

FARLAIN LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Minutes of August 5, 2020 – AGM

AGENDA – August 5th, 2020		
Time	Topic	Facilitator:
7:00 – 7:10	Welcome and Introductions	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:10 – 7:15	Approval of 2019 Annual General Minutes	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:15 – 7:30	Report from the President	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:30 – 7:35	Membership Update	Pat Kelso
7:35 – 8:05	Presentation from Severn Sound Environmental Association followed by Q & A	Michelle Hudolin Michael Rogers
8:05 – 8:25	Updates from the Tiny Township Council followed by Q & A	Cindy Hastings Tony Mintoff
8:25 – 8:40	Financial Report	Ross Graham
8:40 – 8:45	Election of the FLCA Board of Directors	Doug Kirk
8:45 – 8:55	Review and Discussion of Submitted Questions	Jeanette Parker
8:55 – 9:00	Adjournment	Elizabeth Di Chiara

1. Welcome & Introductions

President Elizabeth Di Chiara began the meeting at 7 pm, thanking all for attending. There were 62 people signed up for the meeting. The quorum of 10 members had been met.

- Jeanette Parker reviewed the basics on using ZOOM and introduced Lynne Archibald, FoTTSA Secretary, who had set up the registration for the meeting and provided technical support. Many thanks to Lynne for her assistance.

2. Approval of 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes

- Minutes of the 2019 meeting had been posted to the FLCA website with a link included with the notice. No changes were forthcoming.

Motion: That the Minutes of the 2019 FLCA AGM be approved.
 By: Wendy Huck
 Second: Pat Kelso
 CARRIED

3. Report from the President - by Elizabeth Di Chiara

- Only through the power of community can we meet the environmental challenges facing our lake.

High Water Level

- The water levels were almost a foot lower than the same time last year. Levels were lower in the spring and that carried into the summer. The SSEA will continue to monitor the water level data.

- University students took sediment samples in February, but due to COVID no results were yet available.
- Monitoring would continue and we thank our citizen scientists, the Allans, who were taking readings and forwarding the data to the SSEA.
- There was also a gauge on Bill Sweenie's property and readings were reported to the SSEA. It was also showing lower water levels.
- A working group had been established with the Township, but they were unable to meet due to COVID.

Septage

- There were no new updates, although it continued to be an issue. No further progress has been made in this area since the septage company continues to follow all the rules.

Eurasian Water Milfoil

- The FLCA was presented with the FOCA 2019 Annual Achievement Award at the FOCA annual spring seminar for the work which had been done in this area. We had also been contacted by other associations asking for information.
- Peter and Daryl Andrews had continued to provide leadership since he found the plant in 2012. They have spent countless hours preparing a management strategy. An "Integrated Management Plan" has been developed. Although he has stepped back from an active role with the project, Pete has continued to help with reporting requirements, permit applications and providing advice and guidance to the Committee.
- The work plan for 2020 was modified due to COVID and staff turnover at the SSEA. The result was the cancellation of the weekend harvesting, and the management project was limited to two applications of the herbicide in July. Fortunately, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) extended the grant for one additional year to the end of 2022.
- Sincere thanks to the EWM team – Greg Goss, Brian Kelso, Lory Brouillette and Judy Buchanan, to the divers who have volunteered and assisted with the review of the current infestation sites, and to the new members who have joined the Committee – Andrew Particka, Brent Graham and Kelly Biagi.
- Ten infestation sites of various sizes and density have been mapped to date. The EWM Committee continues to monitor the development of these sites.
- In 2021, we hope to use the bottom barriers again since they have proven effective.
- Thank you to Pete for all his years of help. Pete and Daryl have been tireless advocates for our lake and will continue to be available to provide advice. Pete is the author of the Lake to Sky Management Plan approved by the FLCA members in 2013, and has led the Committee since then.

Other Issues

- Short term rentals and their impact on the lake community was another issue.
- The Lake Partner program for testing water quality had been put on hold since the provincial lab had been tied up with COVID testing. The FoTTSA water quality testing program had excellent results. Thank you to Kelly Biagi who had taken over the role of water sampling from Bill Sweenie.
- Another issue continued to be speeding. The Township installed an electronic sign showing the speed being travelled, but it had not been much of a deterrent. The newly paved roads had actually worsened the problem.
- In the communication area, there have been approximately 30 email alerts sent out this year, and the FLCA continues to issue Ripples 3 times per year.
- The Facebook page now had 197 followers.
- Thank you to the members for their response to the cleanup of storm damage at the O'Reilly property.

