

Minutes of the 2013 Rita Park Cottagers' Association Annual General Meeting

Saturday, August 17, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Chris Campbell called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. He asked for any additional items for the agenda. None surfaced.

Roll Call

Chris Campbell, Cathy Hamilton, Rick McGraw, Kevin Holly, Sally Landon, John Putnikovich, Cary Lee and Liz Richmond-Lee, Doug Archibald and Margaret Archibald, Glen Wallace and Karen Wallace, Chris Johnson, Everill Muir, Bob Hoover and Marlene Hoover.

Reading of Last Year's Minutes

Cathy Hamilton read last year's minutes.

MOTION to accept last year's minutes as read was made by Doug Archibald and seconded by Kevin Holly: Carried.

Treasurer's Report (Kevin Holly)

Kevin gave the treasurer's report as follows:

- The transition from Rick McGraw to Kevin has been successfully done;
- All financial commitments have been made, i.e. insurance, taxes, maintenance;
- Last year's pig roast costs were covered through money collected from those that attended, with the balance coming from a donation by the Association;
- Therefore, as of this month, being the end of the Association's fiscal year, we have a bank balance of \$10;
- In order to stay afloat we will need a \$75 dues contribution from a minimum of 25 people, or else any extras won't be able to be done. Chris Campbell recommended that this year's dues be given to only one person, namely Kevin and anyone that he designates, so that our bookkeeping and banking is better organized and efficient ;
- Last year's extras, such as the toddler swings, were accomplished due to a donation of \$636 from the Campbells and Stan Mott. Recognition and heartfelt thanks was extended to them.
- Kevin asked that if anyone has changed their email address, please let him know and that he would verify email addresses as he collects this year's dues;

Election of 2013 – 2014 Executive and Directors

- **President:** Chris Campbell is stepping down as president. He nominated Sally Landon as his replacement. Sally accepted. **MOTION** made by Chris Campbell to nominate Sally Landon as this term's president. Doug Archibald seconded: Carried.

- **Vice-President:** Rick McGraw stated that he is officially retiring from the RPCA Executive. Chris Campbell mentioned that it was Rick's father who was responsible for the initial incorporation of the Association in 1961 and that the McGraw family has been actively involved with the Association since that time. Therefore, it could be said that Rick and the McGraw family have put in their time. Chris Campbell said that he would be willing to sit as vice-president. **MOTION**, by Glen Wallace nominating Chris Campbell to replace Rick McGraw as vice-president, seconded by John Putnickovich: Carried.

- **Treasurer:** Kevin Holly said that he would be willing to remain treasurer. **MOTION** made by Chris Campbell to have Kevin remain as treasurer. Doug Archibald seconded: Carried

- **Secretary:** Chris Campbell proposed that Cathy Hamilton remain as secretary. Cathy accepted. **MOTION** made by Chris Campbell that Cathy Hamilton remain as secretary. Doug Archibald seconded: Carried.

- **Board of Directors:** Chris Campbell asked if everyone who sat on the board as of last year remain for this year. Doug Archibald asked that he be allowed to resign. It was also noted that Sally Landon will need to be replaced as a director as she has now taken on the role of president. There was a question from Liz about what the responsibilities are for a director. Chris Johnson was the only volunteer, and Doug said that he would stay on until his replacement was found.

- The list of Directors for 2013-2014 is as follows: Doug Archibald, Donna Miller, Stan Mott, Kim Putnikovich, Glen Wallace, Liz Richmond-Lee, Chris Johnson.

- **Social Committee:** deferred to first Board meeting of the year.

Chris Campbell then introduced Sally Landon as the new president and asked her to say a few words. She produced copies of the Rita Park Cottagers' Association history documentation and Chris distributed them.

Sally made the observation that, based on developments in years past, member interest at the start of a new fiscal year is high and as the season progresses interest subsides. She said that she would like to set up regular Board meetings, a series of them to be booked at the same time so that they are on everyone's calendars.

She also said that she would like to communicate with the long-term members of the association in order to see the old stories resurrected and recorded for posterity.

She proposed that an active communication system be conducted by way of the web site.

