



BELL FRASER LAKE ASSOCIATION

Minutes July 18, 2021



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

Thank you to our hosts, and to all members who provide coffee, office supplies and volunteer hours to help make our community function in good neighbourly fashion!

Hope MacLean Monique Larivière Ron Hill Andrew Fairbairn Tanya Hill-Larivière David Frere Emily Duncan Nadeau Eva O'Grady Justin Unsworth Dinah Hovsepian Steve Leon Matthew Perraud	Dawn Cooper Julie Cote Brigitte Hubert Veronique Rivet Ruth Salmon Dominic Hill-Lariviere Jennifer Currie-Roy Kathryn Reynolds Garry Cole Harry Musson Wendy Reid Martin Lapointe
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After introductions and welcoming newcomers. Jennifer gave a preamble, explaining that there were no minutes from the 2020 AGM, as it occurred as a meeting with the executive only. Last year was an anomaly due to the inability to meet as a group. Reports were simply emailed out to members. Work did take place behind the scenes, and this was to be reflected in today's meeting by way of summarizing, as the reports come up.

Members were thanked for their contributions, and reminded of the voluntary nature of and mandate of the association, ie ROADS and LAKE HEALTH. Many other issues concerning lakefront living can be handled by the municipality, (noise bylaws as an example). Individual driveways are also not an association mandate and maintenance must be arranged for privately by each homeowner.

The association membership can agree to take on special projects such as internet, and social activities, road sign painting and other activities in an ad hoc way.

Meeting commenced at 10:21 am

Ruth Salmon chaired the meeting.

Previous Minutes

Ron moved that we accept the 2019 minutes, seconded by Monique.

Treasurer's Report

Tanya explained the two different funds - Lake fund and road fund. Tanya shared the membership account. There is a 25-dollar fee to be a member of the association, and we have not had a lot of expenses this year, with currently 56 paying members. The membership contributes office supplies, and street signs, as well as labour often, without billing the association, thank you for this ongoing support. We have a good situation financially to take on projects, and or keep the \$ for a contingency plan. The report is attached.

We collected the same amount of money as we did last year, and our treasurer proposes fees will remain the same. Kathryn so moved and to accept the treasurers report, Martin seconded the motion, all in favour.

Environmental update

Kathryn discussed the culvert running out of Bell Lake into the La Pêche creek. The culvert is owned by Ministry of Transport and is regularly clogged by beavers. This year and over the winter many volunteers have been cleaning the culvert and come regularly or sporadically to keep the water flowing. The backlog if not cleared has the potential to flood basements and roads. Thanks to all the volunteers for cleaning the culvert. Hip waders were purchased by Kathryn, who volunteered to lend pitch forks and hip waders to those who are willing.

Hope asked about the water levels being low and asked if that was the result of the constant clearing. Some pipes were placed under the grate and the pipes help drain some of the water but not completely. Ron mentioned that the level of water typically stops flowing between the lakes, mid summer and seems to be at a regular level.

Lucy reported trees were eaten off her property this spring and questioned the number of beavers and solutions. The beaver issue to be addressed at the end of the meeting.

Hope was able to fill the members in on the history of the various government departments, municipal and provincial who have had provided different levels of support. The MTQ eventually gave up as the beavers blocked the culvert too quickly and they decided not to come anymore, as it was too expensive. The community members then decided to start clearing again. We all agree that while our local MLA is supportive, it is not sustainable to continue to compete with the beavers. No one has the mandate to clear, nor has a commitment been made.

Kathryn has spoken to MTQ folks managing the highway upgrades and this culvert is not going to be replaced.

Regular consistent waterflow is important for roads to not wash out and emergency vehicles having access to residents on Horace Cross Road.

David reported on the lake testing, and samples were taken this week. David was able to get the results back on the health of our lakes and the bottom line is the lakes are in good shape. David tests in 4 spots, testing for e coli and phosphates. A full report is coming along and will be shared in these minutes.

David also does a shoreline survey, invasive plants, and weeds growth. Eurasian milfoil is not a native plant, and it is not in Fraser Lake, and we will be looking at Bell Lake and reporting back to the membership. There is a native milfoil and other common lake weeds.

There is also no evidence of blue green algae, and if the phosphate levels increase it could necessitate an assessment for blue green algae.

All expressed a concern of increased weed growth. All are wondering about the cause and solutions. David is willing to remain active on the environment committee. Ron also agreed to assist the committee. Several agreed an assessment of the weed growth situation by a specialist or specialized firm would be a good idea, with recommendations on what to do to control the weeds and whether, and how, they can be removed.

Kathryn reviewed the healthy lake shoreline practises as outlined in the welcome package for new neighbours, which is attached to these minutes. It is critical that lakefront residents help maintain the shoreline.

Ruth raised an issue regarding the noise levels echoing across the lake and wanted us all to be aware of the amplification factor of water.

Thank you, environment committee for your work towards keeping our lakes healthy.

Elections

We need a president, a vice president, a treasurer, and a secretary.

The association also has room for 3 official additional volunteers. These are lake and environment volunteers.

Ruth proposed the slate of folks to be elected for the following positions:

Julie Cote	President
Martin Lapointe	Vice President.
Doug Forster	Treasurer
Kathryn Reynolds	Secretary

Ecology volunteers were David and Ron

Eva volunteered to work on the website.

A training meeting will be called to exchange information between the old and new executive.

Ruthie resolved that the minutes show that we unanimously agree to update the signing authority to reflect the new executive and that any two members of the executive may sign. Motion was seconded by Dawn Cooper. All were in favour and welcomed the new executive.

Many thanks to the outgoing executive.

This association meeting adjourned at 11:48.

Horace Cross Road meeting commenced 11:50

Tanya read out Fernando's report. See attached report.

Member expressed concern about the road being widened and not being pushed on fences and breaking trees. It was advised that we give the individuals who plow the roads lots of space to push snow.

At this point in the meeting, the secretary Jennifer leaves for work, and is replaced by Emily.

- Ron proposes to budget for snow removal by truck
- Dawn expresses support for snow removal budget increase to save fence and property, even though they are three-season cottagers only.

- **Road financial report**
 - o Tanya gives background on historical flooding that led to fee increases in 2019
 - o Current funds (\$13000) is about where we want it to be for emergencies.
 - o Proposed 2021 fees remain the same (\$325)
- Road manager elections: Ron manages roads with assistance from Justin and Matt. Majority accepts.
- Communications – Emily proposes that with Eva’s help, we work on developing the website over a Facebook group. Facebook group will continue to be optional.
- Executive meeting
- Ad hoc volunteer list? Feedback is that everyone should be available to volunteer. – Ruth suggests that those who are not able to contribute can pay an additional contribution.
- Julie update on roads signs: Brigitte and Julie have done a walk around to evaluate signs. Tree-trimming will be necessary for viewing the signs. They would like to remove the signpost at the intersection at Hope’s place and move it to the box – at the Bell Lake beach access. Patrick has volunteered a little free library. Resurrect dog poo signs and remind everyone to pick up their poop.
- Harry moved that we make the road speed 20 kph. This was seconded by Emily, all approved.

Back to the Beaver Issue

- A Proposal to have the association vote on culling the beavers was discussed. While property owners do not need the backing of the association, a vote will determine the consensus of the association members.
- Ruth proposes that the environmental committee explore and make available information about culling the beavers and organize a vote.
- Harry moves and Lucy seconds.
- First action item of new executive is to organize a remote vote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.