



# Bayfield Ratepayers Association

## SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### Draft Minutes

**Saturday, May 18, 2013 - Lions Building, Room #2, 10 am**

**NOTE:** Visitors are welcome at our monthly meetings at 9 am on the first Sat. of the month. We do not officially meet in January or June.

**Annual General Meeting:** Saturday, August 3rd, 2013, at 10 am in the Community Building (Arena).

**Confirmed meeting dates and locations here:** [bra.camp8.org](http://bra.camp8.org)

**NOTE:** If you're interested in becoming a director, please let us know. Paul's 2nd term is up in Aug. but he'll continue helping Ainslie & Carol. Ainslie's 2 terms are up Aug. 2014 so we really need a succession plan ASAP. We're almost on empty re # of directors...

### **2013 LARGE HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE PICK-UP FOR BAYFIELD:**

Wed. May 29th - please put items out earlier for others to pick-up and re-use.

**BLUEWATER BUDGET UPDATE:** 2013's budget will be voted on at Council's Tues. May 21st meeting at 7 pm. Consequently, you can review budget information on their website in Council's Current Agenda online package.

### **Directors:**

Ainslie Willock, Paul Hill, Carol Thornley-Hall

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

**REGRETS:** Carol Thornley-Hall and Councillor Geordie Palmer

**Members Attending:** About 14, including Directors

### **Opening:**

- 1) Mayor Dowson addressed Members & Members asked the Mayor questions
- 2) Ainslie gave our condolences to the family and friends of Mary Lou Beechie, a great supporter of ours and the Pioneer Park Association who will be deeply missed.

### **Housekeeping:**

- 3) Note: Treasurer's (Robyn McClinchey) April Report was voted on earlier this month. A check has since been issued to McLaren to cover the monthly web software licensing fee he still personally receives.
- 4) Formally accept May 4th's Meeting Minutes: Moved: Paul, 2nd Ainslie Carried
- 5) New Web Site Update: Ainslie & Paul to meet with Scott Bradford (web designer) who has happily agreed to help us create a new web site with no monthly fees.
- 6) Membership Renewal & Donations: Ainslie encouraged members to renew and lifetime members to give a donation. A big thank you to all lifetime members who have stepped up to the plate and given us a donation.

### **Policy Priorities Update**

- 7) Work on Hwy #21 & Community Safety Zone (CSZ) (signs posted letting drivers know that speeding fines are increased): Construction Signs are now up for resurfacing the highway from Bayfield to Goderich. The OPP is busy ticketing speeders but we don't have a letter of support yet from them to implement a CSZ. We have letters of support from other officials. A big thank you to Sondra for all her work on this important issue to Villagers. Paul indicated interest in seeing final plans for the Jowett Grove intersection and the Ministry of Transportation ( MTO's ) closure of the North Jowett Grove exit to the highway and Central Huron. Ainslie indicated she'll see about another meeting with MTO about intersections, tree cutting and tree planting.
- 8) Revitalization & Greening of Main Street & Clan Gregor Square & Optimists' Splash Pad: Storm water plan for all of Bayfield expected soon. No funds to implement a storm water plan or implement a Main St. Plan. No final plan or funds to implement final "look". Due to Optimists fundraising and generous help of Baker Family Foundation (Virtual High School) the Splash Pad is to be up and running by July 1st.
- 9) Harbour Renewal - Water Levels - Blue Flag Update - ABCA Grants: Paul & Ainslie - Harbour Renewal (especially north pier) is best worked on by commercial fishers and the Chamber of Commerce with the support of the BRA as the piers are owned by the federal government - and managed by Fisheries and Oceans and thus pay some attention to commercial fishers. Lake water levels are below a 50 year low. Concerns about our loss of sail boats leaving for deep water ports like Goderich, Midland and Sarnia. Governments are starting to take this seriously. This is an economic "hit" to Bayfield. The Mayor advised that there will be an announcement soon re Blue Flag Program and the beach beside the south pier, that we'd like. Presently as we didn't meet their water quality criteria last year... so the blue flag isn't flying at the beach. Ainslie advised that she was pleased that Bluewater would be approving the River water testing grant but has concerns about the reduction of sampling location to save money. Ainslie to contact Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) for their advice. Bluewater did ask ABCA how to reduce water testing costs. We have partnered with ABCA for a provincial grant to plant trees and create wetlands along the River. No news yet if that grant has been approved.
- 10) a) 75 Tuyl St. & OMB Spring Ruling: Building down the bank will be used for the changing of clothes only as it is a "Private Beach House" with no plumbing, beds or dining room. We have a letter from the County Planner advising that this ruling only

applies to a couple of properties on the Lake in Bayfield. b) Public Beach Access on Tuyl St. S of Cameron St.: No one owns the property at this point and the Mayor agreed that the "Private" sign should therefore be taken down. Due to the number of existing Bluewater beach access stairs and potential stairs/accesses, Municipality is not interested in purchasing the property.

11) Update on Future of Archives Building/Old Library now secured; landscaping around Library & Village Tree Renewal: Mayor, Council and Bayfield Historical Society praised for working together to come up with a plan to lease the space for 10 years with an option to renew at the end of the 10 years. There are some funds to help volunteers "fix" the Old Library. Work is taking place now. Bayfield Volunteers' final plans to landscape the old and new library have not yet been finalized. A summary of the Bayfield Tree Project's 2013 tree planting is available in this week's Bayfield Breeze. A big thank you to all members and supporters of the Bayfield Tree Project for their outstanding contribution to the health and beauty of the Village. See story and photo here: <http://www.villageofbayfield.com/chamber/Members/Committees/BayfieldBreeze/Week22Issue203/tabid/614/Default.aspx>

12) Industrial Wind Turbines (IWTs): We're going to write a letter objecting to the installation of wind turbines in Bluewater bobolink habitat, a threatened bird species protected by Ontario's Species at Risk Act. Bluewater is being taken to court by NextEra over its Building Permit requirements. A recent court turned down farmers' opposition to distribution lines along their farm land abutting Centennial Road, east of London Rd. Bluewater has let the province know that it's an "unwilling" municipality as Premier Wynne has said that only "willing" municipalities will have IWT's.

#### **Issues of Note:**

##### **13) New Business:**

- a) Bayfield Highway Distance Signage: Paul to get advice from Sondra on how to approach the province to place a distance to Bayfield information sign up on the highway north of Grand Bend.
- b) New Bluewater Parking By-laws. For example, no parking 1 metre from edge of road from Nov. 15th to April 15th due to snow ploughing needs. New Bluewater Open Air Burning Laws. By-law links are on our web site linking to Bluewater's web site.

**Members' Questions:** A member asked if permits had been issued for the stone work on the beach south of Pioneer Park. This is an issue between a private land owner who has paid for the work and the provincial government. Lake water levels will determine if we'll be able to walk along the shore there, now it's a challenge even with hiking boots.

A big thank you to Mayor Dowson for addressing the meeting and sharing his time and expertise with us. And, thank you to the members and directors for taking time out of their busy long weekend to attend the Spring Membership Meeting.

14) **Time of Adjournment** . 11:15 am Moved: Paul - 2nd: Ainslie Carried.

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