Please note previous minutes and pertinent information can be found on our website. <http://www.bellfraser.ca>

Note\*\* Action Items highlighted in yellow

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Hope MacLean  Ruth Salmon  Monique Larivière  Ron Hill  Dominic Hill-Larivière  Dawn Cooper  Tanya Hill-Larivière  David Frere  Cody Kupferschmidt  Kristina Kupferschmidt  Emily Duncan Nadeau  Justin Nadeau  Cider Nadeau  Sacha Nadeau  Fernando Villalobos | Laurence Thibault  Christian Rey-Coquais  Elliot Rey-Coquais  Eva O’Grady  Anne Winship  Lise Michaud  Claudine Simard  Kathryn Reynolds  Yvan Vallee  Louise de la Gorgendière  Lucy Cole  Garry Cole |

After Introductions

Meeting commenced at 1:16 p.m.

Anne graciously agreed to chair the meeting.

***Previous Minutes***

Laurence moved we accept the minutes of the last meeting. Kristina seconded, all were in favor.

***Treasurer’s Report***

$3790.00 in the bank! Report shared and expenses explained briefly. Thanks Tanya.

***Environmental update***

Anne suggested that as lake residents it’s important that we all act as citizen scientists, and if we see anything of concern we should contact Cody Kupferschmidt, our new environmental leader (who has a background specializing in lake environments), at [codykupf@gmail.com](mailto:codykupf@gmail.com). Residents are also encouraged to report suspicious septic systems / outhouses etc.

Anne also reviewed best practises for the new owners:

* Fire pits should be well away from the lake;
* Phosphate-free dish soap and cleaning products should be used;
* No fertilizers near the lake (within 15 metres), vegetation should be left as is at the shoreline;
* 5-metre strip of naturalized shoreline is required by law (15 metres is preferable where possible);
* More shrubs should be planted, indigenous if possible;
* All septic systems must be compliant;
* Fireworks are also not advised near the lake.

The municipality committed to inspecting all septic systems and have 100% of homes in septic compliance. Lise reported that she has called and left a message to get an update. They have not called back yet, so she will follow up with them and report back with the executive.

Concern was raised about the pond on Michel Bertrand’s property, with nutrients seeping into the lake which is likely contributing to the proliferation of weeds in the lake.

It was also reported there was no lake testing by the municipality this year due to lack of resources. David Frère offered to do it next year, even if the municipality does it, so that we have our own records.

Amendment: Association executive will take the responsibility for contacting municipality and MTQ to keep a centralized record of all our communications with them.

On record, the lake has not had Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae blooms) for the last two years.

Funding request for jute installation: In 2017, the province and the municipality requested documentation to complete our funding request. Everything was provided in October 2017. Background: We requested funding to try to get jute coverage over invasive species, particularly Eurasian water-milfoil. At last contact in the fall of 2017, we were informed that an answer would be coming “soon” in terms of financial coverage, maintenance, and implementation of the tarps. Kathryn offered to get updates for funding from the municipality.

The Agence de bassin versant des 7 (ABV des 7) has as its mission to protect and improve the 7 watershed areas in the Gatineau region. Our lake association (new co-presidents) will make contact with our municipal counsellor, Carolane Larocque, to inquire about where we stand in terms of taking care of our invasive weed issues.

A discussion ensued regarding ongoing accumulation of debris and rotting vegetation, as well as the beaver issues. Without the removal of the debris, Ron is worried that the lake rising will impact lake health and roads over the long term. Despite his heroic efforts and ongoing daily work, we are all concerned about the sustainability of these measures.

The beaver deceiver is one solution. It’s used to keep the water flowing and was re-anchored by a team of volunteers in early summer. As long as it’s functioning, debris removal isn’t required.

MTQ was contacted several times about keeping the culvert at the Bell Lake/ Highway 366 junction clear, as the lake levels do influence road and water wellbeing. They have cleared the mound of debris above the culvert. Lise will keep on the issue and Ron and anyone picking up their mail can continue to report on the rising water levels, blocked culvert, and the beaver deceiver at that location.

Ron suggests getting rid of the beavers. The residents are divided on the issue of how to deal with the beavers and cannot reach a consensus. However, it is agreed that what owners do regarding beavers on their own property is at their discretion.

***Open positions***

Several volunteer positions on the BFLA committee need to be filled. After outlining some of the duties / responsibilities, we were very fortunate to have the following volunteers.

***Environmental subcommittee***

Cody will form an environmental subcommittee, and Kathryn and interested parties will consult / join the committee. Thank you Cody, your expertise will be a great service to your neighbours!

***President’s position / Co-Presidents***

To oversee issues, chair, call meetings, handle concerns, inform residents and post information on the website.

Lise and Anne are stepping down. Laurence and Emily agree to share the role of this position. Thanks Lise and Anne for your service and welcome Emily and Laurence.

***Road Maintenance for Horace Cross Road.***

To manage the plowing contract as well as arrange for grading the road, deciding with treasurer what we can afford and then deciding on what materials to use.

Emergency and pothole management.

Sue and Christian stepping down and Fernando and Claudine agree to fill in (no pun intended).

Ruth Salmon moved that we provide a list of MTQ, Environmental, Mayor and Councillors contact information so that we can all have these numbers. They are posted on the website. [www.bellfraser.ca](http://www.bellfraser.ca)

***Other Business***

Following the last meeting a Lakefront Living Booklet / Pamphlet was to be undertaken by Micheline Beaudry-Somcynsky and Dawn Cooper to inform all residents about lakefront living, best practises, guidelines for living in a serene and healthy environment.

Jen agreed to follow up on this pamphlet and it was suggested it should be distributed it to all residents, renters, Air B&B’s and cottagers alike. Some environmental inclusions can be:

* Respectful practises about illumination. Light pollution was mentioned by Hope as an irritant;
* Lucy suggested a ban on fireworks; all agreed they were a nuisance and noise pollution, as well as hard on animals, however, without a bylaw an outright ban is impossible. Respectful parameters for fireworks and noise will be included in the pamphlet;
* ATV noise pollution;
* proper disposal of garbage is also critical including the dumping of Tim Horton’s waste on the road;
* Radios played at the water’s edge are other honorable mentions. (added on the way home by Ruth Salmon, Jen Currie).

Road visibility, tree and shrub foliage are blocking some visibility around the road. Dominic will organize a team to help trim the foliage.

Residents are reminded to drive slowly and to advise their visitors of the strongly suggested 15-km speed limit.

Ruthie thanked Anne and Lise for their commitment last year. In closing, a big thanks to all the volunteers and new recruited folks.

Adjourned 2:55 p.m.