

Bruce Beach Cottagers' Association

Minutes for the Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday August 1, 2009

Location: Bruce Beach Club House

1.0 Welcome and Introduction of Guests:

- 1.1 Keith MacDonald, President of the BBCA welcomed all members in attendance and introduced the Guest Speakers and the Board of Directors

2.0 In Memoriam (Don Cass)

3.0 Presentation by Guests

- 3.1 Mitch Twolan, Mayor of Huron Kinloss Township, gave an update on the current projects where the township is funding 1/3, 1/3 by the provincial government and 1/3 by the federal government. These funds are directed to the Lucknow Fire Department and the Lucknow Community Centre, significant funds for improving the storm management system, and to re-pave the Lake Range road from Hwy 86 to the 4th Concession. A trail development study is expected to be completed soon with the intention of improving and expanding the walking trails throughout Huron Kinloss. The Mayor has joined the Great Lakes Association with Mayors from all cities and townships located on the Great Lakes. This group is addressing common concerns about the condition of the Great Lakes and beaches and have passed 19 resolutions to support the improvement of Lake conditions. Mayor Twolan introduced Mike Fair, Director of Facilities and Recreation, responsible for the beach from Point Clarke to Bruce Beach.

Brian MacEachern presented the results of 5 water tests completed this week by a testing company in Stratford. The results, depending on the source of the sample, indicated the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen in the water. In some areas the phosphorus was 3 times the safe level and the nitrogen exceeded appropriate standards. Brian asked Mayor Twolan to support the removal of the invasive weeds, including australis phragmites and other non native growth and to control the farm runoff that is causing the high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen that supports the growth on the beach. Discussion continued with other cottagers expressing their concern with the condition of the beach requesting clarification on the amount of vegetation that can be removed and the distance from the water to be cleared. Many

requested that the township remove 20-30 feet of weeds and grass from the water edge (with average wave action) to allow people to walk the beach as in the past. Several cottagers expressed the view this was the natural ebb and flow of the beach and eventually nature would resolve the invasive weed issue.

Mayor Towlan indicated that the farm runoff issue is not regulated by the township but is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture where farmers register their drainage plans as required under the drainage act. The township was required to include a Dynamic Beach Agreement by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of the Environment in their mandate and governance when they became responsible for the beach. This required the township to protect the beach dunes. Thus policies were developed requiring heavy machinery to have permission to work on the beach and the restriction on removal of vegetation from the beach. Several cottagers inquired about the enforcement of the removal of invasive weeds and grass. The township received permission from the Ministry of the Environment to levy fines to cottagers. They request this to cease.

A cottager requested weekly recycling. Mayor Towlan agreed to take our concerns to the next Council Meeting this Wednesday and discuss solutions to these issues and attempt to have a balanced approach.

- 3.2 Jack Nancekivell from the Kincardine Hospital Foundation thanked everyone for the monetary and verbal support of the foundation. The monies collected are used to purchase special diagnostic equipment not currently available in the hospital. Each October, CKNX sponsors a fund raising event that is expected to raise one million dollars. This year the fund raiser is on the 17th. Pledge forms are available at the Club House.
- 3.3 Don Cass, from the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN) updated the meeting on their activities. The PRWIN is working to improve the inland water quality by planting trees along the Pine River waterway. This helps to filter the nutrients from the farm runoff before entering the water system. This year, they have planted 68,000 trees funded by an \$80,000 grant from the Federal Government. Don has planted 3,000 trees on his 3 acres of vacant property near his home. The planting is done by volunteers and machine where possible. The organization has commenced the process of incorporation necessary to qualify for Provincial Government Grants. All donors will now receive a tax receipt for their donations.

- 3.4 Hooks Johnston distributed an outline of the planned Bruce Beach Clubhouse and Golf Course Restoration Plan, (see attached). The fundraising to date has been excellent with \$71,000 raised. The project has a committee in place for oversight and has identified three categories for the project. Essential, Necessary and Desirable. Initially it was anticipated this could take several years to complete but with the success of raising funds, it should be finished earlier. Renovations are expected to start this fall with completion for next summer.
- 3.5 David Gregoris, President of the Golf Club, discussed the study completed by a professional Golf Course Designer. They recommended changes costing between \$15,000 - \$30,000 to the greens and tees. (see attached), also, to improve the stairs between the 2nd and 3rd tees and the 8th tee. The Golf Club had record revenues due to contributions in memory of Gordon Corneil but expenses were higher last year due to the excessive rain. A new form is required to be completed for use of the Club House and a nominal rental fee is charged. If alcohol is sold, an Event Insurance Policy is required to ensure liability coverage is in place. The Billy Open has raised funds to restore the gazebo and contribute to the Club House Restoration. David asked everyone to please pay for a family membership. The Junior Golf day was a great success, David invited others to volunteer to run the day next year.

