**Draft**

**BRCA - MINUTES**

10 September 2015

Attendees:

**Board Members**

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

**Other**:

Gord Sowten (for discussion on insurance needs only)

**Financial Statement**

There were no financial statements presented.

**Minutes of February Meeting**

The minutes of the June 2015 Meeting were approved unanimously.

**Briefing on Insurance Needs of Tenants**

Mr. Sowten informed the Board that the policy provider had a new policy available for tenants. In effect they could purchase liability insurance directly through the Board from the insuring party. Costs would be competitive: for example a weekly Yoga class with less than 20 participants would pay $250 annually. Costs for single event engagements with alcohol would range from a low of $75 (less than 50 people) to a high of $175 (between 100 and 200 people). The Board would have to put a deposit down (the likely total costs to be paid in a given year for the tenant coverage), recoup the costs from tenants, and settle balances with the insurer at the end of the year.

There was discussion around several points, with the following conclusions (in **bold**):

* What the current policy said about the requirement to obtain independent liability coverage from tenants. **Mr. Sowten is to get clarification**.
* Whether alternatives are possible given the fact that the increased costs would negatively impact the community, e.g., getting a rider on our policy which essentially provides coverage for the regular renters of the Hall. **Mr. Sowten is to get clarification**.

**Update on Previous Discussions**

 ***Parks Canada Issues***

Brad Smith brought the additional directional signage for the Tip-To-Tip Trail he had arranged to have made. It will be mounted as soon as possible.

Inge vanGermeren confirmed that Parks Canada had agreed to allow the posting of a historic plaque on the Library. Brad Smith confirmed that following a series of delays, a few signs are in production and should be mounted on various homes on Grenville Street soon. Others will be available to residents in the Hamlet interested in having them. Cost will be in the range of $150 will the Board picking up $50 of that.

There was no news on repairs to the Tip-to-Tip trail.

**Important**: There was considerable discussion on Parks Canada plans to secure the shoreline of the island on the canal side. Elsewhere this has led to virtual total de-forestation of the shore. In the face of a lack of response and transparency on the issue from Parks Canada it was determined that the Board would raise the stakes. Various options were considered. For the moment the Board will contact appropriate politicians at the local and Federal level and seek a meeting with responsible officials with Parks Canada so that it is clear that our concerns are heard and understood.

 ***East Street Widening***

The sub-Committee of community residents struck to manage this issue at the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) has essentially hit a wall: North Grenville officials have made their decision to use existing guidelines to widen the street, ban on-street parking on both East and Centre Streets (East of Grenville Street) and re-configure the road edge to eliminate sidewalks and put in swales and are not interested in hearing opposing points of view. Apparently they have heard privately from some residents who approve of this plan.

The existing Official Guidelines, which are driving these changes, allow for exceptions including those that might be set out in specialised Guidelines for Hamlets, but as these specialised guidelines have not been drafted a Catch-22 exists.

The Hamlets official view, discussed in broad terms at the last AGM, was that a one-size-fits-all approach does not recognise the unique nature of the Hamlet and is out of keeping with exceptions provided in other municipalities in similar situations. While the Board fully accepts the need for, and importance of, safe passage of emergency vehicles, they are concerned that the decision is being taken without a master plan and will results in unforeseen consequences.

Various ways to proceed were discussed. For the moment it was agreed that an exceptional General Meeting would be convened so that the Board could clarify with the community their wishes on this issue. Further action, including at the political level might follow. The exceptional General Meeting will be held September 15 2015.

***Update****: Thanks to the residents who attended the Special Meeting organised, and even more thanks for those who took the time to voice their concerns with the Mayor and Council. Diligent readers will know that the voice of residents was heard and that the decision to widen the Street has been put in abeyance as the Municipality looks at the larger issues involved.*

**Other Issues**

***Plaque for Leaders of the BRCA***

Juri Wallner provided a mock-up of the plaque, and with minor alterations, has been given the go ahead.

 ***Agreement in Principle for Algonquin Land Claims***

Juri Wallner also brought attention to a land claims agreement-in-principle between the Ontario and Federal Governments with the Algonquins of Ontario. This agreement includes the transference of title of a portion of the old Provincial Detention Centre on Donnelly Drive to the Aboriginal people. Any resident interested in more details can access them at the following website: Ontario.ca/algonquinlandclaim

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

**7:00 pm Thursday October 8 2015**

**Residents Are Invited to Attend**