**BURRITT’S RAPIDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**MEETING MINUTES – AGM November 2019**

**Attendance:**

**Board Members:**

Bart Bilmer, John Dwyer, Jill MacDonald, Joan Simpson, Vanda Stanley, Inge Vangemeren

**Community Members:**

Olivia Mills, Bob Walker, Juri & Tiiu Walner, Patrick & Julie Gonneau, Bernie & Chris Boesveld, Ann Martin, Jayne Couch, Drew Avis, Andrew Mess, Greg Eamon, George Hawkins, Renee Smith, Brad Smith, Fairlie Ellis, Aileen Weston, Maureen Wilson, Robert Vandekupt, Bill vander Hien, Greg Johnston, Eric Lalonde, Jennifer Rennicks Lalonde, Marianne Fizet, Pauling Dunning, Cameron Rhodes, Nina Donald, Bernard Cousineau, Wanda Jamieson, Michael Harrington,

**Others**

Nancy Peckford (Mayor, NG); John Barclay (Councillor, NG); Raynor Boutet (City of Ottawa)

**Annual Report:**

Chairperson Inge vanGemeren presented the Annual Report for 2019 highlighting the accomplishments of the Board during the year and presenting the Board’s plans for the coming year. A copy of the report is attached.

Patrick Gonneau moved that the Annual report be accepted as presented. This was seconded by Bob Walker and carried unanimously.

**Financial Report**:

Board Member and Treasurer Jill MacDonald presented the 2019 Financial Report (copy attached).

The high cost of heating was noted and various community members offered suggestions on how to proceed. Resident Andrew Mess referred specifically to the possibility of geothermal heating and agreed to work with other Board members on identifying the best way forward.

It was also noted by one resident that gas lines did go to the former Regional Centre and so should be available to those on the north side of the river. The Board was to follow up on this.

A resident enquired as to why we rented rather than owned a water heater but later accepted that rental was the easiest option in the circumstances of a volunteer Board.

A resident noted that signage for houses in the Hamlet was not closed so if more home-owners wanted to participate, they could.

Resident Patrick Gonneau moved that the report be accepted. This was seconded by Greg MacDonald and the vote carried unanimously.

Jill identified the auditor that has been used in the past and resident George Hawkins moved that this auditor be retained again. This was seconded by resident Brad Smith and the motion carried unanimously.

**Board Elections**

As required by by-laws, the Board resigned. The following ex-members indicated that they were prepared to stand again: Inge vanGemeren; Jill MacDonald, Bart Bilmer, Joan Simpson and John Dwyer. Resident Cameron Rhodes indicated that he was prepared to join the Board He, along with the five returning members were elected unanimously to constitute the new Board.

**Other Business**

**Internet for Rural Areas**

NG Mayor, Nancy Peckford, informed the Board and residents of the Federal Broadband Strategy and the fact that a plan was being developed at the county level. She indicated that the Board should ensure that the needs and concerns of Burritt’s Rapids should be represented in this. The Board agreed to do so.

**The Hamlet Design Plan**:

The Chairperson presented the background and work to date on the Hamlet Design Plan (copy of paper attached) and led discussions the various options presented by an earlier focus group. There was considerable discussion on these. Some residents expressed concern with proposals for the side lanes in that they might exacerbate drainage issues and were out of sync with an earlier report on the heritage status of the Hamlet; others favoured the options put forward. There seemed to be general agreement with the proposals for the main street, with some reservations about narrowing the parking lanes.

Members of the NG Council present informed those present of the time-lines for submitting proposals to mesh with the budget cycle.

**Next Steps**: The Board indicated that it would review the proposals in light of comments received and take other steps as needed to ensure that the community’s views are heard and responded to.

**Next Meeting**

**January 9 2020**