Gypsy Moth Infestation

- The second year of this infestation had a major impact on the lake environment. The FLCA has done surveys with our members to ascertain the damage done and what our members have done to combat this problem.
- FLCA had shared information re management strategies with members, and supported FoTTSA's request that the Township consider aerial spraying or at the very least, waive the Township's restriction on over spraying on public land to make it easier for property owners to arrange their own spraying.

4. Membership Update – by Pat Kelso

- There were 115 members in the 2018-19 membership year and 108 in 2019-20. Our numbers tended to fluctuate between 90 to 120 members. New members were always welcome.
- To date, 54 members had already renewed for the 2020-2021 membership year which began August 1st.
- Through the FLCA, members are kept informed of current issues and provided a cohesive voice for the community, particularly re environmental issues. It provides liaison with other cottage associations such as FoTTSA and FOCA, as well as the SSEA and Tiny Township.
- Members have access to retail discounts through FoTTSA. The code for the discount at RONA is "Tiny Cottager -#174386 RONA".
- New members had several ways to join - download the membership form from the web site, contact the FLCA through inquiries@farlainlake.ca or any member of the Board.
- Membership is only \$40 per household. You can renew your membership through e-transfer or cheque.
- Membership terms are for 1, 2 or 5 years. If you need to confirm when your membership expires, contact us at inquiries@farlainlake.ca.
- Our strength is in our numbers.

5. Presentation from SSEA

- Two presentations were made by our guests from the SSEA.
- The SSEA is partners with 8 municipalities in our water shed area and they also receive some support from other federal and provincial agencies. Its focus is on water quality and invasive species in the region. Both presentations were posted to the AGM pages on the FLCA web site and downloadable as PDF files.

EWM – presented by Michael Rogers, Student Intern

- The EWM poses a threat both to the environment and the economy. It is a feathery, submerged plant. The plant has segments of 12 per each side of the leaf and is in whorls of 4. Red tips at the top are where new growth comes from. It grows to be very dense. It can cause damage to recreational equipment and be dangerous to swim.
- Once advanced it is difficult to remove and costly to manage. It can reduce property values and kill fish.
- Leaf fragments can spread the plant resulting in new colonies.
- It is important to clean, drain & dry any aquatic equipment to try and reduce the spread.
- Different control methods have been used by the FLCA to try and reduce the spread including herbicide, mats and hand harvesting. The methods can be tailored to each site.
- Herbicide use must be approved by various government bodies and applied by a licensed applicator who is knowledgeable in the handling of herbicides. It sinks and kills off living plant matter and as such is used for dense infestations.

- The herbicide known as Reward is used in combination with the mats. It is not dangerous to fish or other wildlife and has been used for over 45 years.
- After the application, those property owners within 200 ft. of the sprayed area on the lake should avoid swimming for 24 hours and limit water irrigation for 5 days.
- Due to COVID, the FLCA work plan was modified this year, limited to the herbicide application.
- Over next 2 years the SSEA will be involved with project planning and evaluation.
- It was stressed that there was no simple solution to the problem and the SSEA would continue to work with the FLCA on the challenge of managing the invasion of the plant.
- Success depended on the awareness, support and involvement of all members of the community.
- Participants in the meeting then had the opportunity to raise questions online:

Q1- Have we considered introducing insects?

That option has been discussed. Research was done and the weevil wasn't available. The weevil is small (about the size of a sesame seed) and is grown in labs. It is introduced to the plants and would line the stem and weaken the plant. The Canadian distributor did not remain in business. It was expensive and not always successful. You would need approximately 8,000 weevils at \$1.25 each. Rigorous testing would be needed to ensure there were no unintended consequences. This would not eradicate the plant, but help control it.

Q2 – How effective is the herbicide?

