

Echo Lake Association Annual General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 25, 2021 – Virtual via Zoom

Executive in Attendance:

Presidents: Michelle Leblond and Brad Lilleberg

Vice Presidents: Adriana Lurz

Treasurers: Val Stephens and Rob Brockbank

Secretary: Kristine Cooper

Past Presidents: Michelle and Ken Kavanagh

Members-at-Large: Daintry and Kim Christink, Cheryl Francis and Don Lawlor

Liaison Officers:

Eric McCormick (Hammond Rd, Winders Bay & Echo Lake Rd)

Adriana Lurz (Lawson Rd & Truscott Place)

Guest: Jacqueline Godard, Councillor

Regrets: Environmental Officer – Paul Ecclestone

Call the meeting to Order - 7:03pm by Michelle Leblond

Confirmation of Quorum – Michelle Leblond

Welcome and Introductions – Michelle Leblond

Proposal for Membership – Updated Membership Numbers – Michelle Leblond

- There are 115 cottages on the lake and 30 current members having paid dues

Approval of 2019 AGM Minutes – motion by Adriana Lurz, second Michelle Kavanagh. Motion Passed

NOTE – No Annual meeting was held in Summer 2020 due to COVID

President's Report – Michelle Leblond

- Due to COVID and as a result of the member survey, the AGM is being held virtually by Zoom instead of the usual in-person meeting and corn roast
- On Canada Day, there was boat float
- The lake occupant composition has changed over the years and we are seeing more renters
- Will need to rebuild a sense of community once COVID is over
- Communication and sharing of information through emails providing links to Safe Quiet Water webinar, Cottage Life articles, Mayor and bylaw updates

Treasurer's Report – Val Stephens

- Opening balance \$4,795.12 at June 30, 2021
- 2021 Dues collected - \$535.00
- Expenses – website Ethical Hosting \$288.69; plexiglass for Echo Lake sign \$251.71; AGM survey \$111.87 – TOTAL \$652.27
- Current balance \$4,677.85 at August 25, 2021

Environmental Report – Adriana Lurz

- Benthic Testing was done on the lake this summer for the first time at 2 sites - the camp and along the uninhabited shoreline nearby the camp. Benthic invertebrates are often sampled in aquatic monitoring programs because they are diverse, generally sedentary, **and are responsive to environmental alterations**. More importantly they are good indicators of ecosystem productivity and health. The full results will be posted to the FB page and website but the overall report was positive. Nothing stood out as a concern and the results were comparable to others observed across Muskoka. Most importantly, the testing establishes a trend and can be used to compliment other studies. The data will become more useful as we proceed with future studies. Next year, the study will include one of the original sites from this year and will alternate with the sites to gather data moving forward.

General environmental reminders include cautions around spraying for bugs and introducing insecticides into the lake eco system, significant wave action impacts wildlife and shorelines by creating erosion and impacting habitats. Likewise development and other changes to vegetation on properties can have negative impacts on the lake health and surrounding environmental systems.

Paul continues to track and report lake temperatures and clarity levels, ice freeze and melt days and post this and other relevant data to the Echo Lake website. As well there is information about Ash Recycling that has been provided by the Muskoka Watershed, which is a local group promoting the program.

General Discussion:

The importance of obtaining and maintaining current member contact information to allow contact and messaging was raised.

There was a discussion surrounding the concern of wakes and the increase in PWC having a detrimental effect on loon nests. The possibility of investing in raised loon nesting platforms was raised as an abandoned loon nest containing an unhatched egg was discovered on the lake this year. No Wake signs are available through Safe Quiet Lakes. It was suggested that property owners could share this type of information with renters through their Code of Conduct.

ACTION – Michelle will follow up with Laura Murray on an update for members related to the loons, platforms and how we can protect them.

Other reports –

- Councillor, ByLaw Officer, and Echo Lake Causation Study reports were provided to members by email as part of the AGM meeting package

Nominations for Office – Michelle Leblond

- No nominations were put forward, so the current executive will continue in their roles for one more year, with the exception of the secretary role which remains vacant. Any interested member in holding the Secretary role is asked to contact the Association

Old Business – Michelle Leblond

- Bylaws are on the website now and will likely undergo an update in the coming year

- Member Data and Dues - We want to ensure accurate contact information for members in order to communicate important information and safety concerns (i.e. loons, bears in the area). Members can control what information is shared with the general membership if there are concerns over privacy.
- Echo Lake Association Sign now has a Plexiglas cover and the Little Library has had the post solidified. There has been lots of positive feedback on the Little Library.
- Facebook Page – is not an Echo Lake Association FB page, more social and multi-generational but still a great means of communication and connection for lake residents. All official communications and concerns should continue to go through the Association website and email.

Councillor Update – Jacqueline Godard

- Short Term Rentals licensing is being addressed at the Township Level. Jacqueline would like an information package for property owners to provide to renters.
- She also suggested a goal of increasing membership to our Association from the current 26% to 50%

New Business – Michelle Leblond

- There was no new business

For the Good and Welfare of the Association – Michelle Leblond

- No updates

Adjournment – Michelle Leblond

- Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm