

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
August 11, 2021

MINUTES

AGENDA – August 11th, 2021		
Time	Topic	Facilitator:
7:00 – 7:05	Welcome and Introductions	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:05 – 7:05	Approval of 2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:05 – 7:15	Report from the President	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:15 – 7:30	Special Presentations	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:30 – 7:35	Membership Report	Pat Kelso
7:35 – 7:50	EWM Presentation from Severn Sound Environmental Association followed by Q & A	Tamara Brincat, IS Coordinator, SSEA
7:50 – 8:05	Boating Speed and Wake Issues – Be #WakeAware	Jeanette Parker
8:05 – 8:15	Teedon Gravel Pit Issue Update	Judith Grant, FoTTSA
8:15 – 8:30	Updates from the Tiny Township Council followed by Q & A	Mayor George Cornell
8:30 – 8:35	Amendment to the By-laws	Elizabeth Di Chiara
8:35 – 8:45	Financial Report	Ross Graham
8:45 – 8:50	Election of the FLCA Board of Directors	Doug Kirk
8:50 – 9:00	Review and Discussion of Submitted Questions	Jeanette Parker
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 over 50 participants registered for the meeting. The quorum of 10 members had been met. The Board and guests were introduced and appreciation expressed to FoTTSA for the use of its Zoom platform. Zoom basics were reviewed by FLCA Board member Jeanette Parker, technology manager for the meeting.

2. Approval of 2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 2020 meeting had been posted to the FLCA website with a link included with the notice. No changes were forthcoming.

<p>Motion: That the Minutes of the 2020 FLCA AGM be approved. By: Wendy Huck Second: Pat Kelso CARRIED</p>
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3. Report from the President - by Elizabeth Di Chiara

Only through the power of community can we meet the environmental challenges facing our lake. There will be a more detailed report in the upcoming summer issue of Ripples and posted to the website.

Gypsy Moth Infestation

The Township decided not to implement any aerial spraying for the spring of 2021. As a result, the FLCA, with thanks to Mary Kirk, took on the role of facilitating private spraying through Zimmer Air. Owners on the east side and clusters on the west and south sides participated. The spraying had a positive impact based on the feedback. Unknown for the coming year is what the Township will do and what the forecast will look like. Discussions are underway at the Township regarding next year's planning. Paul Zimmer presented to Council in July and Council will hold meetings in September. Forecasting next year, which is the fourth year of the cycle, is dependent on surveying egg masses in the fall.

Eurasian Water Milfoil

The EWM is continuing to spread despite our efforts to manage it. Two applications of the herbicide were applied this year. The EWM team has been doing reviews of the various sites and responding to reports of additional sites. Thank you to the EWM team. Special thank you to Lory Brouillette for use of her underwater drone. We also want to thank Pete Andrews for his ongoing commitment and assistance.

We have signed an agreement with the SSEA for their assistance for the next 2 years using grant funds. SSEA will provide its expertise as a consultant and assist with planning, monitoring, mapping and education. With the extension of the grant period, we have those funds until the end of 2022. After that we will need to use funds already set aside and start fundraising to sustain our efforts.

Kids' Fishing Derby

We held our first ever Kids Fishing Derby virtually on Canada Day weekend. Photos and stories have been posted to the website. Due to the positive feedback, we are hoping to hold an in person Derby next year. Many thanks to Scott Dales for initiating and planning this successful event.

Other Issues

Funding has been approved through the SWIFT project to support the installation of Bell's "Fibre to Home" service around the lake. Work has been underway to install the cabling. Service was projected to be available in the fall.

Water quality monitoring continues through MNR's Lake Partner program and FoTTSA's program which were outlined in the spring Ripples issue.

Water Level

Monitoring the water level continues using the gauge installed at the boat launch. When it was installed in April the level read 34 cm which was lower than last year. The gauge now reads around 20 cm. It is going up and down with the level of precipitation.

Thanks to the Allans and Pat Kelso for sending readings to the SSEA. Aisha Chiandet of the SSEA integrates those readings with precipitation records.

Conclusion

Sincere thanks to Jeanette Parker who is helping with communication and technology. Many e-letters have been sent this year as well as the issues of Ripples, Facebook postings and updates of the website.

I'd like to sincerely thank the FLCA Board for all its hard work. Each member has a role over and above participating in Board meetings. Sustaining the leadership needed to keep the FLCA going and growing is a huge challenge. We need others to take on leadership positions, bring fresh ideas and new energy.