Reward suppresses the growth of the target plant, but it does not kill the plant. This is the only herbicide approved for use by Health Canada. In an open body of water, there would not be much impact. It can knock down the plant in small protected areas near the shoreline which are shallower.

Gypsy Moth – presented by Michelle Hudolin, SSEA Wetlands and Habitat Biologist

- The gypsy moth is a non-native invasive species which spread to Ontario by 1969. Outbreaks are cyclical occurring every 7-10 years. A rapid rise is followed by a crash due to natural causes and competition. The moth cannot be completely eradicated. Ontario has experienced 4 major outbreaks 1985, 1991, 2002 & 2008.
- The life cycle consists of:
 - Eggs – yellow egg masses present in spring
 - Larva (caterpillar) – most destructive stage from spring to July since it is consuming leaves
 - Pupae (cocoon) – not eating at this stage
 - Moth – focus is on reproduction
- Caterpillars are voracious eaters. They prefer hard wood trees such as oak, maple and birch among others. One caterpillar can eat 1 square meter over its lifetime.
- Healthy trees can overcome the defoliation, but if there are other stressors such as other pests or high water levels there can be higher mortality. Trees may have new leaves later in the season.
- The SSEA is using an integrated approach. The MNR is preparing maps to track the infestation and monitoring the population. SSEA is also in constant contact with other partners such as the Simcoe Forestry Dept.
- Natural controls are fungal & viral pathogens which can cause a collapse. Birds, small mammals and other insects are predators. A cold winter can also have an impact.
- You should use gloves when trying to destroy the eggs and larva since they have hairs which can cause allergic reactions.
- Egg masses can be destroyed year round by putting them in soapy water or burn them.

- Another method is to put burlap around the tree to try and trap the caterpillars.
- There are 2 insecticides available. Landowners must decide whether to use an insecticide. One is an injection to each tree and another is a spray to kill the caterpillars. Injection is for high risk trees.
- The timing of the herbicide spray treatment is essential for successful control. It is very time sensitive. It must be in late May when the caterpillars are eating the leaves.
- You must have a qualified applicator. Permits could be required.
- Links were provided on where to find more information. Participants were able to ask questions online:

Q1 – Why don't birds eat them?

Some birds do, but not many. The caterpillars can be too spiny for some birds.

Q2 – If you wrap the tree without the spray, is that effective?

Yes, how practical that solution is depends on the size of your property since it is labour intensive to remove the caterpillars by hand.

Q3 – Are gypsy moth pupa similar to other non invasive species?

A lot of species can be distinct. If they do look similar, you can tell the difference since different species hatch at different times of the year. Michelle can do more research in this area and forward the information to Elizabeth.

- Elizabeth thanked the SSEA for their valuable presentations.

6. Updates from Tiny Township Council – Councillors Cindy Hastings and Tony Mintoff.

Cindy Hastings:

- Cindy thanked the FLCA for the opportunity and provided an update on the issue of septage management:
- The Township had an assessment done on whether to build a septage plant.
- The Township has been advocating to discontinue the spread of septage on land, but it has no authority to control this septage spread. The province was contacted in 2016 about this issue.
- A working group with the province was formed in 2017, however not all participants wanted to discontinue the practice.
- A local representative has been contacted to monitor the spread if there are any complaints.
- A presentation with the SSEA was done in 2019 advocating the discontinued application of raw septage on land.
- There was a concern as to whether COVID would be in the waste material. Based on data from the World Health Organization, the answer is no.
- The Township has not forgotten about the issue. Letters have been sent to the Ministry advocating for the spread to be discontinued and allowing for alternate solutions.

Q1- Why are we concerned about the spreading on a field?

Tiny has 2 sites which allow for spreading of untreated septage. One field being used is within 500 meters of the lake. There is a concern for the quality of water in the lake. Currently there does not appear to be any impact on the quality of water in the lake but we continue to monitor it.

Tony Mintoff:

- Tony thanked the FLCA for allowing him to the opportunity to participate in the meeting. It is a good opportunity for Council to hear of our concerns. He then spoke to the issue of internet service in Tiny.

