



Bayfield Ratepayers Association

Spring General Membership Meeting
Saturday May 17th, 2014
10 am Lions Building beside Fire Station
Draft Minutes - prepared by Ainslie Willock on June 2nd, 2014

Annual General Meeting: Saturday, August 3rd, 2014, at 10 am at Lions Building.
Confirmed meeting dates and locations: www.bayfieldratepayers.ca (right side of home page)

NOTE: If you're interested in becoming a director or forming a new Board for 2014-2015, please let us know at: bayfieldratepayers@gmail.com

Directors: Ainslie Willock & Carol Thornley-Hall

Past Director and Active Member: Paul Hill

Community Safety Zone Lead: Sondra Buchner, BRA Member and Past Director

Guests: Members and Councillor Geordie Palmer

Opening:

1) Everyone was welcomed and thanked for coming to the meeting.

Housekeeping:

2) Bank of Montreal has notified us of new monthly service charges on our 3 Community Accounts and no interest to be paid - so we combined all balances into our checking account and closed the Saving & the Defense Fund Accounts to save on fees. We've recorded the total amounts that were in each account that day, at the bottom of our monthly summary for May (we'll continue to carry those totals at the bottom of our monthly summaries so we'll have a record).

Outstanding Bills: Feb.'s \$60 biannual web server & maintenance fee (waiting for web manual to be submitted) and Lions Room Rental Fees for Feb., May & Aug. 2014 meetings - amount to be confirmed.

3) AGM will be Sat. Aug. 3 at 10 am here in the Lions Building

4) My 2 , 2 year terms are up in August. No-one has told me they'll make up a new board but I'm sure some one will want to form a new Board. Please speak to Paul, Carol or myself if you're interested.

Notices:

1) Large Household pick-up is on Wed. June 4th. Please put items out beforehand so others have an option to reuse them. See Bluewater's web site for what can and can't be picked-up. Leaf pick-up is in the fall not spring (fall came early... no \$ in budget for spring leaf pick-up)

2) Clan Gregor Square now has a Farmers Market every Friday between 3-7pm - Check it out and the first Friday of June - Oct. will be ArtWalk from 5-7 pm - wander Main Street and meet artists.

4) The Dutch Windmill is now known as Windmill Lake Wake & Eco Park, Opened on May 24th. They have a web page www.windmill-lake.ca

5) Public meeting on new Bluewater Zoning By-laws. May 24th from 10 am - 1 pm at the Varna Complex - there used to be by-laws for each community including Bayfield - they've been amalgamated. You can access the new ones at Bluewater's Zurich Office or their web page [Report and Draft Zoning By-law](#) Comments here: zoningcomment@town.bluewater.on.ca

6) There will be no wind turbines directly north of us as landowners didn't sign the leases. Watch the turbines being built on the Bronson & Goshen Lines all the way south and east of us.

Policy Priorities Update & Issues of Note:

1. **Community Safety Zone Update** (signs posted notifying that speeding fines double along highway through Village) - Sondra Buchner is our point person. Read our submission Community Safety Zone Application, May 2014 [here](#). It was emailed on May 5th. The Minister of Community Safety has not responded. We've received an acknowledgement from MPP Lisa Thompson. We have now carefully documented the extent of the problem. It was suggested that we set up a police car at each end of town as no one is willing/able to help us. It was pointed out the best way to slow down traffic is to narrow the road and have parking on either side... so people have to drive slowly.

2. **Revitalization & Greening of Main Street Update.** All the studies have now been done but there is no money to implement a drainage plan or streetscape. This has been a priority for the Village for a very long time now. Maybe with the provincial election imminent - grants will become available. Millions of dollars are needed.

3. **Water Quality & Blue Flag Update** - BRA & Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) & the Huron County Health Unit (HCHU) held a well attended meeting in February at the Lions Building to review all the water quality reports for the watershed and beaches to understand where we're at right now. Interested parties across Huron County came and the group determined that we set a goal of having all Huron County beaches meet the provincial/Blue Flag recreation water swim standard. I'll be posting

the Minutes from that meeting on our web site ASAP. BRA's grant request for \$7,500 to have ABCA test the River water quality was once again approved by Bluewater Council. A big thank you was delivered to all Councillors.

Blue Flag and Beach Water Quality links: Blue Flag: http://environmentaldefence.ca/bf_historical/1317; Recent Conditions: <https://twitter.com/huronbeachinfo>; How to decide if you should swim today: <http://www.huronhealthunit.com/beach-home> Note: Council recently passed a motion to hold consultations on future uses for Main Beach.

4. **Bayfield Tree Project Update** - tree planting has now occurred. Read about it here: <http://cc.villageofbayfield.com/Members/Committees/BayfieldBreeze/Week22Issue256/tabid/670/Default.aspx>

- if you'd like a tree please contact Sondra - contact info at end of Bayfield Breeze article. This is the fourth spring that plantings have occurred. Trees will be planted on the north side of the River this fall.

5. **Friends of the Bayfield Library and the Bayfield Historical Society** will be creating the Library Garden soon.

6. Foodland opened on May 30th. LCBO expected to open on June 28th.

New Business:

1. BRA's Succession Plan - Ainslie & Carol step down from the Board at August AGM - we look forward to individuals coming forward to make up a new board. Please contact me ainsliewillock@hotmail.com to pursue.
2. June's Provincial Election - Ainslie has emailed everyone where the provincial candidates meetings are taking place (Geordie let us know of two). Paul is looking at a possible BRA position on hydro rates.
3. The new Board, in August, will initiate October's Municipal Election Plans.
4. Arena Update - Paul Hill gave us an update on the ups and downs of the future plans for the ice in the Arena. The issue is again at Council on the night of June 2nd.
5. The Bayfield River Valley Trail Association has taken on the issue of Unopened Municipal Right of Ways (MRWs) and walking trails to Council - Council agreed to provide a map of all unopened MRWs for Bayfield - no date set to receive map. BRA gave a letter of support to Councillors as we already walk a number of MRWs.
6. Beach Access south of Cameron St. - The original owner, Tom Bailey, has a step-daughter, her inheritors (neighbours who took care of her) have been found and have visited the property - still unclear what the status of the property is. Note: Arlene Parker from Bluewater Planning let me know that their policy is to keep public beach access a priority on municipal land.
7. Thank you to Michael Gubesch and Paul Hill for representing us at Soup's On - we won an award.
8. Thank you to Janet Snider and Scott Bradford for all their help on past BRA Boards and our new web page. They are moving to Woodstock where there is public transportation.

Motion to End the Meeting: 1st Dave MacLaren 2nd Geordie Palmer

Discussion: None **Vote:** Carried **Time Adjourned:** 11:15 am