4. Special Presentations – Elizabeth Di Chiara

The President noted that earlier this summer a new park bench was installed at the boat launch on Andrew Drive as a tribute to two special people, Bill Sweenie and Peter Andrews. Plaques in both their names have been attached to the bench. A special presentation of the commemorative bench was made to Bill and Pete in June by His Worship, Mayor George Cornell via Zoom.

At this meeting, Bill Sweenie was presented with a framed picture collage in recognition of his contributions to the Farlain Lake community. Many thanks to Pete & Daryl Andrews for creating these collages which we understand will have a place in their new home on the lake.

Peter Andrews was presented with a hard cover photo book commemorating many years of leadership and commitment to FLCA and the lake, which included messages from friends and contacts, as a thank you for his many years of service to the Farlain Lake community. Jeanette thanked the Board on behalf of Bill and Pete thanked the Board.

5. Membership Report – Pat Kelso

Pat reported that there were 120 members in the 2020-21 membership year and 108 in 2019-20. Our numbers tended to fluctuate between 90 to 120 members. New members are always welcome. To date, 68 members had already renewed for the 2021-2022 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 lake associations such as FoTTSA and FOCA, as well as the SSEA and Tiny Township. Members have access to retail discounts through FoTTSA. New members had several ways to join - downloading the membership form from the website, contacting the FLCA through inquiries@farlainlake.ca, or any member of the Board.

Membership is only \$40 per household. Current members could renew their membership through e-transfer or cheque. Membership terms are for 1, 2 or 5 years. Any questions re your membership can be sent to us at inquiries@farlainlake.ca.

6. Presentation from SSEA – by Tamara Brincat

Tamara Brincat, Invasive Species Coordinator at the SSEA gave a special presentation regarding the EWM. The SSEA are 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. She noted that a pdf copy of her slides would be posted to the FLCA web site following the meeting.

EWM out competes native plants by growing in dense underwater canopies which affects the bio diversity of the lake and has a negative impact on recreational use. 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.

It was first detected in the lake in 2012, and control efforts have involved a significant amount of time and resources. The receipt of the Ontario Trillium Grant in 2018 was instrumental in moving the project forward. In 2019, the EWM Integrated Management Strategy was implemented. This year there were 2 control methods used, benthic mats and herbicide applications. The mats cover the plant to inhibit the light. Herbicide is used for dense infestations since it sinks and affects living plant matter.

No hand harvesting was done this year similar to last year due to COVID. Reward is only herbicide approved for use. It is not specific to EWM and becomes inactive upon contact with the lake bottom. It is not dangerous to fish or other wildlife and has been used for over 45 years. All necessary permits were obtained and the herbicide was applied by a licensed applicator. The first application was done July 15, 2021 and the second on July 29, 2021. After the application, within 200 feet you must avoid using the water for 24 hours and limit water irrigation for 5 days.

A rotation of management techniques is used to prevent plant resistance. Leaf fragments can spread the plant resulting in new colonies. A map was shared detailing which infestation sites had herbicide applied. There were 6 sites in total. New infestations were identified in 2021. Mats have not yet been placed. The Committee was planning to put down the mats on August 23, 2021 at several sites. Sightings of the EWM should be reported to the EWM Committee and if the infestation is small remove it by placing it on land and letting it dry. The spread can be reduced by cleaning off watercraft and equipment and reducing water disturbance by controlling your wake. SSEA will be assisting in mapping the infestation sites.

It is important to educate the community, share information and resources with others. Links to other resources are included on the slides.

An opportunity for Q and A followed the presentation:

Q1- Could lawn fertilization be feeding EWM?

Yes it is possible, but it depends on the fertilizer.

Q2 – Is it worse now or getting better?

Management efforts are helping. There are better identification tools. There is more research and monitoring. We need to continue to identify and manage the infestations.

It is a high risk lake since it is shallow. The plant takes over the habitat below the surface so native plants will disappear. You will not get rid of the plant, you can only manage it.

Q3 – Do you work on EWM with other lakes?

Other associations have not advanced as far. FLCA is at the forefront of EWM management. FOCA membership is another way to keep in touch with other associations.

Elizabeth thanked Tamara on behalf of the FLCA for her valuable presentation.

7. Boat Speed and Wake Issues – by Jeanette Parker

There is increasing concern about wakes and their effect on the lake. Research on the environmental impact of wakes has just begun. FOCA has just distributed a video promoting “Be Wake Aware” for lakes in Ontario, which was shown at the meeting and was available as a link on the FOCA web site. The Board has been gathering information from the OPP, FOCA and other associations in regards to the issue and education as to the impact of wake on the shoreline and environment is very important. A short poll of those participating in the meeting was then conducted.

Poll Questions:

Are you concerned about the speeding and wake issues that have been raised? Yes – 85%

Do you support an in-depth survey on the topic for members as the first step in a consultation process? Yes – 85%

8. Teedon Gravel Pit Issue Update – by Judith Grant

Judith Grant, past President of FoTTSA, provided background information on this issue and a current update on the work undertaken by FoTTSA. Information is also available on the GoTTSA web site, including a special dedicated web site.

The Teedon gravel pit is located in the 1st Concession, east of County Road 6. In 2009 gravel mining increased dramatically, and the gravel is washed using water from the aquifer. The water quality in private wells deteriorated with silt and flooding. Complaints were filed with the owner and the Ministry of the Environment with no results.

In 2015 and 2017 a hydrogeologist recommended that the wash in the ponds be lined. In 2017, there was a change in ownership to CRH Canada Group (CRH). In 2018, they requested to have the water permits renewed. In addition, they filed an appeal with Township Planning Tribunal (LPAT) wanting to have the pit extended. In 2018, LPAT held a meeting to decide whether to allow private citizens to be a party, participant or observer to the proceedings. FoTTSA requested to be a party and retained the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), a pro bono law firm.

In 2020, CRH requested its permit to mine gravel be incorporated with the LPAT hearing. The hearing is behind due to COVID and may not be heard until 2023. In 2021, the Ministry of the Environment granted the water permit request. This issue is separate from the LPAT hearing. CELA is also representing FoTTSA and has filed an appeal as did the Township. If mediation cannot resolve the issue, a hearing will be held.

Another gravel operation owned by the Sarjeant Group has become active next to the pit. They have applied to the Ministry for a water permit for two wash ponds. FoTTSA hired a hydrogeologist to submit a comment. The Township's consultant has also found problems with the application. No decision has yet been made by the Ministry. To date FoTTSA has raised \$50k of the estimated total \$100k in costs.

A group of scientists are applying for a government grant to do research on the aquifer. FoTTSA is using publicity to try and stop aggregate mining. A Q and A opportunity was then provided with Judith responding.

Q1 – How are we raising funds going forward?

Funds will be spent on retention of a hydrogeologist. Need to have the ponds lined so the silt does not leak into aquifer. Need studies to assess why water is so pure.

Expect another \$50k will be needed. Still trying to assess how to fundraise.

Link on website for people to donate personally.

Website has information.

Q2 – How can we help?

Donate. Write letters to MPP saying we need to stop aggregate mining.

9. Updates from Tiny Township Council – by Mayor George Cornell

The gypsy moth is now called the LDD moth. The Township is aware of the steady increase in its population and that some residents requested spraying be done. The Township contacted Simcoe County Forest and the SSEA for recommendations re municipal spraying in 2021. Those organizations did not recommend spraying. They felt that the tree canopy would recover. The infestation is cyclical in nature and 2021 is the 3rd year of the cycle. It has likely reached its peak. A virus or fungus could end the cycle and there was some evidence of both. Weather would also have an impact and the population for 2022.

Council will issue a public survey in the next couple of weeks and hope to have a decision on spraying by the end of the year based on further study of the egg masses in the fall. Information on the moth is on all three websites.

Zimmer Air did a presentation to Council. The Township has until March 2022 to let them know if they want to proceed with spraying.

There is concern about the impact of short term rentals (STRs) on the community. Council has identified and is tracking problem sites. The Township would like a program for the regulation of STRs in place by the 1st quarter 2022, so it is in place before the season. Council convened a workshop and brought in other municipalities to review their policies and procedures. A 7 member task force whose mandate it is to review short term rentals has been formed. Its members include 2 people operating short term rentals, 2 members of Council, CAO as chair, and 2 people being impacted by short term rentals. Its objectives are to review the current and proposed short term rental situation, licensing by laws, the renters code of conduct, and the official plan and zoning regulations.

A discussion was held with the legal and planning departments regarding the by-laws.

There will likely be a combination of zoning amendments and licensing by-laws to manage a short term rental program.

There are two ongoing issues with respect to the Teedon gravel pit - the permit to take water and the expansion of the gravel pit. The Township has appealed the water permit and it is before the Ontario Land Tribunal. Another case management conference will be held to finalize the list of issues. No decision has been made. The expansion of the Teedon gravel pit was appealed by the Township. A technical review of the application has been prepared, but no decision has been made. The Township has requested discussion of a settlement. Township has made requests including the use of a liner. The next case management is at the end of 2021 for the CRH expansion. Sargeant does have a permit to take gravel, but now they are asking to take water to wash their gravel. Township has made formal comments on the Sargeant application. Township is waiting for the results of the ground water study.

The SWIFT project resulted in the County receiving funding from all levels of government and the internet service providers (ISP). The Township has awarded over 95 contracts totalling \$268 million. Bell was awarded the contracts in Tiny which include the installation of Bell fibre around Farlain Lake. There are 400 kms and 10,000 homes in the County which will be equipped with Bell fibre technology. The estimated completion is June 2022. Not all of Tiny Township was covered. The Province has set a goal of all homes and businesses having access to broad band technology by 2025. Rogers has put forward an application for the rest of Tiny Township.

Questions:

Q1- Why did Council vote against photo radar on Andrew Dr?

Feedback from the OPP was not supportive due to its cost and the technology.

The Township is currently working on a Transportation master plan which would include traffic calming.

Q2 – Are there by-laws about the use of fireworks?

There is a by-law regarding the sale of fireworks but no by law regarding the discharge of fireworks. This area is currently under review.

Information is posted on the FLCA website as well.

Elizabeth thanked Mayor Cornell on behalf of the FLCA for taking the time to join us this evening and providing helpful information to the members.

10. Amendment to the By-laws – by Elizabeth Di Chiara

The government is allowing non-profits to hold virtual meetings if it is provided for in the by-laws. As such, an amendment to Section 3.3 and deletion of Section 3.9 of our by-laws has been proposed.

Motion: That the Amendment to the By-laws be approved. By: Don Ferguson Second: Herb Huck CARRIED
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11. Financial Report – 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 2021, \$111k has been raised with expenditures of \$85 leaving a balance of \$26k 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 \$7k with membership revenue of \$5k offset by \$4k of expenses, such as the website and insurance, leaving a closing balance of \$8k.

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 \$115k 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 2021, so expenses are lower.

By the end of 2022, the FLCA will receive \$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.

Motion: That the FLCA members grant the authority to the Board of Directors to approve the unaudited annual financial statements when the annual revenue does not exceed \$100,000.

By: Ross Graham

Second: Wendy Huck

CARRIED

Motion: That the Financial Report be accepted.

By: Ross Graham

Second: Pete Andrews

CARRIED

12. 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. Directors provide leadership and continuity to the association. Our by-laws set the Board at a maximum of 10 directors. The current Board has 8 directors serving staggered terms.

There was one new nomination this year - Tom Hayes. Tom and his wife Margaret have been coming to the lake since 2004. He is a retired mechanical engineer with a background in operations management and consulting and has an interest in environmental issues.

Continuing Directors:

Elizabeth Di Chiara, President

Wendy Huck, Secretary

Doug Kirk, Director, FoTTSA Representative

Scott Dales, Director, Community Engagement

Jeanette Parker, Director, Communications

Directors for Re-election:

Don Ferguson, Vice President (extension for 1 year)

Ross Graham, Treasurer (extension for 1 year)

Pat Kelso, Director, Membership (extension for 1 year)

New Director:

Tom Hayes, Director (election for 3 years)

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

By: Doug Kirk

Second: Tammy Turpin

CARRIED

Congratulations and a warm welcome to the Board were extended to Tom.

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

Concern was raised about the speed and noise of watercraft. Speed should not exceed 10 km/hr. within 30 meters of shore. Education and consideration of others are important factors. Information has been posted on the website. A comment was made that larger boats should not be travelling in the north end of the lake and all boats should slow down in this area. There is concern that the EWM could be cut by propellers, further spreading the weed. In addition, wake boats are designed to create a wake 5-8 meters below the surface. This could break off plant fragments and spread the EWM infestation.

14. Adjournment

Elizabeth thanked everyone for their participation in our virtual meeting and adjourned the session at 9:15 pm.

Members were reminded they could contact the FLCA through inquiries@farlainlake.ca. A recording of this meeting would be posted to the FLCA web site as soon as possible.