**BRCA - MINUTES**

8 January 2014

Attendees:

**Board Members**

John Dwyer, Jeff Gauthier, Inge vanGemeren, Jill MacDonald, Brad Smith, Juri Wallner, Maureen Wilson

**Community Residents in Attendance:**

Fairlie Ellis

**Other:**

Scott Tweedie (Northern Sector Manager, Rideau Canal, Parks Canada) Scott.Tweedie@pc-gc.ca

**DIALOGUE WITH PARKS CANADA**

The January Board meeting was centred on establishing an on-going dialogue with Parks Canada so that an avenue was established to keep each other briefed on issues of recurring concern to the community. While the purpose of this initial meeting was to forge relationships rather than come to resolution on these issues, a number of matters were discussed including:

* **Signage and rehabilitation of the Canal Trail**:

Mr. Tweedie was supportive of the signage prepared by the Board to better mark the Tip-to-Tip trail; there were restrictions about where the signage, and other markers might be placed and how (e.g., not on trees; digging post-holes might require approvals), but otherwise Parks Canada is supportive of the Board initiative.

Mr. Tweedie took note of the condition of the trail following work done by Parks Canada and was to contact the appropriate authority to ensure that the walking surface disturbed by that work was repaired.

The Board noted positively the Red Chairs placed on the far western tip of the trail.

* **Invasive Weeds and Dangerous Insects**

Mr. Tweedie indicated that should hogweed re-occur, the Lock Master would be able to respond to our concerns. The Board, and resident Fairlie Ellis, advised that the most appropriate way of doing so would be to mow regularly so that they could not re-establish.

With reference to the Hickory Moth Caterpillar infestation, Mr. Tweedtie indicated that their experts had examined the area last year and determined that there was no further action needed since the caterpillar nests situated on Parks Canada land posed no danger to the public. Parks Canada would respond to requests to deal with subsequent infestations, if they occurred, based on the expert advice of their botanists.

The contact person re public Health and Safety at Parks Canada is Don McKay.

* **Canada 150**

Mr. Tweedie indicated that he would follow-up with Annie Laurie (External Relations person at Parks Canada) re activities being planned. Coordination was possible.

While this did not relate to Canada 150, Mr. Tweedie mentioned “Otentik” installations (fixed tents on platforms that might be used by travellers) being done and suggested that one might be placed at the Burritt’s Lock.

* **Banners**

Mr. Tweedie indicated that he would follow-up on the removal or replacement of the banners in the Hamlet that were put up to celebrate the Canal’s 175th anniversary.

* **On-going Meetings**

There was consensus that regular meetings (at least annually) between the Board and Parks Canada were a good idea. The Board will make recommendations to Parks Canada on this, and Parks Canada would participate assuming that timing and schedules allowed.

In addition, Mr. Tweedie is to ensure that we are on the email list of Annie, who will advise us of happenings of interest being planned on a regular basis.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Assessment of AGM 2014**

Board Members were satisfied with the conduct and results of the last AGM. There was a general discussion on important issues, such as traffic calming, and how to proceed with these.

**Minutes of the AGM**

The minutes of the AGM were approved unanimously.

**NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday February 12 2015**

**Residents Are Invited to Attend**