**BURRITT’S RAPIDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 13 2019**

**Members in Attendance:** Bart Bilmer, John Dwyer, Jill MacDonald, Vonda Stanley, Joan Simpson, Inge vanGemeren

**Community Members in Attendance:** Angela Lyrette (Rental Agent)

**NG Councillors in Attendance (first part of meeting only)**: Jim McManaman (Deputy Mayor and Chair of the Planning and Development Committee); John Barclay (Chair of Public Works Committee)

**Planning for NG Council Meeting:**

The NG Councillors in attendance briefed the Board on the Council’s plan to have a General Town Hall Meeting in Burritt’s Rapids on June 25th 2019 from 6:30 to 8:30. The intention is to hold an informal meeting to allow the Mayor and Councillors to introduce themselves and to hear from residents as to their needs and/or concerns. No decisions were to be made at it; the meeting is for informational purposes only. Depending on issues to be discussed, there may be staff present.

There was an exchange of information between the Board and the Councillors on issues of current concern to residents – street-scape and traffic flow; community design guidelines, including drainage; transportation plan.

The Board agreed to inform residents of the Town Hall meeting, pass along any information we receive, as necessary, on other current concerns raised with us and to keep a speaker’s list for the Council at the meeting.

**Jill is to be responsible for coffee; Inge for tim-bits or some-such. AN AIDE-MEMOIRE - NOT FOR MINUTES**

**Financial Report:**

The Treasurer presented a financial report highlighting major areas of expenditure and income. She also briefed the Board members and Rental Agent on progress to-date in ensuring that renters can use electronic banking. This may require a change to our by-laws. She is to follow-up on this issue. John Dwyer moved that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Vonda Stanley and the motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the April Meeting were approved unanimously. (No meeting was held in May)

**Hall Maintenance & Rentals:**

***Staining***

The Chairperson was to follow-up with proposed contractors and have them proceed as soon as possible with scraping and staining the Hall as discussed previously.

***Hall Rental Sign***

The Chairperson noted that the current rental sign was in ill repair and the contact number provided on it out-dated. It was agreed that she could have the sign repaired and up-dated.

***Role of the Rental Agent***

There was a discussion on the need to ensure that the rental agent remained the point of contact between renter and potential renters and the Board.

***Miscellaneous***

It was proposed that a runner be purchased and used in the off seasons to help keep the Hall clean. (Winter runners and mats are rented for that season.) This was agreed to.

**Community Issues:**

***Over-weight vehicles***

Several members pointed out that the Swing Bridge continued to be used by over-weight vehicles despite the signage prohibiting this. Resident Greg Johnston in particular has had to stop and turn around vehicles a number of times, including when Parks Canada staff had been present. It was agreed that member John Dwyer was to draft a letter to Parks Canada about the situation in the hopes that they would take further measures to prevent this.

***Historic Signage***

There was a discussion on historic signage currently on most houses along Burritt’s and Grenville Streets. It was agreed that when residents wished to put up such signage and wanted a date to be included that differed from our records or understanding, those residents could do so providing that they provided acceptable evidence to support their claim.

***Engraved Stones at the Canal Gardens***

Several residents, including departed residents Kathy and Verner Knott, have expressed an interest in having a stone engraved with their names. There was a detailed discussion on the pros and cons of this, including the possibility of creating other similar sites – at the foot of commemorative benches or at the entrance to the Hall itself, for example. The central issue is whether the current stones and those names now included should remain fixed in time or not. It was agreed that further research and reflection was needed.

***Community Summer Festival***

Efforts to encourage community members to take responsibility for a Community festival have largely failed. Following a discussion on this point, Chairperson Inge vanGemeren and Rental Agent Angela Lyrette agreed to co-chair planning for the event.

**Greening:**

***Butterfly Garden***

The Treasurer and Chairperson completed the forms necessary to secure re-imbursement from Parks Canada for damages to the butterfly garden.

***Plant Sale***

Members John Dwyer and Joan Simpson reported on the results of the plant e-sale, which was generally a success. While several plants remained unsold, RWR agreed to take them into their stock. The Board noted the generous support given by RWR to the Greening Committee both generally and for this sale in particular.

It was pointed out that failures on the Greening Committee’s part – they were hosting the sale and were responsibility for all aspects of it, not RWR which merely allowed its facility to be used for it – led to occasional confusion and, unfortunately, a couple of negative Facebook posts concerning RWR. The Board wishes to point out that these criticisms should have been directed at the Committee, not the RWR. THIS WASN’T SAID DIRECTLY AND I AM NOT SURE IF WE SHOULD INCLUDE IT. I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE RESIDENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEGATIVE POSTINGS MIGHT HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART AND REMOVE THEIR COMMENTS.

**Other business:**

***Heritage Bridge Signage***

Parks Canada has agreed that the signage for the swing bridge, which is now placed at a spot from which no easy view of the bridge is possible, can be moved and placed on its land closer to the bridge. This will require a ‘lease’ for the 6”by 6” parcel of land we will be using. The lease is to meet formal requirements only; there will be no cost to the community. The Board, however, will be responsible for maintaining the sign.

***Algonquin Flag***

Member John Dwyer and the Chairperson reported on their visit to the Pikwakanagan First Nation. (The Pikwakanagan First Nation is the major recognised – i.e., with status - Algonquin First Nation in Ontario and is leading the Land Claims Negotiation on behalf of the Algonquin People.) It was agreed that the Algonquin flag the Board received at that visit should be flown at the Hall. (This is in keeping with the fact that the Hamlet rests in traditional, unceded, Algonquin territory and with the recently expressed view –see, for example, the reports of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – that reconciliation is a requisite step for national healing. ) The Board will placing the flag on its pole on June 21st - National indigenous Peoples Day. A plaque will also be developed and placed near the flag at a later date. A ceremony, possibly with representatives of the Pikwakanagan First Nation, will be organised for later in the year.

**Next Meeting**

**7:30 September 12 2019**

**Community Hall**