

**GRAND LAKE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD July 9, at 7:00 PM by Zoom**

1. WELCOME

President Jim Nicol Sr. welcomed one and all and thanked them for participating in the new reality of COVID-19 Meetings. Jim will act as Chair and Paul Butler as Secretary.

Nick Barber explained the Zoom meeting protocols, e.g. how to “raise your hand”, mute and un-mute etc. to speak

Jim welcomed special guests (Mayor Laurin, Council Members, and Presidents of other Lake Associations) and New Members who were asked to identify themselves. Jim thanked Nick for organizing this zoom meeting.

Proxies-2 were acknowledged (Dale Smith to vote) and a Quorum was declared by Dale, acting as scrutineer.

Jim introduced the Current Board - Paul, Gary Beach (not able to attend- Dale will report for him), Rosaline Frith, Dorothy Laflamme not able to attend but Gill Toll will report, Peter Kearns, representing the Grand Lake Sports Club, Ray Otten, James Levesque, Mel Boivin, Nick Barber, Francois Jacques and Michel Rossignol. Dale also attends all Board meetings in his capacity as an Honorary Board Member for life.

It was also noted that a translation to French would be made on request for the meeting, and going forward we will attempt to provide all communications in both languages. Thanks to Michel. Also, Mel and her family who translated the 2019 AGM minutes - about 6 hours of effort - thank you from Jim.

Jim outlined the plan for the meeting, the timing of Mayor’s comments/questions and any questions from the "floor".

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Moved by Peter Kearns
Seconded by Dale Smith
Unanimously carried

3. APPROVE MINUTES 2019 AGM

Moved by Lynn Honsberger
Seconded by Ray Otten
Unanimously carried

4. REPORTS

TREASURER (GARY BEACH): Dale reported for Gary
Financial report

Opening Balance \$62,237

Revenue

\$11, 262 mostly from membership receipts, includes \$1,604 interest and \$610 on the framed Loon picture raffle proceeds.

Expenses

Total \$11, 429

\$3,150 for winter patrol to James Levesque

\$999 hot dogs, burgers, refreshments at 2019 AGM

\$400 donation to the Federation of Lakes of VDM

\$1,253 of water testing which was more frequent as per requests at the 2019 AGM

\$265 directors insurance

Water safety \$429

\$3,485 Milfoil costs this year, primarily white milfoil information buoys

(\$1,388 reimbursement from Lac Bernard regarding shared costs is included in revenues)

\$1,420 Canada day contribution towards fireworks in 2019 (none this year)

Closing Balance \$62,571

Comprised of two GIC's maturing in 2021 totaling \$39,806 plus a significant bank balance of \$22,765 as a result of a GIC maturing late in May and only reinvested in early June.

Waiver of annual audit of financial statements and acceptance of financial report

Moved by Jim Nicol

Seconded by Doug McLarty

Unanimously carried

Mayor's report - This was a special year as the mayor said - difficult for all certainly. The Val-des-Monts city hall is now open for all by appointments starting Monday finally. Currently everything is running about 6 months behind and with many increased costs - so a difficult year for planning and finance. Regarding recent discussion about the changes to the VDM funding of the Federation of Lakes, essentially the changes relate to the reporting and salary budgeting for the main biologist/consultant Stephanie Milot. She was asked to come back to VDM in a full time position and no longer be a VDM-funded consultant for the Federation. In order to execute the Watershed Plan D'Eau's ambitious objectives over the coming years, VDM believes that it needs a qualified full time resource. The Mayor believes that the Federation should continue to play an important role in coordinating the needs of various lake associations in VDM, and has offered the resource of the new VDM biologist to assist and educate associations in important

environmental programs such as water testing, battling milfoil, trying to reduce shoreline erosion with a view to protecting the watershed- which the Mayor acknowledged as VDM's most important asset. Her position will be the bridge between VDM and various lake associations. The important Federation Watershed Program Proposal is now done, and it will cost millions of dollars in lake shore issues, culverts etc. so this all needs to be in association with governments. As for roads, part of Barrage will be redone this year – and that will have a domino effect on everything. Serge Gascon, President of the Dam Lake Association, noted that there were different interpretations of VDM's position circulating among various lake associations, and that concern had been voiced that the independent voice of the Federation would be lost if its main resource was an employee of VDM.