Report on Maintenance and Activity Over The Past Year

Chris reported that, generally, we are on track and that any maintenance which needed to be done had been done. He then proceeded to recap what has gone on during the past year, being:

a) Web Site:

- The Rita Park Cottagers' Association web site is up and running but hasn't been updated in a while;

b) Pig Roast:

- Last year's pig roast picnic was a success. Despite the, at times, pouring rain, everyone persevered and the rain stopped and everyone enjoyed themselves;

c) Culvert and Ravine:

- The culvert's condition is an ongoing debate. Chris stated that the culvert is unsightly but for now the plan is to keep an eye on it and not do anything proactively. When it must be dealt with it will be;

d) Retaining Walls:

- Construction of the retaining walls in front of a number of houses along the lake has been completed and the soil displacement has been addressed and the areas have been re-planted. Chris stated that the Association had no involvement with that construction project. He only brought the issue up because it was an activity that happened in the area. He stated that there were a few minor issues that arose during the construction phase but that they were successfully dealt with;

e) Beach Use:

- Cutting back of the weeds on the access steps on the west access stairs was done this year by Chris Johnson;

- The gap at the bottom of the access on the west access is no longer an issue as the beach is back close to its regular level and there is a concrete block underneath the steps that has a cable loop embedded in it and that poses as a tripping hazard that needs to be addressed;
- Chris reminded everyone that the beaches belong to property owners not the Rita Park Cottagers Association and that members' use of the beach is as guests of willing lake-front residents. As such, members should be courteous and mindful of respecting others' property and space.

f) Trees

- The tree behind Jean Karges' house was taken down by Chris Campbell and Rick McGraw. There is some finishing work to be done which will be done after the leaves fall;

g) Swings

- The toddler swings have been installed but the bars still need to be painted. Chris stated that the first children to use the swings were Rick and Jan McGraw's grandchildren. Doug Archibald stated that he would like to see a plaque put up to honour the Campbell and Mott families' donation of the swings.

New Business

New Residents and Old Residents

- ✓ Chris introduced and welcomed Bob and Marlene Hoover who are long time cottagers in Rita Park at Wilf and Ruth Hoover's family cottage beside the east end beach access. Many members had not met Bob and Marlene before.
- ✓ Chris introduced Carey Lee and Liz Richmond-Lee. (*the house adjacent to the park*) Carey and Liz are not new to the neighbourhood *this* year but they are new in the sense that they were married the week before. Chris congratulated them on their wedding. Liz took the opportunity to thank the area residents for their co-operation and accommodation to all of the vehicles and people who attended their wedding. She then thanked Doug Archibald for his help being a parking attendant and Chris Campbell for the clean up afterwards and, generally, all those who allowed their driveways to be used by their guests;
- ✓ The Simmons cottage (*the cottage located between the Schaeffer and the Doyle cottages on Kiwanis*) has a new owner: Odile Picquet. Odile had planned to attend the annual general meeting and the picnic but was delayed;

- ✓ The Lindsey house (*the house on Radical Road, at the south-west corner of Elm and Radical Road*) has a new owner: Monica (last name to follow) She too was planning to attend but found that she had to work that day;
- ✓ On a sad note there have been two recent deaths to report: Larry Doyle, this month, and Philip Goldsmith, last month; Larry and Philip were each avid gardeners—Larry with his colourful English garden and Philip with his quaint cottage style rockery and vines. We will miss their presence on the street.

Tree Removal:

- ✓ There are some aging trees in the park, namely a Black Cherry. Chris suggested that we might need a “tree committee” to keep on top of the status of the various trees. Rick McGraw said that he would keep an eye on the condition of the Black Cherry tree;
- ✓ There is a tree in front of the Devlin house (*on Maple Boulevard between the Archibald and Hoover houses*) that needs attention. It is marked by a red tag. Chris wants to find out if the tag means that the County is taking responsibility.

East End Access:

- ✓ Chris thanked the Hoovers for continually keeping the grass cut on the east-end access pathway. He said that he didn’t know how they accomplished it, but he is thankful that they do it;

As there were no further items on the agenda the meeting was adjourned:

MOTION, by Kevin Holly that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Doug Archibald.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.