

Grand Lake West Road Corporation Association

Minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting

17 July, 2016. 09:30

Pierre Phillion's residence, 136 H-Vipond

Members present:

Mike Avon, Kevin Brady, Ann Croll, Janice Dempsey, Charles Ferron, Jacques Ferron, Rosaline Frith, Terry Ford, Camille Goure, Aaron Hellard, Ed and Heather Hemphill, Maurice Jetté, David Lafranchise, Gaston Launier, Don Maclean, Paul Migus, Pierre Phillion, Marc and Rachel Prud'homme, Bibiane and Gilles Seguin, Gill and Michael Toll, Rob and Patty Wright

1. President Michael Toll called the meeting to order at 0930 and introduced the other members of the Executive: Mike Avon, Ann Croll, Kevin Brady, Aaron Hellard, Gaston Launier, Pierre Phillion (David Lafranchise was late). He thanked Pierre Phillion for the use of his facilities.
2. No proxies were registered.
3. The agenda was approved on a motion of Gill Toll seconded by Janice Dempsey.
4. The minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved as presented on a Motion of Terry Ford seconded by Rosaline Frith.
5. Pierre Phillion and Gaston Launier presented the Road Report and answered questions. The focus this year will be re-setting and replacing culverts. The severe freeze and thaw cycle has raised culverts and a number need to be reset and lowered. Early notice of problems from members reduces damage and saves cost, eg quick notice this spring of a failing culvert at George Avon's prevented a major washout. Many of the 28 culverts on the road, some 50 years old, will need to be replaced. Plastic culverts will be used rather than metal - cheaper and long-lasting even though they require more careful preparation of the roadbed. The first to be replaced will be the one at Lac à Laurin (Clifford Lake), which will require closing the road for several hours. Agreed that this will be done this Fall during mid-day, members to be given advance notice through signs and e-mail. Executive to explore maintaining emergency access via the Avon Road. On behalf of the membership, Terry Ford thanked Gaston and Pierre for their work.
6. Ann Croll presented her Treasurer's report. She noted that fees had remained unchanged for six years, and foresaw no increase. There is now \$8000 in the special fund. She suggested that as no major work is planned, this amount might be invested to earn more interest. Fixed expenses are declining, largely as only 8 of 61 members ask for communication by post, while about a third of members use e-transfer to pay. Ann noted that through the \$50 annual charge, all members contribute about \$3000 towards the cost of snowplowing. Reviewing expenses, Ann noted that after a number of years of investing in improving difficult-to-maintain sections of the road, maintenance expenses have dropped from \$14,000 to \$10,000 over the last few years. For the first time, we will be able to afford three rather than two gradings of the road. She also noted the value to the Association of having road chairs who are able to carry out small jobs by themselves. \$500 spent for extra sandings late in the season was not included in cost recovery for winter maintenance this year, but will be included in billing for 2016-2017. The Emergency Fund was tapped to repair a failed culvert at George Avon's, and a sinkhole by the Gate. Cost of liability insurance has been significantly reduced by the Municipality's decision to allow road associations to buy coverage through the municipal plan. Fees have already been reduced (2016) to reflect this

change. Ann noted that she is not including the overdue fees from Solunac and de Rainville in the budget. The President explained that in the view of the Executive there is no value in putting these arrears out to a Collection Agency until the individual amounts have reached \$1000, as the Collection agency charges 40% commission on amounts under \$1000 and 25% on \$1000 and above.

7. The President noted that by-law 8 of our Constitution specifies an annual audit. No Volunteers have been found. Agreed on a motion of Rosaline Frith, seconded by Jacques Ferron, that audit be waived for 2016.
8. Proposed municipal maintenance of private roads: Val-des-Monts is willing to assume maintenance of private roads on a cost-recovery basis provided (1) 50%+1 of property owners along the road agree each year. (2) the road meets certain minimum standards (3) the road is open to public access. The road owners would still be responsible for capital costs and improvements, e.g. replacement of culverts, purchase of stone and gravel. The chief benefits are seen to be (1) the municipality would assume billing - some associations have difficulty collecting fees (2) winter access for emergency vehicles would be assured. The Executive argued against participation on the grounds that (1) we do not want open public access (2) our road would require significant capital investment to meet the minimum standards (3) we have a strong, well-funded organization (4) the plan is expected to be very expensive - about \$7000/km or \$42,000 (not including capital costs or major maintenance, such as replacement of culverts, digging of ditches or purchase and spreading of gravel), vs the \$23,000 we pay now, which includes these additional costs. There was no interest in pursuing this option.
9. Nominations. All members of the current Executive have agreed to continue for 2016-17. There were no nominations or volunteers from the Floor. Agreed that nominations close and Executive be acclaimed, on motion of Janice Dempsey seconded by Terry Ford.
10. Work Day is Sunday August 14, 2016. Meet at Forks at 0930, bring gloves, brush cutters, garbage bags, etc to pick up trash, cut back brush.
11. Other business: several thefts reported October/November 2015, suggestions of possible remedies, e.g. signs, security cameras. Need to remind municipality that streetlamp at main Gate has burnt out (we paid capital cost of installation, town maintains). Pierre Philion noted that we also need to remind the municipality that a number of road name signs are missing.
12. Adjourned 1035 on motion of Maurice Jetté seconded by Jacques Ferron.