

**Blackstone Lake Cottagers Association - Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Hybrid Meeting held at 105 Tolpts Road and by Zoom.**

Erik called the meeting to order at 10am. There were approximately 40 attendees in person and approximately 20 on-line screens with several couples or small groups for an estimated 30 attendees online.

Agenda approved as circulated. Due to Ian Mead's illness, his councilor report to be read to the group with a followup zoom session to be scheduled after the summer.

The meeting began with a land acknowledgement by Erik Mathiesen

**Regular Business**

It was explained how we would manage the in person vs the on-line presence. Raising hands on line, repeating of questions asked so both audience could hear etc. For all those in attendance there are handouts available, one for fire safety, one for medical emergencies and a map of all addresses and locations of fire pumps. All of this information is also available on our website. On site participants would see slightly different timing of slide show from online participants as two separate systems being used. Diane Jennings from the "Calendar Gals" group was present selling 2023 calendars.

All were welcomed, with a shout out to those new to the lake. (welcome Mike and Claudia Cress – 117 Tolpts Rd, John Henhoefer and Leanne Cooley – 119 Tolpts Rd; and David and Trisha Causley – 383 Blackstone Cranel Lake Rd)

**Approval of 2021 AGM minutes**

Motion to approve the 2021 AGM minutes (these were available on line) by Cheryl Ward and seconded by David Rosen, motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Barb Metelka reported that in 2021 we had a record 49 paid members and with two regulars missing, would have exceeded 50 members for the first time. She thanked the Blackstone/Crane calendar team which donated \$1200.00 to BLCA contributing to an operating surplus which we expect to invest in safety focused initiatives.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's and membership report made by Lisa Pieper-Brown, seconded by Michael Cress.

**Appointment of the Board of Directors for 2022-2023 term**

Lisa Pieper-Brown stated that all members had agreed to stand for another term and that any nominations should have been emailed to the board at least one week prior to the AGM with nominees to agree to the nomination. It was noted that a successor treasurer is being sought. There was then a nomination from the floor to add Kathy Watts to the board – possibly as

treasurer successor. Moved by Carol VandenHoek, seconded by Barb Metelka for Kathy Watts to serve as treasurer successor. Kathy accepted this nomination.

Mary Hudson moved approval of the amended slate of directors, seconded by Barb Metelka. Carried.

Mary Hudson also requested that the minutes reflect our appreciation for and thanks to Barb for her many years of service on the BLCA board. Finally a motion was made to authorize the board to fill any vacancies or additions to the board that arise before the next annual meeting. was put forth, moved by Tori Bailey, and seconded by Moira McErlean

### **Fire safety & medical emergency updates and card distribution**

David Rosen explained the events that occurred on the July long weekend involving the Gee family. Despite the tragedy the response was swift and as helpful as possible. The emergency volunteers are using the "What's App" app to work together to best address an emergency as quickly as possible. One learning from this event was that depending on the circumstances, a quick call or concurrent call to the lakeside response team can be beneficial. No problem if two phones, but if just one phone, 911 dispatchers try to keep the line open with a caller involved in the emergency so there isn't a way to reach the local team. For fires, there is a different arrangement where a 911 fire call also generates notification to local response volunteers.

We have five AEDs available for public use on the lake as well as two rescue bags. There were handouts available listing fire and emergency contacts, fire pump and AED locations as well as all cottage numbers. This information is also available online. Erik added that budget would be allocated to ongoing health and safety improvements. We are working on again offering safety drills to show cottagers how to use the fire pumps and other safety procedures. This information will be on the website and sent out in an email.

### **Councillor's report**

Ian Mead was unable to attend due to illness, so Erik read his speaking notes as a substitute. Blackstone is the only lake in the township without public access or an open for roads policy. This might be fine for now, but many ratepayers have expressed concern about long term access, and marina viability is an issue in the township. TOA is forming a committee to look at assured access for all ratepayers with a particular focus on water access cottagers. Committee initially to be composed of the councillors for each ward. Mention of the possibility of a public access road as part of a longer term solution was generally received negatively.

Another local debate topic has been the sustainability and related weight limits for the bridge to Anglers Inn. In the course of minor repairs, guard rails were installed and the load limit lowered by 2 tons. This is the only bridge in the township. The load limit technically excludes trucks hauling septic bed materials and potentially even the septic pump out barge. Some larger docks etc are already offloaded at the Crane Lake public access and brought through the river. One cheap and cheerful solution for restoring the original weight limits was to lower the speed limit for trucks then the load limit could be increased. This will be requested.

The Site Alteration by law will be presented to council on July 21st. TOA has an outside firm looking at the implications of site alterations and zoning changes, including set back bylaws. The Seguin portion of Crane Lake/Blackstone Lake road upgrades has been postponed until 2023. This project as with others at the township has been impacted by staff turnover.

Rupert Kindersley, Executive Director of the Georgian Bay Association described the site alteration bylaw discussions as a seeking a balance between property rights and protecting the environment. There was no formal GBA report on the agenda this year, but the BLCA membership therein provides us with much access to resources and an amplified voice in political and regulatory matters. GBA has presentations for fire and emergency safety as well.

### **Photo contest**

Andy Metelka reported that the contest has been extended due lack of response. As photo contests go, it may have been superceded by the larger Blackstone Crane connect initiative, but we still want to honour Dave McCamus.

### **President's remarks and discussion of current issues and concerns**

Erik took a quick poll on if anyone has joined the Crane Lake/Blackstone Connect group on Facebook. About half of members present participate. The group has 700 members now! Dianne Jennings, one of the administrators of the site, was present and taking orders for the 2023 calendar. The 2022 calendar sales resulted in a \$1200 contribution to BLCA.

Erik also mentioned several important factors for BLCA. We want to keep a balance between environmental stewardship, sustainable development and respect for property rights. The cottage season has grown much longer with covid and also have people building their permanent residence lakeside (two new in 2022).

Be sure to check out the Motus Tower on Estell's reserve in Mallet's bay. The Georgian Bay Biosphere is using this to track migratory habits of birds in the area. Again, the Association acknowledged the land trust gifts made by the Mallett and Hudson/Gifford households.

Our current priorities are value proposition, membership, supporting Angler's Inn, and being proactive for future needs. Our financial situation is currently stable.

Erik put forth a "straw poll" asking if we wanted to have portage signs at our designated portage locations on Blackstone. This was proposed by TOA in response to one ratepayer request for one site. There was a substantial and valuable discussion both for and against signage as well which type of signage. There was no motion put forth as the room was fairly evenly divided at this time. It was agreed to take no action for now. We will revisit this issue in the future.

Lastly Erik is looking for a volunteer to take on the responsibility of arranging Stink Week. Those that participate will receive a discount. And the "bug people" will be coming to check out our water quality.

As there were no further issues the meeting we adjourned at approximately 11:30