The Mayor responded that there was quite a misunderstanding on the part of the Federation board about the new structural changes though they had been told clearly that Stephanie will be totally available for them May to September for consultation on any environmental issues. He also assured us that some people were misinterpreting the proposed new funding mechanism as an attempt to squash the Federation. It essentially will leave the same amount of funding from VDM in place, based on an annual request process, to help the Federation defray all the same expenses in the past, EXCEPT that the biologist role will now be funded directly by the Municipality.

MEMBERSHIP (ROSALINE FRITH)

Rosaline reported that we currently have about 80% of members paid up now. All members need to be paid up to be in the Directory by printing time so we should be caught up in the next few weeks.

Approval of current annual dues \$25 for membership and \$50 for winter patrol.

Moved by Rachelle May-Boland

Seconded by Don Poole

Unanimously carried

ENVIRONMENT (TIM FRANK)

Water testing - NA but Tim did a report for the Spring Newsletter

Federation of Lakes - Tim - NA - Dale thanked the mayor for information on Federation issues recently -and noted that there had been no request for donations from Federation at this point. Budget needs to be determined first and more info is required.

Gill Toll reported for Dorothy from the Milfoil Committee- In late summer 2019, 4 new big white marker buoys were installed and removed for the autumn. They were put back in this spring in the same locations. The green buoys and their moorings were kept in over the winter and were designed to allow for fluctuation of the water levels. Some have disappeared with their anchor and attachment - some need to be re-inflated (a bicycle pumps works for this purpose) and 6 are simply missing. Currently 3 have been re-inflated. Dorothy had reported a 10% loss per year from sun, wind and ice damage was considered normal by the manufacturer. The green buoys were the best price, and really the only option, for the large number that we required.

Going forward the 3 ft. slack for the mooring for ice and drifting, should be bright coloured rope for visibility so that lost anchors can be recovered. Currently they sink into the silt. It was noted that some of the red buoys markers for rocks and shallows are missing as well.

Gill noted that there needs to be an ongoing education about the buoys including the new white buoys. As the writing is not visible from afar curious boaters have been getting close only to read that it says keep out!

The Milfoil Committee would like to send out reminders about the program in general and the markers. A group has volunteered to maintain certain zones but they still need more people to check on their local buoys. Information is key so tell all guests and visitors about the issue and keep scooping up the bits! Thanks from Jim for the committee's past and ongoing work.

Abby Hoffman thanked the group as well and pointed out that in the north end of the lake there is a white buoy with a message that is ambiguous as to whether it means keep out or just be careful with milfoil in the area. She thought restricted access to the north west arm, or ideally non-motorized access only to that area, would reduce the chewing up of the weed beds there, which then moves milfoil fragments southward into the rest of the lake. Currently there is a lot of boating activity in that area.

WEBSITE (PAUL BUTLER)

The websites are both up to date, including the archives. Thanks to various people for sending in pictures, for lost and found notices or for placing ads. Paul reported that there had been quite a few successes with quick sales recently so it was good to see that it is all working well. The new Directory will include a revised map of the lake which will be on the web site. Some of the changes will include new cottages and there has been a request to put local names on the islands & bays to make communication simpler for all. Good idea and thank you for that.

Paul noted that we are always looking for information that might be of interest to all cottagers - all pictures, articles, want ads or questions can be emailed to butlerpauld@gmail.com as shown on the website. We post in the language we receive in - ads in both languages will reach the most people.

MILFOIL COMMITTEE- Report by Dorothy Laflamme - see Gill's report above

BOATING and WATER SAFETY (GARY BEACH) buoys, boating guidelines - Gary NA
Dale says revised boating guidelines will be in the new Directory soon to be ready for printing.

Water safety issues - Dale noted that there is to be no water skiing etc. after dusk which is illegal and people are still doing it which is quite dangerous! Gary will make recommendations in the new directory, which includes the map and boating guidelines

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Jim Nicol Sr.)

