

## Minutes to Madawaska Club of Go Home Bay Dock Meeting

Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

1. **Welcome & Thank you:** Lewis Reis welcomed all to the annual summer dock meeting of 2022. Lewis thanked outgoing board members David Ward & Andrea Proctor for their years of service. A plaque was presented. Nick Lougheed will be retiring from the board May 2023 & there will be a board position opening up.

2. **President Remarks:** Lewis thanked all the community volunteers that have created a very active post Covid community. A special thank you to Bill & Helen Robson for running Regatta for the past three years and are retiring. A new recruit is needed for regatta athletic events.

Lewis reminded the community that we are a volunteer board, committed to representing the club in positive manner. We are open to questions & concerns, please go through the proper channels to contact us about your request. All board member contact information is on the website.

3. **GBA Rupert Kindersley:** Please review [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca) to see all the topics that the GBA is engaged in:

Septic Management & Maintenance Guide

Water Levels

Boating & Safety (Boat noise)

Coastal Protection

Waterfront Policy review

Floating Cottages (where does their gray, black water go?) These are cottages built in metal containers placed on a dock.

GBA works with other organizations (FOCA, Great Lakes Eco Network)

Fisheries

Aqua Culture

Land & Forest

Ted Cape asked about the Floating Cottages and what is being done to control this. Ted commented all cottage landowners having zoning requirements. Rupert said this is something GBA is focusing on with municipalities.

GBA is concerned about the passing of Bill 109 that will require a municipality to pass a building permit within a time frame.

Rupert talked about the Safety APP "what3words"

Dana Stewart asked about water testing, Rupert said GBA participated with Lake Partner Program & FOCA for water testing.

#### **4. Treasurer Report – Caileigh Rabbior**

140 site fees have been collected \$83,300.

Summer day camp has had a strong start brought approximately \$23,000.

Sailing is bringing in approximately \$13,000.

Primary expenses continue to be property maintenance, with a cost of \$20,000 for work on Caretaker dock.

Cost are rising and there will be a need to increase the Club budget.

There is \$36,800 in savings, \$78,000 in the GIC total in assets \$182,800.

#### **5. Director Reports:**

**A. Property -John Harris:** John will be diving into more detail on property maintenance to try to bring to the club a % number that we should consider putting aside annually for future maintenance on the club property.

Repairs will be taking place at Caretaker dock site for a cost of \$20,000. Hopefully this will be completed before freeze up.

Diving Board Dock- thank you to all the volunteers who worked to get the dock in place and ready to use. John is looking for a more permanent solution to leave the dock in place. For insurance reasons we have installed a swim at your own risk sign.

The 1980 outhouse was relocated from the main dock to the Caretaker's site. It was a well-built structure.

Thank you to David Trusler for spearheading the cleanup at the caretaker's site & Dottie Graham for collaborating on pickup of garbage we could not handle. There are plans being made for larger item cleanup in the fall, (some will require barging). There are ongoing discussions with the municipality about large item waste pick –up.

Maintenance planned for next year: diving board dock boards, reposition reanchor floating docks, replace rotten siding on library, stain boathouse, shingle outhouse, screen repairs to outhouse, railing at main dock, and wheelchair ramp to beach.

Questions: Ross Trusler asked that a ramp at the land end of the Caretaker dock could be added to the maintenance list.

David Trusler is looking for two toilet seats -1 for the caretaker outhouse. A number of people offered to donate one.

Dana Stewart asked about the rules regarding the use and camping on Long Island. This question was deferred to when Jim Rusak spoke on Land-Use.

**B. Activities- Deb Price:** The community is very active, Deb provided a very complete report thanking all of those involved to make the community so vibrant. Returning Activities are: Library, Yoga, Coffee, Sailing Camp, Day Camp, Nature Walks, Fishing Derby, Scavenger Hunt, Fireworks, Woodworking, and Art Show.

New Activities are: Book Therapy Club, Kay-yaking, Orienteering Poker Run, Adult nature walk.

Thank you to all volunteers' special mention to: Janet Lougheed for organizing Sally's nights. David Trusler for camp hikes. Janet Brooks for art classes for day camp kids.

Please contact Deb Price with any ideas for future events.

Janet Brooks asked that for those who aren't online a lot could we have notices of activities posted at the main dock.

**C. Marathon/ Regatta: Christine Robson:** Christine wanted to thank all the volunteers who make our great summer events possible. In particular Bill & Helen Robson who have run Regatta for 3 years, and Abby Wilson doing a great job with Regatta Party on her 1<sup>st</sup> try. Also volunteers who supported Marathon- Brye Bonner, Katie Trusler, Diana Cape, Mary Anne Ballantyne & Doug Grundy.

Marathon had low attendance this year, due to that next year we will not hold the Marathon boating events, we'll focus on the swim and getting numbers up for that event.

Regatta was a big success about 80 competitors turned out. Under 13 and 16 categories were a little sparse, but a large number of younger competitors, open and master competitors were out on the course.

Regatta Party was very well attended.

Looking forward to 2023: Find new Regatta organizers & transition them. Bring attendance level of Marathon swim back to 50+ swimmers. Engage the community to understand how to bring more participants out to Marathon Swim & Regatta. To understand what type of athletics events are GO Homers interested in.

Christine welcomes feedback from all members of the community.

Bill Robson thanked all the volunteers that work to make the Regatta day run so smoothly. Bill & Helen will work with the new organizers to pass on their knowledge, notes & volunteer list to ensure there is a smooth transition.

Ross Trusler & family clean up from the Regatta party. Ross has suggested the need for more recycling bins. (This information is passed onto Christine). He also asked that the Board put in place a ban on all glass products at Regatta & Long Island.

**D. Environmental/ Land Stewardship- Jim Rusak:** Jim has posted 4 Private Property Signs along the front of Long Island.

There was a conversation about camping on Long Island & Sunset. What is allowed by community member? None Community members are not allowed to camp. What is the procedure for getting them

to move on? In early July there were nonmembers camping on Long Island, David Trusler & Jim Rusak both asked them to move on.

**Action:** The board will review the by-laws regarding camping on land like Long Island. We will clearly communicate to the community what is allowed. The Board will develop an action plan/ process for asking non-members to move on & know where to direct people to crown land that they could be on.

There are no gypsy moths this year.

The Madawaska Club does participate in the Lake Partner Program, which is designed to measure trends in water quality primarily by tracking total phosphorus concentrations. Currently water quality remains good in the bay and phosphorus data show stable conditions.

Land Stewardship Committee has been asked to move forward with a draft Conservation Agreement. The draft has been circulated and the LSC is looking for community feedback. A committee member will be available at the main dock at library times for comments, questions & discussion. Please read the current draft and provide feedback to any LSC committee member or at the online survey. The goal is for the agreement to represent Community consensus to the greatest extent possible. It is proposed that the draft agreement would go to vote at the AGM 2023.

Some of the questions asked about the draft agreement are:

- A) Does the Agreement allow access from non-members? No, just members & guests.
- B) Mapping errors-The map is taken from the Township of Georgian Bay's Official Plan. There are some errors that will be corrected and the Agreement will only address property owned by the Club and only Club property which is currently designated as "Open Space".
- C) Will the agreement reduce our taxes? Likely yes, with a conservation easement in place MPAC recognizes that the development potential of property is removed, resulting in a lower fair market value.
- D) What about potential structures? Earlier feedback from members encouraged flexibility of being able to erect a structure that could be used for research, educational purposes or for social activities. LSC committee agrees to allow for some flexibility in the agreement, but has no recommendations for any specific structure.  
Doug Grundy spoke that the current draft agreement is written with some flexibility to allow the community to provide their input & thoughts.

There will be a Zoom meeting organized to get more feedback & answer questions.

Janet Brooks thanked the LSC committee for all the good /hard work they have done over the years on this important community issue.

**E. Land Use- Nick Loughheed:** There are currently lengthy backlogs at the township with regards to planning & building. The township is still without a director of planning. Anyone taking on building projects expect them to be delayed.

The land use and planning committee consists of: Peter Foulds, Bob Duncanson, Patsy Cross, Ian McDonald, Stewart Elgie & Nick. Ted Cape recently retired from the committee.

**F. Communications/ Website- Ashley Allen:** The club has 3 avenues of communication, website: [www.gohomebay.org](http://www.gohomebay.org), Community Facebook page & if you have not signed up for Mad Mail please provide your email address to: [webmaster@gohomebay.com](mailto:webmaster@gohomebay.com)

All Board of Directors contact info is on the website.

Due to changing Facebook regulations, we had to modify & have 2 pages. The 1<sup>st</sup> page is for community to engage in discussion, post upcoming events & reach out to others. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Facebook page is the new Madawaska Club of Go Home Bay buy & sell group. This page is devoted to buying & selling items. You can also post ads looking to hire a service, painting, babysitting etc. If you have services available you can post your ad with the services you are offering on the Buy/Sell Facebook page. There are currently 225 members and growing. You are urged to join this group & let other community members know to join. Any new member to either Facebook must complete a set of basic questions and agree to the rules of the group.

Dana Stewart stated that for young people trying to find work the current buy/sell Facebook page is much smaller than our regular Facebook page meaning they are reaching fewer people that might be interested in their services. The new Facebook rules require them to be on the buy/sell page. There was a suggestion that people looking for work might want to post an ad at the dock.

David Trusler thanked Neil McGregor for creating the GoHome411-google-drive page. Currently there are approximately 100 people listed. This means if someone needs help they can find a number to reach somebody. The numbers helps us to create a stronger sense of community so we can get in touch with each other.

**6. Hub Committee Report-George Wishart:** George thanked all the members that have worked on the committee. Everyone is invited to a Hub brainstorming session Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup> 11 -1 p.m. at the Main dock. The theme is Past, Present, and Future. The committee would like you to attend share your thoughts and any new ideas you might have. This is a brainstorming session only.

Janet Brooks asked that the community keep in mind that they are very close to both the Caretakers site and the Main Dock and that as the community looks into the future of the area, please keep in mind they are a part of the Go Home Bay community.

Peter Smith stated that the brainstorming session is meant to be multi-generational and they would like to see attendance from all generations to represent the community.

**7. Other Business:** Waste Management is an ongoing topic with the Township. Lewis has a drafted letter to the Mayor and the Township with regards to the needs of Go Home Bay & waste removal.

David Lord asked how do we get large item pick up back, it is irresponsible for this service not to be provided and what do we get for our tax dollars? The board is continuing to stay involved on the waste management issue & will keep the community abreast of any developments.

Boat Safety: Please ensure your boat lights are working and use them. Derek Wishart would help any individuals that are struggling to acquire working boat lights.

**8. Questions & Answers:** It is very evident that the waste management issue and how do we deal with our waste is something the board needs to pursue.

Stoney McCart suggested that as a board we might want to look at a total Environmental Strategy (including waste).

Lewis said that the Board is considering in the rebalancing of portfolios having a portfolio that include “municipal affairs” and another portfolio that is director of strategy.

Nancy McFadden stated that a number of properties have changed hands and that new members need to be formerly welcomed into the community. There is the need for a new map with accurate names on each site. Emily Fells is working on a new cottage tree which will address some of these issues.

**9. Thank you all for attending 2022 Dock Meeting.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Jan Wishart