voice and influence on common issues

7. Treasurers Report: Hermann Balon

- Hermann introduced himself as this is his first year serving as the SDRA Treasurer. He produced slides of the finances and noted that as the Fireworks are not sanctioned by the SDRA their costs are kept separate
- Hermann advised that many people had asked him if the fancy newsletter had cost more this year and he stated that in actual fact it cost \$5.00 as opposed to last year's cost of \$11.00 per unit.
- Hermann said that we are always looking for new members and if you are aware of any neighbours who do not belong please encourage them to join
- Hermann said he is open to anyone sending him questions via email

8. Explore the Lake Event: John Coulter

- John and Kent did a skit using a small green boat to highlight the Explore the Lake event which involves exploring 1 km of shoreline by each participant.
- Maps will be provided and members are encouraged to sign up for their preferred “spot”. The starting point will be in the Upper Lake by the Garnish’s. Sign-up is at the front door.
- There will be shepherds on the lake to guide folks along
- This will be a fun event for all families to participate in and get to know what inhabits the shoreline of their lake
- Gord Birnie advised that there are 40-50 “shoreline” plants outside the church donated by the L&A Stewardship Council that are available for a small donation which will be used for this event. They are outside near the BBQ

9. Membership: Kent Farrow

- We are always looking for new members and we are now offering Welcome Kits to new members which include useful information and come in a nice logo bag
- It is important to keep our membership current and growing

10. Website: Gary Evans

- The website is there for the use of everyone and the SDRA is pushing for high speed internet for our area
- The photo contest last year had 35 entries and the “ladies” cleaned up. There is a professional photographer from Arden who judged the photos last year and has kindly volunteered to act as a judge this year. Photos can be submitted up to Thanksgiving

11. History Committee: Jim Osborne

- This committee has been meeting and gathering information on historical cottages on the lake. It was started last year with Bob Blatchford and endorsed by the SDRA
- There is a great need to get the “history” before it is lost. Bob Blatchford has more than anyone he knows. The information gathering goes beyond cottagers and includes local residents as well. Bob Blatchford is developing a Meeks family history.
- The data is being gathered by decade and by region

12. Official Plan (OP) Review: Derek Mendham

- Derek will be chairing committee to co-ordinate input to Addington Highlands OP Update in early 2011
- Other lake associations have expressed an interest in working with us to formulate our input to the plan review
- The committee is looking to protect our area/environment with meaningful input to the update
- Anyone wishing to volunteer on this committee is encouraged to contact Derek

13. Speaker: TERRY SPRAGUE

- Kent introduced Terry by reading his bio which can be found as Appendix A in these minutes
- Terry presented a very informative session on shoreline management and how we can protect it for species to enjoy. He had a very interesting slideshow that not only engaged the audience but had many members laughing in their seats

A copy of Terry’s presentation can be found on the SDRA website

14. Logging Committee: Gord Birnie

- Gord advised that with the proposed Logging Plan it is critical for members to provide input on the form that is available on the MLFI website. The cutting will proceed but MLFI will try to meet our needs as much as possible
- There is a need to be on the record so we can protect our property and area
- Everyone needs to educate themselves on this matter
- Advised members to enjoy their old growth trees because pretty soon they will not be there

15. Addington Highland Election - Fall 2010: Gary Evans

- Gary advised that at this point 900 electors have not returned their forms for enumeration
- It is key to make sure all eligible voters are on the voters list (e.g. property owner, spouse, children, etc.)
- Jack Pauhl; Town Clerk for AH will take calls about mid-August to tell you if you are on the list
- PIN numbers for telephone/electronic voting will be mailed mid-September
- The onus is on each taxpayer to make sure they are on the voters list

Kent announced that Tom Richardson from MLFI will do his presentation and will be available for questions after the meeting and the meeting will adjourn after he is finished so members can enjoy the BBQ.

16. Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc.: Tom Richardson, General Manager

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- Tom R. introduced his team in attendance:
Matt Mertins: Plan Author
Cathy Irwin: Biologist, MNR

The members of the planning team are:

MLFI – 2 (Tom Richardson & Matt Mertins)
MNR – 5 (incl. Cathy Irwin)
First Nations - 5
Local Citizens Council – 1 (Chair)

- MLFI is one of about 40 Sustainable Forest Licensees (SFL) in the Province, and they are responsible for creation of the plan and managing the forest
- The shareholders are 19 independent businesses, mostly family owned and in the immediate forest area (12 independent loggers, 7 sawmills) and Norampac pulp mill in Trenton
- This is the 3rd plan done by MLFI, with previous plans done by the MNR
- There are 306,000 hectares in the SFL, with about 44% (or 135,000 hectares) actively managed (i.e. eligible for cutting). About 18% is not eligible for cutting due to restrictions like old growth, ANSI, inaccessible, etc.
- In the area of responsibilities, the MNR is basically responsible for the policy/legislative framework, operating guidelines, establishing 'values' and plan compliance and audits. MLFI is responsible for creation of the plan, scheduling, identification of values, silviculture and operational prescriptions
- In assessing the areas to be cut, virtually every tree is assessed
- Tom understands our concerns and wants to assure everyone that not every large white pine close to your cottage will be cut. He understands people have put a lot of money into their cottages and want pristine area, and MLFI will take this into consideration, but if people expect that no trees will be cut for 2 miles around their cottage that will not happen!
- The plan is a very complex 3 stage process with an intensive review and approval process by the MNR. The current plan is at stage 3 – the public input process which started with the open house in Cloyne on June 12, 2010. It is followed by a 60 day comment time period and then MLFI prepare a draft plan followed by another 60 day comment period and then the final plan is produced
- A critical part of the plan is the preservation of the non-timber values, using the MNR landscape guide, to contribute to the biodiversity of the landscape. The detail values are based on the MNR stand and sight guide which identifies things like buffers around streams and lakes, etc. which are based on both scientific knowledge and operational experience. These from the basis of the prescriptions done by Cathy Irwin. Approximately 25% of the managed area fall into the area of concern where prescriptions are applied
- As part of the silviculture and the need to regenerate the forests, different types of cuts are identified as follows:
 - selection cut for shade tolerant trees like hard maple is 40% of the cut
 - shelter wood is mid-tolerant like White Pine and Red Oak and is 36% of the cut
 - Seed tree and patch cut (also known as clear cut) like poplar and white birch is 12% of the cut

- Commercial thinning is done on the younger stands and is done to take out the poor quality and undesirable trees
- Harvesting is done on a 20-30 year cycle with a target to improve the forest
- We are now in the first and second cuts with about 2/3 of the harvest being pulp wood and firewood. The target is always the poorest quality in all size and age groups with a requirement to leave at least 6 wildlife trees per hectare and at least 25 large trees per hectare
- Tom then showed maps of previous harvest areas around the lakes and pictures of the different types of harvesting.
- Tom advised there will a Forest Information Day on Aug 13/10 and anyone interested should contact the MLFI office in Cloyne
- MLFI will take tours into areas previously cut in late July early August

A copy of Tom's presentation is available on the SDRA website

Kent thanked Tom for his presentation and closed the meeting by thanking Karen Stacey (retiring Director) and Cathy Hook (retiring Newsletter editor) for their past service to the SDRA.

Draft

TERRY SPRAGUE

- grew up on the family farm at Big Island, near Demorestville, in Prince Edward County on the Bay of Quinte and helped operate the 350-acre farm until 1976
- has been employed as a resource technician at Glenora Fisheries Research, and as an interpretive naturalist at Sandbanks Provincial Park, and Shoreline Management Coordinator with the Prince Edward Region Conservation Authority. Since 1996, he has worked with Quinte Conservation delivering a series of outdoor interpretive programs, and now freelances from home as a professional naturalist and consultant.
- operates a private business NatureStuff Tours, offering guided hikes, speaking engagements, kayak and canoe tours, seminars, and bus tours.
- owns and maintains his own website "NatureStuff - Tours and Things" at www.naturestuff.net
- free lance writer on the subject of natural history, and has written a regular column for the Picton Gazette since 1965, and also has columns in the Napanee Beaver and The Tweed News
- author "*Birds of Prince Edward County*" (1984) Also an unpublished book, "*Up Before Five - The Family Farm*" to be published in 2010.
- been interested in all aspects of natural history since childhood, specializing in ornithology, and holds a diploma in wildlife management and ecology
- member of numerous natural history organizations and past chairman of The Friends of Sandbanks
- recipient of the 2002 Pioneer Conservationist Award from Conservation Ontario; and the 2004 Richards Education Award from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

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