

Bayfield Ratepayers Association
MEMBERS SPRING GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 10 a.m. Lions Building

Minutes by Ainslie Willock

NOTE: Members are welcome at our monthly open meetings held at the Lion's Building, at 9 am on the first Sat. of the month.

EXCEPTIONS: No January or June meetings.

Annual General Meeting: Saturday, August 4, 2012, at 10 am in the Community Building.

Directors Present:

Ainslie Willock, President; Paul Hill, Vice President; Sondra Buchner, Treasurer & Co-Director Membership; Co-Director Membership; Alan Vihant, Planning; Carol Thornley-Hall

Absent: Michael Gubesch, Co-Director Membership

Regrets: 0 Total # Directors: 6 Quorum: 4 Quorum: Yes

Volunteer Membership Member: Donna Cartwright - yes

Audience Members: Robert, Justine, Bill Webb...

- 1) Everyone welcomed.
- 2) Carol welcomed to the Board! Carol announced that she could be reached after the meeting to buy tickets to next week's BHS Play "Aunt Maud" at the Town Hall.
- 3) Board Members introduced themselves
- 4) Listed Agenda Items - Member raised Main Street revitalization as key issue
- 5) Minutes: February, March, April and May Minutes - Voted to Accept all four Draft Minutes: Motion by Paul seconded by AI - Vote was unanimous to accept**
- 6) Accept Treasurer's Report - Sondra Buchner - Motion by Paul seconded by Ainslie - Vote Unanimous to accept.**

Sondra spoke about our limited funds & the monthly software fee for web site and server - advise that we'll be seeking help to build a simple web site with no lease - due to expense and our lack of funds

- 7) Membership Renewal - Sondra and Ainslie - Announced that we're having a separate directors meeting soon to discuss contacting all members for membership renewals likely by a door to door blitz - Asked for help seeking new members in the Village. As half the membership has lifetime memberships - our bank account isn't renewing itself - we'll be contacting lifetime members and asking them for a donation - we continue to honour lifetime memberships.

Members wanted to increase the membership fees. At the same time a member said that other groups in the Village were finding resistant to asking for a \$20 a year membership fee as it was too expensive for some. Also felt that what amounts to \$5 a year membership - reflects a feeling that the BRA doesn't value the work they do. Directors will take this all into consideration as they plan an approach to replenish dwindling bank accounts.

Policy Priorities Update - In no particular order

a) New Library, Washrooms, Post Office and Archives - Ainslie - Post Office to be torn down any day now - thanked Mayor and Councillors for all their continued work on this important addition to Village life. Hard to believe that we're actually going to have Public Washrooms on Main Street by the beginning of 2013!!!!

Bayfield Historical Society's proposal for expanding Archives into old Library when vacated (BRA has written their support) - has support of Bluewater Heritage Committee as well - looks promising [Note: I think we skipped actually saying this but it is known in the community]

b) Village Main Street Renewal - **Paul Hill** - Storm Water Study hasn't been done yet but it will be and the funds are there now for the study but not implementing it. No money yet for any improvements on Main Street - BRA (Paul & Ainslie) sit on Bayfield Revitalization Committee to plan for Main Street - likely no improvements to Main Street for a number of years due to a lack of funds; everyone sitting on that Committee wants to see improvements - no decision on the "look" for Main Street made yet by Committee. Bayfield and Area Chamber of Commerce's Mayor's Breakfast yesterday, **Ainslie** invited to attend on behalf of BRA - good for making contacts, learning about the marketing of the area to increase tourism and to thank people who volunteer for community.

c) MTO - Pedestrian Crossing & Community Safety Zone (CSZ): **Sondra Buchner** MTO's work on Highway 21 from Grand Bend to Goderich slated to be finished in 2014. Updated members on the difficulties we've faced trying to get a pedestrian crossing near Foodland and the LCBO. We are now focusing on meeting the requirements of a CSZ (signage and doubles fines). Concern was expressed re a set of lights as it would back up traffic significantly in the summertime - somewhat as experienced in Grand Bend. Request for a sign that would say "Hidden Intersection" at the bottom of Short Hill Rd. Suggestion that flower boxes be placed on our bridge to help slow down traffic and that the flowers could be the colours put forward by Communities in Bloom annually. Also, interest in having lines on the road & signs warning traffic - where pedestrians are encouraged to cross the highway. There was full support for a CSZ to help slow down traffic. Ainslie will take photos of the signs in Haysville for their CSZ. We will meet with Bluewater CAO/Clerk to get his advice before going to Council & MTO. It was brought up that signs in the Village along the Highway may be erected by Bluewater alone. And that politicians can overrule staff reports and advice. Noted that children, seniors and handicapped people cross the highway to get to the Variety Store, Grocery Store, Liquor Store, Restaurant and Fish House.

d) Village Tree Renewal Update - **Sondra Buchner** - Sondra updated us on streets that are now planted and asked for donations to continue tree planting. A big thank you to the Bayfield Tree Project, Veerbeeks, donors, corporate funders and volunteers.

Expect to have their own web site soon - hosted by TCC. Tax deductible receipts issued for all donations of \$20 plus and public recognition.

e) 75 Tuyl Street and Minor Variance - Update - BRA wrote a letter & presented at both recent CoA meetings (and OMB meeting in the past) - owner offered to take out all plumbing in the building down the lake bank - will now get building permits for a dwelling/residence for each lot - will seek to change the lot line to have building down the bank on one lot only - on north lot

NOTE: Council spoke of the possibility, now that we have sewers and water, of opening up the Master Plan to allow for buildings on smaller lots so they don't need to go to CoA each time they want to build - **Ainslie**

f) Integrating Bluewater Communities - **Sondra Buchner** Sondra sits on Bluewater's Communities in Bloom to help all the villagers and residents in Bluewater get to know one another and work together on shared interests.

g) Blue Flag Program & Marina & Pier: **Ainslie** Update - we've maintained our Blue Flag Status for Main Beach (south of Pier)(means it is swimmable 80% of the summer - if the water is cloudy - likely not a good time to swim) & Marina (swim-ability isn't part of a Blue Flag marina criteria) We're participating in ABCA's Bayfield River Landowners Water Quality Meetings - Federal Marina Gas Pumps have been fixed at base of South Pier - North Pier has not been fixed by Federal Government (need to write letter to Councillors to contact federal government) [we ran out of time to say this but it has been brought up at previous meetings]

h) Industrial Wind Turbine Update - Ainslie - Approximately 40 turbines to be up and running by the end of 2013 - if all provincial requirements are met by NextEra - Bluewater has next to no say on this project - nearest turbine will be on Bronson line - SE of Village - each the equivalent of about 50 storeys high - huge moving blades & flashing lights - **more further south of us**

Last NextEra Open House is June 14th - 4-7 pm at the Varna Complex. Comments can be made to Bluewater Council by the end of this month to be included in their report to MOE. Comments can be made to NextEra by June 18th to be included in their report to MOE. After those deadlines, comments should be made directly to MOE (Ministry of the Environment)

i) Announce Large Item pick-up for Bayfield - Wed. May 30th - see Bluewater Web Site - Thank Mayor and Councillors for insuring that we get this service. **Ainslie**

Issues of Note:

8) New Business: None

9) Set time with Directors for membership drive discussion & action - to happen within next 2-3 weeks

10) No Board meeting in June

11) Next meetings are the July 7th at 9am in the Lions Building (Sondra sends regrets) and the **Annual General Meeting: Saturday, August 4, 2012, at 10 am in the Community Building.**

12) Time of Adjournment: 11:10 am