- The broad band service in Tiny is not good. All levels of government are aware of the need for broad band internet access which has been magnified with the COVID outbreak.
- A broad band ad hoc committee was created in 2019 looking at how to improve service, provide funding and expand the internet to underserved areas. Internet service providers (ISP) look at it as a financial decision and if the Township could enter into a partnership, it might make the investment of towers and infrastructure more attractive.
- In 2019, the Township made an application to the Simcoe Development fund for a grant of \$50k to hire a project manager to target ISP with a view to identifying potential joint ventures.
- In 2020, Council requested expressions of interest with respondents willing to apply for partial funding opportunities from other available programs.
- The Township could partner with an internet service provider and provide funds for a tower.
- The Province has committed \$28 million to improve service in Simcoe County and \$64 million has been committed to improve service throughout Ontario and support SWIFT initiatives.
- SWIFT Inc is a non profit organization which looks at submitted proposals from ISP. Vendors must submit network designs and proposals to address gaps in service.
- The Province sees it as a priority to connect rural Ontario.
- The Township has to rely on other levels of government for partial funding.
- There was an analysis done several years ago highlighting the gaps in service.
- There has been more activity in improving cell service. A new cell tower has gone up in Balm Beach and there are applications for other towers in Wyebridge and Wyevale.

Speeding:

- The Township has posted a radar sign, but the speeding issue has not improved much.
- The Township is currently looking at the feasibility of photo radar but the units are expensive. It tends to be used more in the City.
- The Township is committed to putting up speed signs.
- FoTTSA did a speeding traffic survey and the results are being discussed with the Township.
- Participants had the opportunity to ask the following questions:

Q1 Any idea of the timing for better internet?

We cannot give a timeline at this point. It could be 1-2 years with different areas being phased in. Internet service providers are likely not to be profitable in more rural areas.

Q2 – Is there fiber optic cable on Champlain Rd?

Yes. The Township is tracking where cables are being laid.

Q3 – The calming bumps were removed when the sign was installed. Why were the bumps not reinstalled?

There were mixed responses from the community with both positive and negative feedback. Tony will follow up with the Public Works and get back to Elizabeth.

Q4 - Rob McDonald, a permanent resident, has been in contact with Bell regarding their wireless home internet. Bell uses a different technology which is transmitted from cell towers. This can result in a cheaper service. However, not all addresses can get this service. LTE is slower and more expensive. Is Tiny Township aware of this wireless home internet technology?

The Municipality uses point to point service. It has been installed in community centers. The Township IT person has been in contact with both Bell and Rogers. The technology continues to evolve, for example more satellites are being put in place.

The Township would like to hear from people who have had success with their internet service. This information can be posted on the website. For example, people can band together and try and get point to point service. Point to point is not always high speed.

Tony will keep Elizabeth informed of any new information. It was noted that due to the area topography, towers may not help improve service.

Q5 - Is Tiny Township considering spraying for gypsy moth?

The Township is following the advice of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the SSEA, who have done a survey of the damage. At present the Township can't say yes or no, but there are no current plans to spray for next year. Individuals are free to spray their own properties as long as they have permission from neighbouring property owners.

Q6 - What needs to happen to move forward with spraying?

The Township will look at the results of these other agencies and act on their advice. Is the moth population being reduced due to natural causes? The SSEA will continue to monitor the data and the MNR is doing aerial surveys. Individuals can continue to send information to the SSEA. There are no plans for intervention at the County level.

Q7 – Is the Township still considering a new facility?

The concern with the existing facility was overcrowding and age. There is a committee looking at this issue. Everything has now changed since staff are working from home.

Elizabeth thanked Councillors Hastings and Mintoff for attending and providing helpful information to the members.

A poll was taken to ascertain whether members supported they support the application of aerial spraying? Spraying would need to be done in the early spring. The herbicide degrades quickly so spraying needs to be done when the caterpillars are small. Multiple treatments may be required.

Results – 78% were in favour of spraying.

The FLCA will continue to provide information to the members on this issue.

