



Bayfield Ratepayers Association

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, December 1st, 2012 at 9 am at the Lions Building

NOTE: Members are welcome at our monthly meetings held at the Lion's Building, at 9 am on the first Sat. of the month. We do not officially meet in January or June.

Spring General Meeting: Saturday May 18th, 2013, at 10 am in the Lion's Building

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

Meeting dates can be found on our web page: bra.camp8.org

Directors:

Ainslie Willock, Paul Hill, Carol Thornley-Hall - all present

REGRETS: 0 Total # Directors: 3 Quorum: 2 Quorum: Yes

Guests: Winnie Darnbrough and Geordie Palmer

Community Safety Zone Lead: Sondra Buchner, former director and member
Volunteer Membership Member: Donna Cartwright

- 1) Call to order & **Welcome everyone**
- 2) List Agenda Items; Request agenda items from members
- 3) **Treasure's December Report Vote to accept:** Moved Paul 2nd Ainslie Carried
- 4) **Vote to formally accept November's Meeting Minutes:** Moved Paul 2nd Ainslie Carried
- 5) **New web site discussion:** Paul let us know that Tuckersmith Communications have offered to host the web site and help with the domain name at no cost - we will recognize on the web site. A big thank you to TCC!! And, to Dave MacLaren for contacting them. Paul will come up with an implementation plan along with his web contact and see if we can see a proposal prior to agreeing to a cost & dates.
- 6) **Membership Renewal & Donations:** It was agreed that we start phoning members around the third week in January for renewals and donations. And, to have a work meeting in December to prepare for phoning. Our e-mail out to members resulted in a few membership renewals, new members and a few very high donations. This helps us as we make the transition to a licensing-free web site for members. A big thank you to everyone who renewed memberships/gave a donation.

- 7) **Community Safety Zone Update:** A big thank you to all of Council for supporting our request for a CSZ. Sondra now has the letter of support from Bluewater and local organizations. She will be consulting with Ainslie shortly on her/our application to the OPP to approve. Paul, Sondra, Truss, Ainslie and Michael Gubesch were all in the audience!! Very exciting that this is moving forward - there has been a very positive response from the community.
- 8) **Industrial Wind Turbine Update:** Ainslie congratulated Geordie Palmer and Council for the municipalities actions against placing industrial wind turbines in an agricultural area. Municipalities's only involvement is in issuing a building permit. Geordie gave us an update on the issue. It is expected that they will be up by the end of 2013.
- 9) a) **Loss of public access to the beach between 69 and 71 Tuyl Street:** The municipality thought that it owned "Lot 4" a sloped beach access between two lots south of Cameron St. and had been maintaining it as beach access. Then they found out that a person with a mailing address in London, ON had purchased it for \$1 as there was no name on the deed and "The Act" says that if a deed hasn't had a name on it for 40 years you can buy it for a dollar. Taxes have not been paid on the property and all mail from the Municipality has been returned - it is the responsibility of the property owner to pay taxes whether or not they receive a tax notice. **The BRA agreed to write a letter to Council asking that when an opportunity arises that they keep Lot 4 as public access to the beach with an adjustment at the bottom so that its not on #69's property at the bottom. Note: The BRA fully supports the retention of all public beach access locations presently in active use and those that have the potential to be used (stairs built).**
- 9 b) **Cedars planted on bank:** The new owner of #69 Tyull St. that abuts Lot 4 (referred to above) to the North, told Bluewater that the public access trail cut across his land on the SW corner and asked Bluewater to stop people coming on his land. His ownership was confirmed with a survey. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority advised on cedars and trees being planted on the toe of the bank on #69's land. This has been done and required the use of the Delevan St. access path/road for large vehicles to deliver the trees causing huge tire marks along the beach.
- 10) **75 Tuyl St. & OMB:** Meeting has been postponed until March 2013

Policy Priorities Update

- 11) **Taxes:** Paul let us know that he will be reviewing the taxes we pay and how Council is spending them with the goal of reporting the results to Council. Geordie advised that Treasurer, Ansberth Willert, would be very helpful to contact.
- 12) **Update on landscaping around the new Library Complex and Old Library:** Bill Rowat and Roma Harris are heading a group of gardeners that will propose a landscaping plan for the new library complex and the archives/old library in the new year. They will advise Council shortly that they will submit in the new year for their comments and support.
- 13) **Greening and Revitalization of Main Street:** It was agreed that Mark Cassidy the new economic development officer for Bluewater be invited to the next meeting and the suggestion was made that Ainslie ask Roger about holding a meeting the beginning of February.
- 14) **Harbour Renewal - Water Levels - Blue Flag Update:** The lake water is 2 inches above a 50 year low. Some of our beach water quality readings were above the 20% that the Blue Flag program allows so Bluewater will not be applying for the Blue Flag for 2013 - we will be listed as a "Candidate" and signs will remain but no flag with 2013 on it will fly. Bluewater will apply for the Blue Flag for the Marina as it doesn't involve water quality. Paul will still fill in the Blue Flag surveys for Environmental Defence (Bud Robinson did it previously). Ainslie has submitted the

grant proposal to Bluewater for ABCA's water testing along the river (she was a day late submitting). And, she'll advise on their 2012 Report as requested. And, she'll submit comments to the municipality on the Report once it's finalized. Carol let us know that she approves of the set of draft minutes on the Sunday Harbour Meeting & the BRA Brainstorming Meeting. Everyone that took part has now approved both sets of minutes. Paul and Ainslie went to the Community Watershed Meeting held at the Lions Building with the ABCA.

15) Village Tree Renewal - Total of 47 planted this fall - see BayfieldTreeProject.com web page for details.

Issues of Note: Ainslie is unable to go to Council on Mon. night - Paul offered to go for us.

16) New Business:

Merry Christmas in Advance - no BRA Board meeting in January but we'll keep in touch and have our working meetings in Dec. and Jan. dates to be determined by e-mail.

17) Time of Adjournment 10:20 am Moved by Paul Seconded by Carol Carried
