

SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION OF PROPERTY OWNERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, May 23, 2011

At

Severn Falls Chapel

Starting at 10.00 a.m. finishes at 12.00 noon

AGENDA

Call to Order

K. Soares called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.; 50 people attended achieving a quorum. Elected officials from the Townships of Severn (TS), Muskoka Lakes (TML) and Georgian Bay (GBT) were introduced as follows:

Township of Muskoka Lakes

Ruth-Ellen Nishikawa, Regional Councillor

Township of Severn

Mike Burkett, Mayor

Judith Cox, Deputy Mayor

Mark Taylor, Councillor Ward 1

Township of Georgian Bay

Paul Wiancko, Regional Councillor

Opening Remarks

K. Soares welcomed members to the AGM, and indicated that there were many materials available, two on ATV operation from the OPP, a SRAPO Priority outline that was prepared and sent to all Township representatives, business cards from Atreans Counsel Insurance, a company that specialise in insurance for Cottages, and other items of interest.

One of SRAPO priorities is to become acquainted with the newly elected officials and invite feedback.

K. Soares introduced J. Silk as the recording secretary for today's proceedings.

Minutes of May 24, 2010 to be reviewed and adopted
(available on srapo web site – srapo.org)

The minutes dated May 24, 2010 have been posted on the SRAPO website since June 2010. K. Soares requested a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Moved by John Lister, seconded by Judy Schrempf, that the minutes dated May 24, 2010 be adopted as presented.

Treasurer's Report – Pat Niepage

Pat Niepage reported that since posting of the report in the spring newsletter deposited is \$2,650.00 for memberships and advertising with a further \$820.00 today. The balance is \$3,859.88 including the aforementioned \$820.00.

Moved by Gail Carter and seconded by Nancy Ward that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as presented.

Water Testing Report – Nancy Mear/Paul Wiancko

K. Soares noted that SRAPO has been conducting water testing longer than any other cottage association.

Nancy Mear and Paul Wiancko presented their report. Volunteers are required for the Wood's Bay area.

Specialised testing For Phosphorus:

For the past five years, water testing has been done on the Severn River by Paul Wiancko and our Volunteers. Bacteria tests have been going on for over 10 years. Coliform bacteria are generated from sediments, whereas, e-coli bacteria comes from animals and humans. Bacteria levels determine how safe water is to swim in. Provincial standards for swimming are 10 e-coli per 100 mLs of water. Good quality water gives a reading of 10 and the Severn is below that. Nutrient levels read in the Severn River from the Swift Rapids to the Big Chute, are tested in the fall. Main parameters they are looking at are phosphate blooms; on a gauge of below 10 is considered as good, 10 to 20 is mid-range and above 20 is not considered good. Clarity (depth visibility) in the Severn River is four to five meters, which is very good. The program will continue this year and for this term of the Severn Township Council, as they are keen on this program.

P. Wiancko invited questions from members about the report. Questions were asked and answered as follows:

1. Septic systems – Is a program needed? Recommended by one member was the three to six litre flush toilet from Home Hardware as it cuts water use considerably.
2. Critical bacterial levels – who acts and what should we do? P. Wiancko recommended to solve it locally, e.g. at Six Mile they have had people go door to door to educate people.
3. Are lawns a problem? Yes, they allow easy run off and they attract geese.
4. Collection program for water sampling: If Sparrow Lake and Lake Simcoe are cleaned up; it will help the problems downstream to the Severn River. Judith Cox noted that there is a septic clean-up program on Sparrow Lake with inspections taking place lot to lot. Further noted was that inspections are visual and not intricate. J. Cox further advised that they would be shut down if the inspection results fail.
5. Where does the Holland Marsh empty? P. Wiancko said that it is into Lake Simcoe, and that the Holland Marsh and numerous sewer plants on Lake Simcoe have been historical issues.

Visitation – Kay Soares – plans for this summer

K. Soares said that she has been trying to do visitations for two years now and now feels comfortable to go ahead. She wants to get a group together in order to brainstorm some ideas and the objective would be to visit one-third of cottagers each year over a three- year period. During these visitations, she wants to get feedback from the property owners. She has scheduled a meeting:

Sunday, May 29, 2011
10:30 a.m.
Anne Stock
1700 Granny Stock's Garden

It would be great to be able to get a younger group involved. P. Wiancko recommended that an environmental package of materials be handed out at each cottage visitation. Packages of information will be provided.

K. Soares said that information received back from property owners pertaining to the issues of water quality and wake issues are still a big problem.

Water Management Committee Report (TSW) – Greg Goy

G. Goy reported on his attendance on the Water Management Committee that has stemmed from the report by the Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway. In 2009, the government recommended and set-up an action plan to conduct a forum to manage the future of the system. The forum included advice from the Water Management Advisory Council as well as members from land use development on shore, members of government and various other stakeholders such as tourism and economic generation. The provincial government had allocated \$83 million dollars to the Trent-Severn Waterway and prioritizing its needs for infrastructure renewal. The objective is to enhance the Trent-Severn Waterway and identify further needs. G. Goy represented SRAPO on its three areas of concern:

1. water quality and safety
2. preservation of shared lands
3. planning and land use issues

G. Goy stated that our number one issue of concern is their number one issue of concern.

G. Goy read an excerpt from the report on water quality and he stressed that we want water quality reports during the time of use, i.e. during the swimming season, rather than after the fact. He noted that the Trent-Severn Waterway owns the system; however, it is not its mandate to do water testing. We should consider if we need a program in place that is similar to that of the Lake Simcoe Action Plan. Perhaps we should consider a stewardship program to educate property owners on ways to avoid polluting the waterway. Our number one area of concern, water quality, was well represented at the forum, as was environmental impact.

Regarding the wake issue, we need a forum with the O.P.P. to deal with the wake issue. Townships of Georgian Bay and Severn have a local program. Councillor Mark Taylor said that the local O.P.P. representative would be at the Severn Township Council meeting this Wednesday. G. Goy said that policing is one part but need to take a two-pronged approach.

G. Goy will provide feedback to the forum from SRAPO and he invited members to provide him with their feedback no later than June 23rd.

Members asked if the 10 cm control of flow issue was addressed at the forum. G. Goy said that is still in place.

Regarding the wake control in specific areas of the river, the long process involved has never met with success; however, the process to follow will be posted on the SRAPO website.

G. Goy closed by encouraging members to look at the report posted on the SRAPO website to learn more. Each of the groups and forums are listed as well as contact lists. It lists the recommendations made, and what is planned.

Regatta 2011 – Judy Schrempf

The Regatta will take place on Saturday, July 30th rain day July 31st. Registration will start at 9:00 a.m., and races starting at 9:30 a.m. The entire event will be over by noon followed by lunch and prizes being awarded immediately after lunch. Lunch is free for kids only, but available to everyone.

In order for this event to be a success volunteers are needed for judging races, lane swimming events and helpers to give out the lunch.

The Severn Township Fire Chief will also be on hand with the fire truck.

The triathlon event has not been successful in the past and J. Schrempf recommended it be dropped. Members were in agreement with eliminating it due to lack of attendance.

Township Comments/Questions

TOWNSHIP OF GEORGIAN BAY

Mayor

Larry Braid

Regrets

Regional Councillor

Paul Wiancko

Present

Paul Wiancko presented for Georgian Bay Township and invited any questions. He advised that the GBT have a 1.6 million dollar deficit and, with this in mind, advised of the following:

1. Taxes will increase 1.5 to 2% which is very good news.
2. Strategic Planning Committee is trying to put a strategic plan together for Georgian Bay, and SRAPO should be represented to identify its needs. There are three more meetings left.
3. Outdated Official Community Plan documents have not been reviewed in 15 years. P. Wiancko requested K. Soares to come to discussion the needs of SRAPO.
4. Baxter Ward boundaries are being changes.
5. Just for Water Festival is being held next weekend, Saturday June 28th. All activities are free and Jason McCoy will be performing in concert. Everyone was encouraged to attend this event.

TOWNSHIP OF MUSKOKA LAKES

Mayor	Alice Murphy	Regrets
Regional Councillor	Ruth-Ellen Nishikawa	Present

Ruth-Ellen Nishikawa presented for the Township of Muskoka Lakes. She discussed the new council and the good working relationship being established. She advised on the following:

1. Taxes will increase 1.9%, which is not a large increase this year.
2. Cottage quality of life is being looked in to by council, particularly the need to improve access to services to the far regions of the Township. Currently services are mostly accessible at the main centres of Gravenhurst and Bracebridge. Foote’s Bay may be as a potential location for extending services.
3. Septic Inspections last summer – questions asked about occupancy permits for septic systems. R. Nishikawa responded that you could not transfer ownership unless you have an occupancy permit for your septic system. If you do not have an occupancy permit, you can contact the Township Office and arrange for someone to come out to do an inspection.
4. Old boats – there is a dumping site for old boats in Bracebridge. This information should be available on the Township’s website.

SEVERN TOWNSHIP

Mayor	Mike Burkett	Present
Deputy Mayor	Judith Cox	Present
Councillor	Mark Taylor	Present

K. Soares introduced Mark Burkett the new Mayor, Judith Cox the Deputy Mayor and Mark Taylor the Councillor for Ward 1.

M. Burkett introduced himself. He advised that he is very approachable and invited any questions. He said that the taxes in Severn Township are being increased by 2.5% this year. He looked forward to meeting residents again at the Festival in Port Severn next weekend.

M. Taylor said that the municipal elections on October 4th saw new members elected to council and Mike Burkett elected as Mayor. He too is very approachable. He reported as follows:

1. Council wants open communication and will be releasing a newsletter this July.
2. They have received funding to improve the Township’s website.
3. He is council’s representative with the O.P.P.
4. Building – it is becoming harder to build, which is a step towards protecting the environment.

J. Cox reported as follows:

1. Tax increase in dollar terms is \$11.00 per every \$100,000.00.
2. Lake Simcoe is a provincial issue and we should keep in mind that with a provincial election in the fall, this could be the forum for that issue to be addressed.
3. Severn Sound Committee is looking at Silver Creek and the North River. Any questions or comments can be directed to Clayton Cameron, Director of Public Works.
4. Simcoe County website is an excellent site for getting a lot of information about the county and the township. K. Soares acknowledged the Severn Township Office and staff.
5. The Severn Township Web Site will be upgraded.

Pre-Adjournment Q and A:

1. SRAPO T-Shirts - \$20.00 for new T-shirts, \$10.00 for old design T-shirts. Do not have any kid's sizes in the new design but will have them made if there is enough orders.
2. E-mailings – K. Soares asked people to volunteer to do the e-mails, and particularly, if they have e-mail abilities, please come forward. All contact information is kept confidential.
3. Water-access property addresses in TML – there are two addresses given for one property.
4. Big Chute situation.
5. Crown Land Camping – people do not respect others enjoyment; there is a lot of loud music noise and parties. The only option is to phone the O.P.P during these occurrences. E. Nishikawa said that there is a noise bylaw and TML have seven officers. K. Soares said that GBT is where the big problems are. P. Wianicko said that GBT only has one part-time officer, and he will only go to the site with the O.P.P. This could be an issue to be raised at a council meeting, and put into the Strategic Plan.
6. Carpenter Ants – members discussed the ongoing problem and various remedies. Members will gather after adjournment to share ideas and recommend products.

Members thanked Kay Soares for her volunteer time and dedication to SRAPO.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35 a.m.