4.0 Approval of the 2008 Annual General Meeting Minutes – Business arising from the Minutes – (Susan Davidson)

- 4.1 Motion to approve the minutes from the 2008 Annual General Meeting 01-01-08-09 moved by Brent Stief and seconded by Jean Auchterlonie **Carried**
- 4.2 Business arising from the minutes, no issues

5.0 Reports

- 5.1 **Presidents Report – (Keith MacDonald)** Keith reported on the following issues:
- Bruce Beach Patrol, at the last executive meeting, it was recommended the elimination of the patrol as some cottagers are here year round and have responsibility of their cottage security. Motion 02-01-08-09 that the patrol was eliminated was moved by George Auchterlonie and seconded by Nan Grant **Carried**
 - Keith presented a motion as follows to be sent to all levels of government with an accompanying letter: Given that the water and beaches of Lake Huron, especially in Huron Kinloss Township, were once a valuable asset and an attractive tourism

destination, and that the quality of the beach has deteriorated significantly in recent years; local, provincial, and federal governments should work co-operatively, including providing all necessary funding: to eliminate the flow of nutrients into the streams, storm drains, and creeks that enter the lake; to work with land owners to eliminate all invasive weeds (not just *Australis Phragmites*) that have overgrown the once pristine sandy beach and to protect the Native American Grass and the Wheat Grass which are useful for dune stability. This motion 03-01-08-09 was moved by Ross Klopp and seconded by Brian MacEachern **Carried**

- Keith will be meeting with the Point Clarke Association and the Lurgan Beach Association Presidents and the MPP Carol Mitchell to discuss the invasive vegetation and tree growth on the beach. They will walk the beach to ensure a firsthand view of the issue. This meeting is expected in the next few weeks.

5.2 Vice Presidents Report – (David Tiernan) David reported on this year's BBQ, 340 tickets sold with a capacity of 400. The attendance is down from last year. The rules have changes for use of the Club House requiring the purchase of a 2 Million dollar liability insurance policy when alcohol is sold. Also, a licence is required from the LCBO to sell alcohol and a number of procedures must be followed, children under age 19 will not be served alcohol, the area must be fenced in and security must be at the entrance and participants cannot bring in alcohol. David asked everyone to respect these rules. From last year's proceeds, \$1,500 has been donated to the Club House Restoration.

5.3 Treasurers Report – (Janice Gibson) Janice reported no changes to the budget except the elimination of the security patrol cost of \$750 for this year and \$1,500 for next year. Twenty percent of cottagers have not paid the annual due.

- Motion 04-01-08-09 to accept the budget as presented, moved by Janice Gibson and seconded Mary Wilkinson. **Carried**
- Motion 05-01-08-09 to donate \$500.00 to the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network, moved by Janice Gibson and seconded by Brent Stief
- Motion 06-01-08-09 to amend the amount donated to the Pine River Watershed Initiative from \$500 to \$1,000 moved by Francis Stewart, seconded by Joan McLaughlin **Carried**
- Motion 07-01-08-09 to donate \$1,000 to the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network moved by Janice Gibson and seconded by Brent Stief **Carried**
- Motion 08-01-08-09 to donate \$5,000 this year and \$5,000 next year to the Club House Restoration Fund moved by Janice Gibson and seconded by George Auchterloine **Carried**

5.4 Year Book Coordinator – (Peter Newson) Peter thanked all the people who contributed information and articles to the year book and a special thank you to Doug Dunlop for the development and maintenance of the new Bruce Beach website www.brucebeach.ca . Peter encouraged everyone to view the site especially to be up to date on the information communicated by Ross Klopp's e-mail.

5.5 Communication Coordinator – (Ross Klopp) Ross thanked everyone for keeping their e-mail address up to date; he has very few return e-mails. In total, he has 328 e-mail addresses covering 219 of the 261 cottages on Bruce Beach.

5.6 BBQ Committee – (David Tiernan) Update under Vice Presidents Report.

5.7 Church Committee - (Barbara Strain) Barb reported on the church activities, she welcomed everyone to attend the service in Touts Grove every Sunday at 4:00 pm rain or shine. Donations from the service have been given to PRWIN \$300.00, the Bruce County Women's Centre \$300.00 and to Knox College, \$150.00

5.8 Golf Club – (David Gregoris) Update under Golf Club Restoration

5.9 Junior Golf – (David Gregoris) Update under Golf Club Restoration

5.10 Games Day (Keith MacDonald) This is scheduled for next weekend in the Church yard for children 6-12. Location in the Touts Grove Church yard, all are welcome

5.11 Sports Day –(Laurie Hughes) Laurie announced that it was a great success this year with 52 participants.

5.12 Ski Day – (Ross Klopp) Ross will again host the ski day on the last Friday of January at Osler Bluffs Ski Resort.

6.0 Announcements - (Keith MacDonald) The Billy Open will start at 1:30 this Sunday and The North/South Baseball Challenge is also this Sunday with a fun game at 9:00 am and the main event starting at 10:00.

7.0 New Business – (Keith MacDonald) Motion 09-01-08-09 Brian MacEachern moved for the BBCCA to investigate with the Point Clark and Lurgan Beach Association interest of the three parties to separate from the Huron Kinloss Township and form a new Township, seconded by Jim Scorgie **Not Carried**

8.0 Meeting Adjourned