

# **Bruce Beach Cottagers' Association**

## **Minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Sunday January 31, 2010

**Location:** Creemore Spring Brewery

**Present:** Keith MacDonald, Janice Gibson, David Tiernan, Ross Klopp,  
Susan Davidson

**Regrets:** Barry McPherson, Peter Newson

### **1. Welcome and update to Agenda - (Keith MacDonald)**

### **2. Review August 1, 2009 Minutes of the Bruce Beach Cottagers' Association Annual Meeting – (Susan Davidson)**

Minutes reviewed by the Executive Committee with a change to item 3.2 Jack Nancekivell from the Kincardine Hospital Foundation. (See attached) Minutes will be approved at the 2010 Annual Meeting

### **3. Business arising from the Minutes**

Keith MacDonald contacted Susan Johnston for an update on the Clubhouse renovation. She is unaware of the status of the project. Dave Wilson is Chair of the project but Susan is unaware of his involvement to date. Keith will contact Susan for further clarification.

### **4. President's Report – (Keith MacDonald)**

Keith MacDonald has been actively working with several other members of the BBCA to address the invasive weed and non native growth on the beach. At the September 2009 Huron Kinloss Township Council meeting, discussions occurred relating to the BBCA Executives recommendation to remove twenty feet of the invasive weeds and non native growth from the waters edge.

A participant at the meeting disagreed with this recommendation expressing himself as the silent majority of the BBCA. After the meeting, Keith Macdonald, by e-mail through Ross Klopp, sent a survey to the members of the BBCA. 70% responded and of those, 90% of respondents agreed with the position of the Executive.

In the fall, a letter was sent from Mark Shoreman of the Ministry of Natural Resources to the Huron Kinloss Township denying the BBCA request to remove twenty feet from the waters edge of invasive weed and non native growth. This letter was sent after he discussed these options with Geoff Peach (Founder and President of

the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation) but without meeting with all key stakeholders involved in the issue.

Bruce McKelvey and Bruce Corniel arranged a conference call with Mark Shoreman to discuss this decision and Shoreman indicated his intention to engage other stakeholders in the final decision, however, Geoff Peach is critical of the BBCA recommendation.

Bruce Corneil and Keith MacDonald organized a meeting with Geoff Peach in late fall 2009. They met at cottage 21 and walked south to 7A showing Mr. Peach the various invasive plants, non native growth including willow trees, poplar trees and different shrubs growing on the beach all intermingled with the dune grass. Peach suggested a botanist would be needed to identify and make recommendations on methods to remove all of the invasive species found on the beach. He indicated that he would be willing to meet with the Township and the beach presidents to facilitate the above and an agenda was drawn up which he has approved.

Since this meeting, Keith has sent Mary Rose Walden and Mitch Twolan at the Huron Kinloss Township three letters requesting a meeting to be organized on the beach issue. To date, he has not had a response to his requests.

The Executive Committee fully supported Keith MacDonald's efforts to move forward on this issue and supports his investigation into the cost of hiring an independent botanist (potentially from Hanover) to give the Executive Committee advice and support on the type of species that should be removed from the beach.

Bob Beaman, from the Walker House executive in Kincardine, contacted Keith to see if the BBCA would like to be involved in a multi media display this summer outlining the history of Bruce Beach and its association with Kincardine. He contacted Francis Stewart who was very excited to support this initiative and agreed to head up a committee to make this happen. Keith sent a letter to them outlining our endorsement of this project

There have been several inquiries from BBCA members on the status of the installation of windmills that produce electricity proposed along the Lake Range Road. Keith MacDonald contacted Mary Rose Walden who indicated the township does not have the official decision power on this issue. She expects the government will hold public meetings in the near future. The Green Energy Act places decisions on the installation of windmills with the provincial government, however, this Act stipulates consumer rights related to the location and installation of the windmills. David Tiernan will send the Executive Committee a magazine article discussing this issue and Susan Davidson will send the Executive Committee a copy of the Green Energy Act.

## **5. Vice President's Report - (David Tiernan)**

David Tiernan presented a report on the status of the barbeque. Last year attendance again declined from the previous year by about 65 people. This decline has continued over the past 3-4 years. As a result, a survey was sent to BBCA members for input on the how to improve the event with the following feedback:

- Change the alcohol to include alternate selection or have a BYOB event
- Newcomers to the beach feel uncomfortable initially coming to the event
- Consider changing the food to hamburgers and hot dogs
- Theme for event not necessary
- The event was seen as too complicated with the alcohol rules and full dinner
- Separate survey of the 25-35 age group to get input was suggested
- Should the event continue to be on Saturday night of the long weekend with several other activities on that evening
- More volunteers need to be engaged in the event from different areas of the beach

The decision was taken to continue with the Barbeque considering the above feedback and modify the event accordingly. The Executive Committee will organize in July at the Club House a wine and cheese welcome event for new Bruce Beachers.

#### **6. Communications Director's Report – (Ross Klopp)**

The Bruce Beach ski day at Olsler Bluffs has been the last Friday of January since its inception. Over the past 2 years, snow storms have prevented a number of participants from attending. Ross recommends the date be moved to later in February and this meeting changed to the Sunday following the ski day. Everyone was in agreement.

#### **7. New Business - Treasurer's Report – (Janice Gibson)**

Janice distributed the financial report for 2009 actual and the 2010 budget (see attached). This was reviewed by the Executive Committee and it was noted 36 cottages have not paid their 2009 fees (some owe prior years). Items noted; 2009 was a loss of \$904.52 due to the \$5000.00 donation to the Bruce Beach Golf Club 'Capital Fund' not budgeted and the donation to the Pine River Watershed Improvement was \$500.00 over budget approved at the 2009 annual meeting. This was off set by the lower cost for the Bruce Beach Patrol of \$750.00. This service was discontinued, approved at the 2009 annual meeting.

Janice will prepare a letter to all delinquent cottagers indicating their fees are overdue and if not paid immediately, they will have the right to vote at the next annual meeting removed and they will not receive the 2010 Bruce Beach Yearbook.

## **8. New Business – Revised Bylaws – (Barry McPherson)**

At Keith MacDonald's request, Barry McPherson reviewed and recommended changes to the current Bruce Beach Cottage Association Bylaws and included changes recommendations by legal council. The initial Bylaws 1 and 2 were approved in 1978 with the last changes to Bylaws 6 and 7 in 1989. The model for these revisions was the South Bruce Beach Bylaw, the most recent group to incorporate. Attached is a draft of the changes. The Executive Committee reviewed the recommendations and approved the draft with minor changes. These changes were recorded by Keith MacDonald to be sent to Barry McPherson to be included in the final document.

It was agreed to send a letter to all BBKA members with the 2010 Yearbook announcing these changes, indicating the revised Bylaws would be posted on the BBKA web site and copies would be available upon request.

Our thanks to Barry from the Executive Committee, for his time and effort in reviewing and recommending the changes to the Bylaws. A tremendous accomplishment

## **9. Content of Year Book – (Peter Newson) (unable to attend meeting)**

Ross Klopp recommended a change to the Councilor areas from numbers to the name of the associations they represent i.e. Area 2 would change to McCosh Grove. This will be discussed at the next Councilor's meeting in July. A letter to the BBKA members will be included in this year's package announcing changes to the Bruce Beach Cottage Association Bylaws. This letter will be drafted by Susan Davidson and send to Keith MacDonald for final editing.