1) Money talks Jim noted and all cottagers were very frustrated by the police provincial Covid-19 closures at the bridges this spring. Cottagers who attempted to cross discovered there was a very arbitrary treatment and the Mayor was aware of the concerns. Apparently the City of Gatineau got a bill for \$700K from Police for the extra time and the blockade ended the next day!

2) Canada Day Fireworks - 2 individuals gave \$500 and sufficient others smaller amounts such that Mike Avon had now fully recouped his fireworks expense. Jim noted that the fireworks, which by law could not be a lake sponsored event this year due to the Covid restrictions, were well attended by numerous boats practicing very safe social distancing.

5. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT and RECOMMENDATIONS from Dale Smith

Dale gave an overview of the bylaws and the process whereby members appoint 9 directors and try to appoint them on a rolling 3 year term - rotating such that 3 terms expire each year for continuity. Gary, Paul and Peter this year will end their terms and all 3 have agreed to stand again. It was noted that Gill Toll has submitted her candidacy for when the next Board position becomes available. Hence she will be the first candidate for the next position.

Voting on Directors to fill the 3 three-year spots that expired at the AGM.

Moved by Dale

Seconded by Jim

Unanimously carried

6. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

COVID TIMES AND RELATED DISRUPTION OF ACTIVITIES (Jim Nicol Sr.) -

HIKING TRAILS (ABBY HOFFMAN) Abby noted that the hiking trails are a great place for social distancing - all in single file! There have been improvements recently to the dockage and the old green dock has now been replaced thanks to Robert Fife's dock donation. Consequently the dock can accommodate more and larger boats now. The trail has been expanded and away from logging - which had damaged some of the trails. From the West end dock there is a circle route which can be taken clockwise or counter clockwise and is about a 1.5 hour hike and goes up above the lakes.

The customary October formal work parties will not be happening this year due to Covid but individuals are encouraged to take clippers and do informal pruning as they go. The new lakeside trail will be on the website hiking map. Abby thanked all those who had helped with the hiking trails over the past year.

GOLF TOURNAMENT 2020 (DALE SMITH) cancelled due to Covid.

SAILING (SARAH POTHECARY or IAN MACLAREN) – See the Spring Newsletter for details, and also watch on the website for new information.

POKER RUN (Sue Goodwin) - cancelled due to Covid restrictions on social gatherings

WINTER PATROL (James Levesque - NA)

LOST & FOUND (NATHAN COOPER) - Nathan thanked Rosaline for sending out the reports and translating - many lost and found issues had been resolved. Nathan asked to please let him know when something has been found so that it can be removed from the listing. Also there is a phantom dock which had been discovered in the south end last fall and is currently tied up in Nathan's bay. Nathan noted that there needs to be a directive for lost or abandoned docks as they simply sit and deteriorate and asked the directors to discuss at some point.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Peter noted the recent fires on Mount's islands and thanked the cottagers and VDM fire department who responded - the fire department being 24/7 now. President Jim Nicol said that a letter of thanks to the fire department had been sent some time ago.

Dale asked for a moment of silence and offered condolences for the 5 cottagers lost since the last AGM - Arnie Mierins, Sylvia Akerlind- Roy, Pierre Bourque, Merv Scheutzle, and most recently Irene Cowan

Eva Kmiecic asked about a development report for this year and Peter said there had been no new movement in the Culbute area - also regarding the large piece (80 acres south end of lake with access), there had been some concern in past about multi- unit development plan there, but a single buyer has purchased property and has license to grow marijuana on the property - no development plans currently for the land or water access otherwise.

Rachelle May-Boland thanks to group for Zoom meeting as it was a great way to meet new people

Gail Brown asked about an invasive species report and Jim noted that the Phragmite email and brochure will be coming soon.

Rosaline reported there are several new people on the lake who will be taking memberships and new names will be in the new Directory and asked that if property sells close by, could people please get the new owner info to her and she will make contact.

8. ADJOURN

Moved by Peter Kearns

Seconded by Dale Smith

Unanimously carried