7. Financial Report – presented by Ross Graham

- Detailed financials will be posted on the website for members' review. The fiscal year end is July 31.
- The FLCA funds are held in 3 buckets: 1) EWM Reserve Fund, 2) FLCA Operations and 3) OTF Grant.
- The EWM fund consists of donations received from the community, sponsors and FLCA fundraising separate from the OTF grant and set aside for EWM expenses post-grant.
- From 2013 to 2020, \$110k has been raised with expenditures of \$85 leaving a balance of \$25k which is being held in reserve. Of this, \$20k is invested in a GIC.
- This is a war chest to manage EWM after the 3 years of the OTF grant. We need to be in a position to control EWM after the grant period.
- The FLCA Operations consists of membership dues less expenses. There was an opening balance of \$8k with membership revenue of \$4k offset by \$5k of expenses, such as the website and insurance, leaving a closing balance of \$7k.
- The final fund is the OTF grant. Funds are received throughout the 3 year grant period of 2019 to 2021. The FLCA must continue to meet the grant specifications to receive the funds.
- To date \$148k has been received with \$97k of expenditures.

- Due to COVID, the grant has been extended by one year to 2022. The only EWM control method done this year was the two herbicide applications in July 2020.
- By the end of 2022, the FLCA will receive an additional \$52k. All the funds must be spent and expenses must be closely monitored. After those funds are gone we will only have the EWM fund.
- The FLCA is a non-profit organization. An audit review is required if revenues are between \$50k and \$100k unless approval is given to the Board by the members to approve unaudited statements. Due to the OTF grant we are now in that category.
- Ross requested that the members of the Farlain Lake Community Association grant the authority to the Board of Directors to approve the unaudited annual financial statements when the annual revenue does not exceed \$100,000.

Motion: That the members of the FLCA grant the Board of Directors the authority to present un-audited financial statements to the members for approval when the annual FLCA revenue does not exceed \$100k.

By: Ross Graham

Second: Herb Huck

CARRIED

Motion: That the Financial Report be accepted.

By: Ross Graham

Second: Peter Andrews

CARRIED

8. Election of FLCA Board of Directors – presented by Doug Kirk

- Directors can be elected for up to 2 three year terms with 1 year extensions. Members are encouraged to run for election to continue the association work.
- There were two new nominations this year- Scott Dales and Jeanette Parker. Scott and his wife Kelly are permanent residents, new to the Farlain Lake community. Scott is retired and has a background in the auto industry and a knowledge of construction. He has been involved in many team activities and past communities.
- Jeanette Parker has been assisting with the FLCA communication particularly with Facebook postings and emails for the past couple of years. Through her work she is responsible for social media/internal communications and data management. Her communication skills will be a valuable asset to the Board.
- There are two continuing directors who are in the 3rd year of their first term:
Wendy Huck, Secretary
Doug Kirk, Director, FLCA Representative on FoTTSA Board of Directors

The following slate was presented to the members for election:

Returning Directors:

Elizabeth Di Chiara, President

Don Ferguson, Vice President (extension for 1 year)

Ross Graham, Treasurer (extension for 1 year)

Wendy Huck, Secretary

Pat Kelso, Membership Director (extension for 1 year)

Doug Kirk

New Directors:
Scott Dales, Director
Jeanette Parker, Director

Motion: That the slate be approved by the members for election to the FLCA Board as presented.

By: Doug Kirk

Second: Tammy Turpin

CARRIED

- Elizabeth noted that Bill Sweenie was retiring from the Board after many years as a Director. Our sincere thanks to Bill and his wife Elaine for all their work on behalf of the FLCA and to Bill in particular for his dedication and assistance with the community's environmental issues. She also thanked Bill for the use of the farm property which is used as home base for the EWM project, EWM equipment and storage. Words were not enough to express our appreciation for all that Bill had done.

9. Review and Discussion of Submitted Questions – by Jeanette Parker

- Pat and Frank O'Reilly wanted to express their appreciation to the FLCA and neighbours for coming to their aid in clearing the damage from a sudden storm earlier in the season. Many thanks to the people who came out and donated their time and equipment.
- Mary Kirk informed the group that she had information on an aerial spraying for gypsy moth. That information will be communicated to the members.
- It was asked whether the unsightly concrete barricades installed at the north end Township property could be replaced with something more visually appealing. Elizabeth agreed to follow up with the Township.

10. Adjournment

- Elizabeth thanked everyone for their participation in our first virtual meeting and adjourned the session at 9:20pm
- Members were reminded they could contact the FLCA through inquiries@farlainlake.ca.