



MLCOA AGM 31 August 2019

## **Minutes of the Moose Lake Cottage Owners Association (MLCOA) Annual General Meeting**

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of the MLCOA was held at Camp Moose Lake, Moose Lake Provincial Park on 31 August 2019 at 10:00a.m.

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### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting came to order at 10:12 with President David Morrow presiding. Voting cards had been issued to representatives of those cottages in attendance with additional ones provided to proxy holders.

David welcomed everyone making special mention of the friendly and helpful cooperation of the ownership of Camp Moose Lake in accommodating the Association's meeting.

### **3. Quorum**

Treasurer Pat Weiss reported that representatives of 33 cottages were represented of which 5 were by proxy. With the requirement of thirty cottages, including a quorum of the Executive Committee being met, a quorum was declared.

### **4. Adoption of an agenda**

President Morrow noted that a proposed agenda had been posted on the Association's website and that copies had been available at the registration desk.

It was moved by Dave Ennis and seconded by Frank Weiss that the agenda be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

### **5. Introduction of the Executive Committee**

President Morrow noted that there are currently two vacant positions; Vice President and Secretary. As the position of secretary was vacant, Nichola Wigle would take the minutes of the meeting.

President Morrow introduced the other members of the Executive Committee present:

Pat Weiss – Treasurer

Nichola Wigle - Past President

Peter Vander Linden – Director East Side

Doug Thiessen- Director West Side

Keith Wilford - Director East Side

Phil Fontaine - Director West Side



## 6. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

It was noted that the minutes of the 2018 meeting had been available from the Association's website and copies were provided at the meeting.

President Morrow called for any concerns with respect to errors or omissions.

There being none it was moved by Verna Danylchuk and seconded by Doug Thiessen that the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

## 7. Updates on matters arising from the minutes of the 2018AGM

*Update on Manitoba Provincial Park Cottagers Owners Association, MPPCOA*

- Nichola Wigle expressed a few words of thanks as the representative of MLCOA on the provincial initiative for this positive experience. The process has offered an opportunity to learn about parks management and how we, as cottagers, can influence changes in our parks that would help sustain and grow the parks experience for all.
- MPPCOA held 6 meetings along with annual general meeting between September 2018 and June 2019 (Sept 27, Oct 25, Jan 31, April 18, May 2, June 8). All COA in MPPCOA sent a representative to the AGM in June hosted by Hecla village.
- MPPCOA now represents more than 90% of cottagers in provincial parks with representation from 9 COA's. Two of which are new in the past year.
- a discussion paper, jointly developed by Parks Staff and the MPPCOA, with three potential models was submitted to senior officials within Sustainable Development for consideration as viable approaches to assess and manage service and lease fees for cottage owners
- the paper including calculations using actual expenditures for cottagers in each provincial park for all three models to allow for a decision based on facts
- the paper included a history of how cottagers got to this point with parks, outlining communications challenges and the variability of how each park locally manages and interprets their budgets
- normally MPPCOA brakes for summer and resume in Sept - calling of the 2019 provincial election has put hold on the process. During the pause, MPPCOA sent a letter to Premier Pallister hoping to generate a priority response once the election is over.
- the letter will require a response when the election dust settles; it gives the team we have been working at parks additional support in their internal transition briefing material that cottage lease and service fees are still a current issue that needs to be addressed. It would be great to see this issue reflected in the mandate letter of the next Minister and sending a letter now may elevate the profile of service/lease fees again within the Cabinet.

It was moved by Pat Weiss and seconded by Dave Ennis that the report be accepted.

MOTION CARRIED



## 8. Introductions of and remarks from the Parks and Protected Spaces Branch

*Morgan Hallett, Regional Parks Specialist*

- Morgan introduced herself and commented on visiting the park 3 or 4 times a summer and typically meets with the members of the association twice a year
- Morgan noted the park is in good condition and maintenance is on track with the accessible dock is in use and the transfer station is working well. Morgan noted there is clean fill from the trenching new electrical lines at the camp at the transfer station to be used for improving roads. The cottagers commented on the excellent work by Lynn Bennet in maintaining the park and cottage roads
- Morgan noted there would be a special event in the park on Sept 6th-8th. A *pow wow* hosted by the Ontario First Nation 33 with about 200 attendees.

- Morgan invited question from the cottagers:

1) *Why does Moose Lake still have gate attendants when most parks do not?*

- Morgan noted that the term is "*Park Access Point*" and not intended to be a "gate".

Traditionally there were two roles for the park attendants, one for access and one for set-up and maintenance. Most parks do not have gates and have a kiosk for the park attendants. At Moose Lake the "kiosk" is at the "access point". Morgan noted the role of the attendants is more related to maintenance and camp ground set-up.

2) *When is the control dam going to be replaced?*

- Morgan noted the dam is the responsibility of MIT and a part of their budget, therefore, parks staff have no control over setting the priority of the work. Although the condition of the dam has been brought to MIT's attention many times and it is under consideration for replacement. Morgan has agreed to ask again and report back to David on any updates in timing.

3) *Are there plans to repair the boat launch?*

Morgan has noted the issues with the boat launch and will bring it forward for consideration for discussion. At this point, next fall is the potential time for the project

3) *Cottagers expressed their concerns with the lack of presence of conservation officers. Are there any plans increase the COs at the park?*

Morgan invited Dan Cooper to respond to this question.



*Dan Cooper, Conservation Officer*

- Dan commented that the province has made several changes to the roles of the COs and changed control areas so the reporting structure has changed. Now based Beausejour, MB, which means a wider area to cover with less COs. The CO position within Moose has been cut so that a CO rotates through the park every second weekend and there will not be any additional support to Moose. This means services will be cut. There will be no regular enforcement on the lake as you need two officers to be out on the boat.
- Dan invited question from the cottagers:

*1) How do we, as the cottagers help support the reduced role?*

Cottagers need to be reporting more and increasing documentation.

*2) How can a cottager be evicted from the lake?*

West side Cottagers brought forward a serious safety issue with the behaviour of family members of a cottage owner on the west side. Increasing confrontations and inappropriate behaviour targeted at young female cottagers. Incidence of drug use and implied threats against other cottagers if they complain. Several cottagers do not feel safe when these members are present.

Dan indicated a specific complaint must be brought forward and all incidences must be documented. All affected cottagers must report in writing to CO and RCMP when incidences occur. The family member has been evicted on several occasions, however, to have a lease holder held responsible, you must document all the incidences to support the lease holder is not upholding the term of the lease. Dan invited several of the west side cottagers to meet with him after he meeting to discuss. **It was suggested by the cottagers that a petition be circulated to support the eviction and ban of the cottagers from the lake due to the safety issues and threatening behaviour of these members.**

## **9. New Business**

Cottagers noted, with appreciation, the addition of speed bumps to the campground area. Several cottagers inquired if it would be possible to have speed bumps installed on the cottage road. Morgan indicated the cost would be approximately 500 per set of speed bumps (requires a set of two bumps to cover both lanes of traffic at any location). This cost would include signage along with installation and maintenance provided by parks as the speed bumps would be transferred to the park ownership. The speed bumps would be removed in the winter and



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re-installed each spring by parks. Morgan indicated the bumps do not interfere with road maintenance as the grater operator works with speed bumps in other areas and is accustomed to their presence. Any permanent damage to the speed bumps, including vandalism, requiring replacement would be the responsibility of the cottagers in the future. The following motion was moved by Kim Rose and seconded by Verna Danylchuk:

*To purchase and place two sets of speed bumps on the cottage access roads on each side of the lake ( for a total of four sets of speed bumps) at a cost of approximately 500 per set including signage with parks to choose appropriate placement at the first available opportunity in the spring.*

**All in favour - Motion carried**

A question from the floor was raised regarding the rating of the cottage road on the west side. There is increased bus traffic on the road with the new occupancy of the camp. There were some concerns whether the road would deteriorate as it was not known if there was a weight restriction on the road for buses. Morgan assured the cottagers the road was not restricted generally but like many rural roads there maybe temporary restrictions in the spring based on the condition of the road. Morgan would check with MIT and respond back with any concerns around increased load and use of the west side cottage road. Morgan also requested that cottagers ensure they are reporting when they find damage to the road.

## **10. Reports of Officers**

a) President David Morrow noted FFD was successful with more than 50% of the cottages responding to the invite with 265 attendees. Based on the amount of food served, we predict attendance was closer to 300 participants. We were fortunate to have many volunteers and sponsorship from Silver Birch resort. David noted Debbie and Steve from Silver Birch resort were very helpful in ordering most of the food through the resort and having it delivered to the resort and storing it until the FFD. Debbie and Steve sponsored the meat, propane, ice and prizes for the event. President Morrow noted Moose Music had over 110 attendees. President Morrow noted we are in need of new members for the executive and would encourage any new cottagers or those of the younger generations to join the board to bring new ideas.



The report was moved by Karen Weiss and seconded by Doug Thiessen. **All in Favour**

**Action item:** It was suggested from the floor to send a thank you card to Debbie and Steve for their generous contributions and support.

b) Treasurer - Pat Weiss described her role as treasurer for any candidates in the audience who would consider taking on this role in the executive as Pat's term is ending. Pate review the printed report (attached) summarizing the income and expenses with total total assets at \$10,836.69.

The report was moved by Pat Weiss and seconded by Verna Danylchuk. **All in Favour**

## **11. Election of Officers and Directors**

President Morrow noted that there were five positions on the Association's Executive Committee open - Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, East-side director, West-side director. He explained that the Committee typically holds four regular meetings per year plus two additional meetings with PPSB and organizes the Family Fun Day and Moose Music Event. The board is the primary contact with the local parks management through out the season.

President Morrow called upon Past-President Nichola Wigle to chair the meeting for the purposes of nominations and elections.

- **Vice-President**

Nichola Wigle called for Nominations for the position of Vice-President.

After three calls for nominations there were no motions or volunteers. That being the case it was noted that the Executive Committee has the authority to make appointments to fill vacancies and that the Committee would be seeking volunteers.

- **Secretary**

Nichola Wigle called for Nominations for the position of Secretary.

After three calls for nominations there were no motions or volunteers. That being the case it was noted that the Executive Committee has the authority to make appointments to fill vacancies and that the Committee would be seeking volunteers.



- **Treasurer**

Nichola Wigle called for Nominations for the position of Treasurer.

After three calls for nominations there were no motions or volunteers. That being the case it was noted that the Executive Committee has the authority to make appointments to fill vacancies and that the Committee would be seeking volunteers.

- **East Side Director**

Nichola Wigle called for Nominations for the position of East Side Director.

It was moved by Doug Thiessen and seconded by Verna Danylchuk that Joelle Ragot be nominated as an East Side Director. Ms. Ragot indicated her willingness to serve.

MOTION CARRIED

Joelle Ragot was declared elected.

- **West Side Director**

Nichola called for Nominations for the position of West Side Director.

It was moved by Peter Vander Linden and seconded by Kim Rose that Ashley Hiltz be nominated as an East Side Director. Ms. Hiltz indicated her willingness to serve.

MOTION CARRIED

Ashley Hiltz was declared elected.

After calls for further nominations and with none forthcoming it was moved by Peter Vander Linden and seconded by Jeff Wigle that nominations close.

MOTION CARRIED

David Morrow resumed to control of the meeting.

## 12. Other Business

No further business was brought forward.

## 13. Adjournment

On a motion by Keith Wilford seconded by David Morrow the meeting adjourned at 12:45.