

**CLEAR LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CHALETS LAC CLAIR
SUNDAY 04 AUGUST, 2013
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to order at 1:05 pm – 32 in attendance

West Nipissing councilor Guilles Tessier responded to our invitation to attend the meeting. He thanked the crowd for inviting him and gave a brief presentation outlining his understanding of the events that led the West Nipissing planning board to grant a “minor variance” to Denmar construction, thus enabling that company to apply for a Quarry licence. He has made inquiries and is of the opinion that the municipality has very little discretion in such matters and once certain criteria were established a variance had to be granted.

During this presentation, Tom Sayer indicated that he had been a member of the planning board when the “variance” was granted. At that time, Denmar had indicated that blasting & crushing would only be carried out once a year and be limited to approximately 7 days. On that basis, the variance was granted.

Councilor Tessier is aware that CLCA is opposed to the proposal on the basis of public safety and indicated he shared our views regarding Clear Lake Rd. He suggested that Council has taken the position that if any road enhancements or repairs are required to enable Denmar to safely operate on Clear Lake Rd that council would require the contractor to cover the costs. He clarified that he could not speak for the Mayor and suggested that CLCA contact Mayor Savage to obtain clarification. Members suggested that council should make a presentation to the OMB on this issue before any final decision was reached on granting a licence.

The councilor was aware of CLCA concerns regarding road issues, policing issues, beaver dams and the management of the landfill site. He suggested that we report those concerns directly to the public servant who has assigned responsibility before asking him to intervene on a political level. We should however contact him if we are not satisfied with the action being taken and he will intervene on our behalf.

During the conversation regarding illegal parking on Clear Lake Rd at Tanner Lake, it was revealed that West Nipissing Police have been conducting enforcement and charging those who park the wrong direction at the edge of the roadway.

The Councilor heard concerns from the group that the Denmar dump trucks continue to travel too fast on Clear Lake Rd and create an unsafe situation. Bob Jolley indicated that these issues have been reported to council in the past and

they have not provided any official response. However, councilor Tessier had assisted CLCA by previously reporting our concerns to police and Chief Sequin subsequently contacted the Association by calling Bob Jolley at the request of Mayor Savage. Bob advised the Chief that our concerns relate to the configuration of Clear Lake Rd more than policing alone. CLCA has taken the stance that the road cannot safely support heavy truck traffic regardless of the level of policing received. During the AGM, Brad Laird suggested that Chief Sequin be contacted and asked to take a public stance on the safety of the road.

President Derek indicated we would follow up with the respective public servants and Mayor Savage on the issues raised. He thanked Guilles for attending.

2. **Adoption of Agenda.** Moved by Lois Dobson, seconded by Jerry Murnaghan. Approved by All.
3. **Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting 05 Aug 2012.** Moved by Fern Levesque, seconded by Louise Stewart. Approved by All.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Moved by Jerry Murnaghan, seconded by Claude McGrath that the report outlining a bank balance of \$1,590.52 be accepted. Approved by All.
5. **President's Report** – Derek reported on a number of issues that had been addressed since the last AGM

Denmar Quarry Application – President Derek reported that the Executive have attended 2 Ontario Municipal Board pre-hearings into the application. A final hearing is scheduled for 6 January 2014. He showed the membership the presentation, including 60 photographs and a banner outlining an aerial view of Clear Lake Rd that will be used during the CLCA presentation.

Moved by Fern Levesque, seconded by Jerry Murnaghan that the Board be authorized to pay AB Digital Printing \$100.00 for production of the banner. All in favour. Derek thanked Howie Longfellow and Bob Jolley for doing the work that led to creation of the CLCA presentation.

Members were advised that CLCA has obtained “party status” for the hearing and will be working in conjunction with other “parties” specifically a group from Tanner Lake to quash the quarry proposal. He reported that the Tanner Lake group has hired a Hydrologist to argue that a quarry would be detrimental to the environment and are looking to hire an engineering firm to conduct a “road safety study”. They requested financial assistance but President Derek had responded by clarifying that CLCA had very limited funding.

Lois Dobson suggested that CLCA could create a fund to assist in the process. Moved by Gilbert Mayotte, seconded Claude McGrath that the Board be

authorized to spend up to a maximum of \$500.00 to assist parties opposing the Quarry with expenses required to obtain expert witnesses. All in favour.

President Derek thanked those who had volunteered their services to the Association over the past year and indicated he would be addressing some recently disclosed issues during the New Business portion of the meeting.

6. **Membership-** At present, 47% of the CLCA members have paid 2013-2014 membership dues. Anyone wishing to submit payment may contact Yvette Morrison at 1-705-566-1035 or submit payment by mail to the Association at *P.O. Box 98, FIELD, ON P0H 1M0*

7. **Lake Partner Program** – Len Tighe reports testing indicates the lake clarity has depleted approximately 3 ft from the previous 10 years (down from an average of 14 ft to only 11 ft below surface). He raised concerns that beaver damming at the North Shore Rd creek appears to be stopping water runoff, thus raising levels and possibly affecting clarity. Some members suggested that heavy rains may be responsible for the reduction in clarity. The beaver damming issue was also addressed in the New Business portion of the meeting.

NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting, a hydrologist with the Ministry of Environment advised that lake clarity will naturally fluctuate from year to year. Heavy rains can play a factor, but a greater threat arises when fill or beach sand is piled or spread near a shoreline. Residents are reminded that such activity is not condoned by the Ministry and can pose a threat to our water quality.

8. **Marker Buoys** – Claude McGrath reported more buoys were installed this year. He asked that anyone finding loose buoys or wishing to report shall spots on the lake contact him or Derek Stewart.

9. **Neighborhood watch / Loon Watch Study.** There were no reported break-ins over the winter. The Board asked everyone to continue to be vigilant in reporting suspicious activity to police and refrain from taking any policing action on their own.

As previously reported Howie Longfellow has obtained the correspondence from Bird Watch Canada to assist with a local “Loon Watch Study”. Howie indicates his work precludes him from monitoring the birds and he has requested that another member of the Association take on responsibility for the study. The Board would entertain a volunteer at this time. All that is required is limited inspection of nesting areas and monitoring loon activity on the lake during the summer to

determine the level of reproduction of the species. This information helps the national organization. Any interested member will please contact President Derek.

10. **Clean-up.** President Derek thanked Carole Friedrich for coordinating this year's cleanup. Reports indicate there was less trash found than in past years. Remember the cleanup day is always the first Saturday in May each year.
11. **Call for nominations to the Board.**

Derek Stewart, Bob Jolley, Len Tighe, Pat Sayer and Claude McGrath complete their terms in 2013 but agreed to stay on.

Derek Stewart was nominated by Bob Jolley, seconded by Fern Levesque.
Claude McGrath was nominated by Bob Jolley, seconded by Hector Mayotte.
Len Tighe was nominated by Bob Jolley, seconded by Fern Levesque.
Yvette Morrison was nominated by Alan Hardiman, seconded by Len Tighe.
Serge Giroux was nominated by Len Tighe, seconded by Claude McGrath.

All in Favour.

The new CLCA Board will consist of the following.

Derek Stewart – President
Lois Dobson – Past President
Bob Jolley - Secretary
Yvette Morrison – Treasurer / Membership Chair
Len Tighe
Claude McGrath
Serge Giroux
Howie Longfellow

There are still two vacant positions available on the Board. Anyone interested in joining is asked to call President Derek.

Derek indicated that Jenny Navid was retiring from the board for personal reasons. He thanked her for the fine work and dedication she has demonstrated over the years. The membership also offered thanks in applause.

12. **New Business**

Overnight Camping / Quads/Dirt bikes – Boat Launch & Beach Area President Derek has received reports that people are camping and lighting campfires in the above locations. In addition quads and dirt bikes are being operated in these areas. He indicated it will be reported to Chief Sequin and extra patrols will be requested on weekends.

Fern Levesque previously reported that vegetation at the intersection of Clear Lake Rd and Southshore Rd was restricting driving visibility and creating an unsafe condition. The Board had reported this to public works but no action has been taken. Councilor Tessier said he would look into the matter.

Beaver Dam – culvert Northshore Rd – Gilbert Mayotte reports efforts to keep the culvert free of beaver dams has been futile. President Derek indicated the situation will be reported to public works with a request that the dams be cleared and all debris removed from the area to discourage future problems. The issue of whether or not the culvert is on private or public land was discussed. Members reported that the municipality should have access to the area on two ‘right of ways’ located adjacent to the culvert.

NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting public works has cleared the beaver dam as requested.

CLCA Website – Alan Hardiman gave a presentation on the potential value of a CLCA website and indicated that he could coordinate creation of such a site if he had the support of the membership. Such a site would enable members to remain informed and facilitate greater communication from the Executive Board. Alan suggested that costs would be in the vicinity of \$120.00 to get started. The Board and members appeared very interested. The members present asked that Allan conduct further research and the Board was authorized to expend funds required to launch a website.

NOTE: To reduce future mail out costs, a list will have to be developed to identify those members who have computer access to the web....and those who do not. Members with internet access will please confirm by sending an email note to Bob Jolley at: bjjolley@sympatico.ca

Donation to Knights of Columbus – President Derek thanked the McGrath’s for facilitating use of the rental hall. Members were please with the venue. Moved by Gerry Murnaghan , seconded by Len Tighe that \$50.00 be donated to the Knights of Columbus. All in Favour.

13. Attendance Draw – Derek Stewart and Barb Bain each won a \$25.00 CTC card.
14. Next Meeting Date: Sunday, 03 August, 2014.
15. Meeting Adjournment Moved by Lois Dobson, Seconded by Claude Levesque that the meeting be adjourned at 2:05 p.m. All in favour