



Skiff Lake Cottage Owners Association Inc. (SLCOA)

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Minutes of the General Meeting of Saturday 10 July, 2021

by Sandy Briggs

(sitting in for Dave Rogers, Secretary)

Held outdoors at 3 Ridgeway Lane, Skiff Lake, NB (rather than at the usual Canterbury Community Hall) while still under protocols of GNB Covid-19 pandemic Yellow Alert Level.

1) The meeting was called to order by the President, John McLellan, at 10:00 a.m.

2) a. Minutes and Correspondence

- Kathy Crocco read the minutes of the July 2020 General Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting, the August 2020 AGM, had been circulated and will be read, along with these minutes, at the 2021 AGM.

Moved (Peter Cook/Jim Morell) that the July 2020 Minutes be accepted as read. Carried.

- Bill Clark read the *In Memoriam* list of members of the Skiff Lake community who have passed away in the past year or so:

Maxine McGratton

Bertha Higgs

Helen Ross

Bill Dionne

Anita McLean

Ivan McLean

John Kidney

Kay McLean

Peter Bowlin

Beth Price Grant

Dr. Mike Hayter

Pat Webb

Michael Beaubien

Bill then read the replies received by the SLCOA in response to having sent the Association's sympathies. There was a moment of silence in memory of those departed.

2) b. Treasurer's Update

Kathy Asch reported that the Association's account contains \$5261.28 as of June 30, and the special GIC is at \$16,949.34. There are no bills outstanding at this time.

2) c. Committee Reports

i. Healthy Lakes Committee

The Healthy Lakes Committee consists of Jim Morell (Chair), Tim Seymour, Theresa Glanville, Barb Glanville, and Emily Clark. Its mandate is to provide information and to encourage people to "do the right things" in keeping the lake healthy.

Tim provided an update on water testing. [There are seven sites in the lake where water testing is carried out every two weeks from June to September. Measurements include pH \(acidity\), temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity. The Skiff Lake pH is about 7.0, nicely in the healthy range](#)

between 6.0 and 8.0. GNB has a web portal where, it is hoped, these data will be available to us on-line. (Aside: Data for the 2020 season are already there at <https://www.elgegl.gnb.ca/VLMP-PSVL/en/SamplingLocation/Index>) GNB/Department of Environment & Local Government (ELG) also has a data logger recording water temperature continuously. This installation is marked with a buoy. (The data will be retrieved when the device is removed in the fall. Water temperatures upward from the mid-20s Celsius are particularly favourable for the growth of algae. Water quality data reflect the consequences of such things as deforestation, climate change, and pollution from various sources. A team is coming later this summer to analyze for *E. coli* and for dissolved metals.)

Anecdotally the population of landlocked salmon is down. The Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (DNR) collects a few each year to spawn in the fish hatchery and stocks Skiff Lake with 1000 salmon every two years, 2020 being the most recent.

(Information is linked here:

<https://nbdnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4f860421af6443f7ae1c48770ac369a6&locale=en>) DNR wants people who catch landlocked salmon to report their catches. (See link here: https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/erd/natural_resources/content/Promo/FishingSurveyContentest.html)

- Liam introduced Theresa Glanville, who gave an informative presentation about so-called blue-green algae (which are actually cyanobacteria). Theresa has a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and is on the Board of the New Brunswick Alliance of Lake Associations (NBALA). There's lots of information on the NBALA web site at <http://www.nbala.ca/> Theresa emphasized that these organisms do photosynthesis, can be found on the surface or on the lake-bed and can move up and down the water column in their search for sunlight and nutrients. Unfortunately some of them make compounds that are topical irritants and are toxic and can be fatal to animals and people if ingested. Dogs are particularly susceptible if they eat a benthic mat of such cyanobacteria. Conditions favouring "algal blooms" include:

- high water temperature
- high concentrations of nutrients such as phosphates and nitrates from fertilizers
- low concentrations of dissolved oxygen

As lake users we can't control the water temperature but we can:

- avoid using nitrate and phosphate fertilizers near the lake.
- have an effective septic system that is up to code, & get it pumped out regularly.
- avoid using soap or shampoo in the lake. Even so-called 'biodegradable' ones are harmful.
- avoid using cleaning agents that contain phosphates, as they may get into the lake via your septic or gray water systems. Read the labels on the cleaning products you use.

The NBALA plans to make measurements of the presence cyanobacteria twice per year starting in 2021. But the toxins microcystins and anatoxin A have been detected here.

If you observe an algae bloom please report it to the provincial Department of Health and to the Department of Environment and Local Government (ELG). Blooms of cyanobacteria affect health and safety as well as property values.

Theresa's notes will be available on the skifflake.org web site soon.

- Barb Glanville gave a presentation on the importance of preventing Eurasian Water Milfoil from getting into our lake. It's an invasive weed that is currently in the St. John River and in the Meduxnekeag Creek and is very thick. It's easy to spot at the shores behind NBCC in Woodstock. Once in a water body it can't be eliminated. It makes conditions bad for swimming, it fouls boat propellers, and it decreases property values. Strands break off and are carried by boats, paddles, boat trailers, lower parts of cars that are backed into water, even people's boots. This is why it is so important to "Clean, Drain, and Dry" your boat *etc.* if you use it in a different water body and then bring it here. Your SLCOA has purchased a pressure washer and there is a Clean & Drain station set up at Barb's place across from the Canteen on Hwy 122. It's free and available pretty much all day. Barb has posted informational and instructional

videos on YouTube. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1i_rSesLEs There is more information in the recent SLCOA Newsletter, which is available from the Association web site.

2) c. Committee Reports (continued)

ii. Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Sandy Briggs reported that the Board decided it is time to look at revising the SLCOA Constitution and Bylaws since the last changes occurred in 2014. A committee consisting of Kathy Asch, Barb Glanville, and Sandy arrived at a revisions document which was presented to the Board and which the Board now presents to the membership for consideration. [The proposed changes seek to accomplish several things:](#)

- [Ensure compliance with government laws for not-for-profit organizations.](#)
- [Clarify and update the way our Association conducts its business – governance structure.](#)
- [Incorporate reference to newer procedures such as the various modes of electronic communication and participation, including financial e-transfers.](#)
- [Include standard modern business considerations of such things as liability, conflict of interest, as well as Equity, Diversity & Inclusion.](#)

Sandy indicated that several relevant documents will be made available to Members in the next few days either by e-mail attachments or via the private Members section of the SLCOA web site. [The documents to expect are: The current \(2014\) Constitution and Bylaws, the proposed revised Constitution and Bylaws, a covering letter introducing the changes, and a document correlating the two versions section by section with explanations and rationale.](#) Members are encouraged to read these documents in preparation for the AGM. The new proposal, with any possible amendments, will be voted on at the AGM in August. Note that a 2/3 majority of those present is required for the change.

2) d. Old Business

i. Buoys in the lake

The Association earlier purchased 12 new buoys for marking rock hazards and these have all been placed.

The question arose about repurposing the old ones (which need a bit of maintenance) to mark more boating hazards.

The question arose as to whether the new or old or other buoys meet Transport Canada code. The standards for buoys and the compliance and liability issues are summarized at the following links: An Owner's Guide to Private Buoys https://tc.canada.ca/sites/default/files/2021-06/2020-2021-MARINE-06%20PRIVATE%20BUOYS%20GUIDE_EN-access.pdf

Or try this

[Transport Canada Private Buoys](#) or this [Cardinal Buoys and Special Buoys](#) (downloadable pdf) (Aside: An interesting and perhaps relevant 2010 comment from the Federation of Ontario Cottage Owners is (FOCA) here http://foca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Private_Markers_Fact_Sheet_Nov_2010.pdf)

It was pointed out that personal buoys represent personal liability.

John McLellan and Dave Rogers propose the marking of some more rocks at the south side of the lake. There was a motion to this effect (Sandra Gray/Peter Cook). Carried, with some discussion that there are very many rocks and the extent to which they represent hazards depend on various factors including lake water level.

2) e. New Business

- i. It was noted that some waterfront at “the opening” along Route 122 is indeed private property.
- ii. There was a question regarding the possibility of the recycle bin in Canterbury being relocated to La Coote Drive. As of the time of this meeting, Barb Sharp (Waste Diversion Program Manager for the Western Valley Regional Service Commission) has said it isn’t worth it and people should just leave their recycling on the way through Canterbury.

There was a comment about encouraging the use of transparent garbage bags so that one could see whether bags that contain materials that should be recycled are being placed in the dumpsters.

There was a question as to whether it is useful to lobby our MLA for a recycling bin.

It was noted that there would be costs to cover the moving or renting of a bin, and a cost each time it is emptied. This emptying cost was estimated at \$57-\$100 per bin emptying. (Later information after this meeting estimates the emptying cost to be much higher, at about \$325 per emptying.)
Re costs: While there are about 180-190 camps and houses at the lake, fewer than half are members of the Association, which would concentrate the associated cost burden.

There was a comment that maybe it is worth inquiring about switching to a roll-off dumpster. There were comments about abuse of the dumpsters, about people not closing the dumpster gate doors properly or at all, about possibly fencing the area, *etc.* It seems the dumpsters have always been abused and have always been a problem issue regardless of location.

- iii. It was announced that Allison McLellan has stepped down from the Board of Trustees.
- iv. Bill Clark was nominated & then elected to be on the Board of Trustees.
- v. Liam Hickey provided information about the Skiff Lake branded clothing *etc./swag*. It is currently and temporarily at Barb Glanville’s place and can be ordered on-line via www.skifflake.org. A new order will be placed soon and you can contact Liam with ideas/requests.

There was a question about the purpose of such sales (fundraising or promotion). John M responded that it’s about promotion of the Skiff Lake community mainly, and the Association intends to profit to the extent of only 10%.

(Your stand-in Secretary notes that there were approximately 35 people in attendance.)

Moved (Michael Clark) that the meeting be adjourned. 11:30 a.m.