

**Blackstone Lake Cottagers Association - Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
August 19, 2020. Meeting held via Zoom.**

Erik Mathiesen called the meeting to order at 7:35. A “head count” was taken by Secretary Lisa Pieper Brown and there were 25 voting members in attendance with a total of approximately 40 attendees factoring in multiple participants on one zoom screen.

Agenda approved as circulated.

Minutes from 2019 had been circulated with meeting notice.  
Motion to approve (B. Metelka, D. Rosen) . All votes were in favor.

**President’s Report**

Erik spoke on goals and challenges for BLCA moving forward. While water quality and environmental stewardship will always be top priorities, covid-19 restrictions have highlighted how important access is as well. Due to the global pandemic many things have been put on hold, delayed, postponed or cancelled. 2021 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association and the current board is working towards broader and next generation member engagement. BLCA has made annual 2020 dues optional to make it more attractive for prospective members to see the value proposition.

As of August 2020, there are no pressing issues other than all wishing for a return to some form of summer normalcy – including access for our US neighbours.

**Financial Report**

Barb presented the financial report. Unfortunately membership dropped from 2019 mainly, we believe, due to technical issues with our email blast last summer. The newsletter and renewal information did not reach all of our members. We are in good shape financially. We spent money on signage to help with wake speed but they were taken down. Not sure what happened to them. We are now able to offer on-line payment of dues as well as reminders. We are hoping for consistency and simplicity moving forward. Motion to accept our financial report was put forth by David Rosen and seconded by Heather Mallett. The financial report was approved.

**Board Membership**

Erik presented our Board of directors. A question was posed about how many board members we are allowed. We currently have six members and think we are able to have up to 11 board members. Cheryl Ward has agreed to join our board bringing the total up to seven members with representation from all parts of the lake and all forms of access.. A motion to approve the board as is with the addition of Cheryl was put forth by David Burkhart-Schultz and seconded by Sarah Bailey. The current board with the addition of Cheryl Ward was approved.

**GBA Update**

Rupert Kindersley gave his annual update on the Georgian Bay Association and their mandate to protect the Bay and the inland lakes around it. The GBA is here to support our lake

stewardship and greatly appreciates our support. COVID-19 has interrupted basically all of their programs/activities. There was a question from one of our members about how to regulate boat sizes on our lake as there are some that are considered too large for our lake. Rupert offered suggestions such as signage and education but stated there is no legal standing for stopping large boats on your lake.

### **Councilor Update**

Ian Mead answered the questions provided by members to Erik before the meeting. As for boat size, wake issues, etc... These are out of the Township's jurisdiction, so they are unable to address. Next he addressed the news of the Crane Lake marina closing. Per Ian, the marina is not closing. The people who were operating the marina have stepped away but the owner, Ned McClennen, has pledged to keep it operating with the hope of finding a new owner or operator (or both). Ned will communicate through Ian. The marina and gas pumps will stay open on Saturdays only and will be maintained through the winter. Ian also mentioned that in the worst case scenario, the Township owns the public access space and this could be modified to accommodate docking etc. Ian spoke about his "Ribbon of Life" initiative and where it stands. Ian is still hoping to move forward with this initiative but due to COVID-19 this too has been put on pause. Next Ian addressed the former Jacklin property. The estate has hired a planner and an environmental consulting firm. There is considerable frontage that could be in a development plan, but the current proposal contemplates a severance creating 3 new lots- all of which would meet the 300 feet of lake frontage requirement. The proposal is under review by the Township. Finally, Ian informed us that there is a plan underway to update and improve high speed internet service, which should hopefully improve internet access for everyone at the lake! This was a big issue when schools went on line and many families in the area had trouble connecting. A question was posed to Ian about whether or not there are wetlands on the Jacklin land. Ian reiterated that the entire proposal is under review, including the environmental impact.

Erik thanked Ian for always keeping us informed throughout the year.

### **Other Business**

We were saddened to learn of the very recent loss of Dave McFadyen – a beloved friend and steward of Blackstone for many decades. Most cottagers have a "Dave" story where he helped them out.

Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the creation of BLCA! First and foremost, we hope everyone can return to the lake. Plans include updating and improving our safety equipment, creating a new phone chain and providing on-line maps.

Erik opened up the "floor" for questions. The only question/comment was an expression of concern and support for Angler's Inn. Erik had been in regular contact with Chris Morwald and reported that the business was obviously impacted economically, but coping as best they can. It was noted that it is important for all of us to support Angler's Inn as much as possible. The Morwalds have been long time stewards of the lake and provide essential services to our water access ratepayers.

Barb thanked Erik for all that he does for BLCA. Erik stated that we are a stewardship lake more than a social lake. He feels we need to find ways to make this work in our favor as well as become more social. He would like to grow our membership as well as our voice on Blackstone.

**At 8:35 a motion was put forth to adjourn...**