



Upper Rideau Lake Association

MINUTES 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY

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Saturday, July 10, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Guest Speakers

11:00 a.m. to Noon – Business Meeting

ATTENDANCE - There were 68 participants, including 33 Association members, the Board of Directors and four invited speakers.

OPENING REMARKS. John McDowell welcomed members and guests to the 32nd Annual General Meeting. He thanked URLA volunteers and those who gave their time and effort in support of the lake. He underscored that URLA is entirely volunteer-based and encouraged guests to renew their URLA memberships. He welcomed the guest speakers, Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager / Secretary Treasurer, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), and Tracy Zander, Registered Professional Land Use Planner, ZanderPlan, and noted that they will provide updates regarding local development. He welcomed the Mayor of the Township of Rideau Lakes, Arie Hoogenboom, and Mayor of the Village of Westport, Robin Jones, and noted that they will provide their perspectives on current issues.

GUEST SPEAKERS

i) **Ms. Sommer Casgrain-Robertson** – General Manager / Secretary Treasurer, RVCA. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson outlined the growth of conservation authorities in response to concerns about the impact of uncontrolled development on the environment. She discussed the RVCA's work regarding the Upper Rideau Lake, including shoreline buffers, lakefront development and risks such as algae blooms. She noted the RVCA's work with local residents to improve shorelines and with municipalities regarding official plans. Looking ahead, she said the RVCA wants to improve stormwater run-off and continues to review its policies to protect the environment.

ii) **Tracy Zander - Registered Professional Land Use Planner, ZanderPlan.** Ms. Zander outlined her company's role as planning consultants for property developers and landowners in Eastern Ontario. She discussed ways in which land owners and visitors can help protect the environment, highlighting the increased pressure to develop lakefront property.

(iii) **Arie Hoogenboom, Mayor, Township of Rideau Lakes.** Mayor Hoogenboom outlined the township's work regarding site plan visits and its work in strengthening the official plan to protect the lakefront. He noted that campground expansion is a significant issue and discussed council's consideration of an interim bylaw to freeze development so the matter can be further explored. He discussed local infrastructure progress, including a traffic light at the Crosby intersection.

iv) **Robin Jones, Mayor of the Village of Westport.** Mayor Jones discussed the Watercolour Westport housing development, noting that the plan for 25 units is not a problem for the village. She outlined the village's process for protecting the environment in light of this new development.

John thanked the mayors and panelists for their participation. The invited guest speakers left the meeting at 11:07 AM.

BUSINESS MEETING 11:00 a.m. to NOON

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MOTION: That the agenda for the 2021 Annual General Meeting be approved. Moved by John McDowell. Seconded by Steve Moretti. Carried.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the July 10, 2020 Annual General Meeting be approved. Moved by John McDowell. Seconded by Steve Moretti. Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – John McDowell

John noted limited Progress with Parks Canada regarding its support for protecting lake quality. He discussed URLA initiatives such as private septic inspections in the Village of Westport, and the results of sediment sampling during the 2020 season. He thanked Board members for their work, including: Tom Donnelly, Director - Shoreline, for his leadership with the URLA tree program; Karyn Standen, Secretary, for her work in guiding the Board's strategic planning; Peggy Thompson, Director - Membership, and Trudy Counter, Director at large, for their work with the Road Rangers; Dave Counter, Director - Water Quality, for the work he and his volunteers do in installing and removing buoys each year; and Steve Moretti, Director - Communication, for his work with the website, newsletter and new road signs. John thanked former Treasurer Michael Hogan for his dedication and skill, and welcomed new Treasurer Barbara Cook. John concluded his remarks by highlighting URLA's priorities in the coming year: shoreline buffers and species at risk initiatives.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Barbara Cook, Treasurer

Members were advised to take note of the "Notice to Readers" and reminded that the statements presented are unaudited.

The first statement shows current assets, as of financial year-end we had \$6,713 in cash and \$6,010 in a GIC, for a total of \$12,723, an increase of \$2,456 from the previous year.

The second statement shows the change in assets of the \$2,456 mentioned earlier, versus an increase of \$2,009 in the previous year.

The third statement is a summary of our revenue and operating expenses. Even though our activities were restricted due to Covid protocols, we were able to achieve some significant activities in monitoring

water quality and safety. Please note the following changes from the previous year results including the following:

- Membership revenue increased by \$1,244 and was primarily the result of early renewals of memberships for the calendar year of 2021.
- Grant revenue represents; The Rideau Lakes Township grant of \$2,306, up slightly from the previous years, this grant is important to the organization and is very much appreciated as it helps to fund our programs including water testing and studies, and our buoy maintenance program. The other grant is from the Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation of \$2,991 and greatly assisted in being able to offer our Tree and Shrub program once again.
- Under the expense section, under programs, the largest expense was \$3,710 for the purchase of trees for the tree and shrub program from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. An additional \$1,230 was spent on buoy maintenance and \$674 on water studies and testing.

In summary, revenue over expenses resulted in a positive gain of \$2,456.

The final and fourth statement is a summary of our cash position, at the end of the fiscal year we had \$6,713 in our account, an increase of \$2,413 from the previous year.

MOTION: That the unaudited financial documents for the year ended April 30, 2021 be adopted. Moved by Barbara Cook. Seconded by Karyn Standen. Carried.

MOTION: That the firm Nephin, Winter, Bingley Chartered Professional Accountants be appointed as accountants to prepare the financial statements. Moved by Barbara Cook. Seconded by Karyn Standen. Carried.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

The reports were posted to the URLA website for review in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

REPORT ON THE RIDEAU LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION - Don Rasmussen

The Rideau Lakes Environmental Foundation (RLEF) is a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency and was created by the Big Rideau Lakes Association; the URLA subsequently joined. Don discussed the Foundation's vital work in protecting the local environment, including engaging experts to lead initiatives in a range of areas. He encouraged donations to RLEF through [CanadaHelps](#) or via cheques to [RLEF](#).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jayne MacDonald, Past President, presented the following proposed Slate of Officers/Directors for the year 2021-2022 as follows:

Executive

President - John McDowell
Vice President - Vacant
Treasurer - Barbara Cook
Secretary - Karyn Standen

Members

Director, Water Quality - Dave Counter
Director, Shoreline - Tom Donnelly
Director, Communications - Steve Moretti
Director, Membership - Peggy Thompson

Director at large - Trudy Counter
Director at large - Gaynor Stachel

Jayne called for nominations for the floor. There were no nominations.

MOTION: That the proposed slate of officers for the Board of Directors for the year 2021-2022 be accepted as presented: Moved by Jayne MacDonald. Seconded by Don Rasmussen. Carried.

Jayne remembered the late Colleen Holmes, a long-time URLA volunteer and former Secretary.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

The floor was opened to a question and answer period. John then provided closing remarks and moved a motion to adjourn the Annual General Meeting. The motion was seconded by Jayne MacDonald. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

President: John McDowell

Secretary: Karyn Standen