**BRCA - AGM MINUTES**

25 November 2015

Attendees:

**Board Members**

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

**Guest Presenters:**

Scott Tweedie, Parks Canada (re planned Earthen Dam Rehabilitation)

Phil Gerrard, NG Municipality (re Secondary Plan for Burritt’s Rapids)

**Community Residents in Attendance of AGM:**

George & Lynn Hawkins, Jayne Couch, Paul Harrison, Sean Leogreen, Bob Walker, Fairlie Ellis, Dick Hegan, Mary Hegan, David Simpson, Olivia Mills, John Tilbury, Kathy Knott, Verner Knott, Dorothy Hobbs, Lorraine Mac Craken, Janet Glaves, Dorothy Hobbs, Muffy Koch, Chris Roberts, Lianna McCann, Sean McCann, Tiiu Wallner,

(Please note if you were in attendance but forgot to sign the attendance list, let me know.)

**Other:**

Linda Stroulger Leader (former resident and children’s book author)

Doug Wallace, NG Municipality

**Annual Report**

**Achievement and Plans**

The Chairperson of the Association presented the Annual Report (see attached) and highlighted the achievements of the Board during the year and the proposed priorities for the coming year.

**Financial Report**

The Treasurer ran through the budget figures for the year and projections for the future. As a generality, the financial picture remains highly positive, in large part due to continued good rental income. As there was in the previous year, there was a discussion on the high costs of insurance.

There was a discussion on the type of investments the Board was using, and it was explained that the Board’s Constitution prohibited investments in other than fully secured sources.

It was moved that the Financial Report be accepted as presented. This was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Earthen Dam Rehabilitation**

Scot Tweedie, representing Parks Canada, gave an overview of the plans and likely time-frame for the work of rehabilitating the shoreline of the “earthen dam” – most of the south (the ‘canal’ side) of the island and a stretch the farthest northern shoreline just above the dam regulating water flow on the ‘river’ side.

Earthen dam failures elsewhere have caused concern and Parks Canada wants to ensure that the earthen dam meets currently accepted dam safety standards developed in the USA but adopted here. In particular there is concern that trees pose a natural threat to dam safety. The plan is for Parks Canada to take core samples – it was suggested that there would be about 10 taken at various spots. These samples would help the Department determine the state of the earthen dam and the consequential interventions that might be needed. They would also be doing a tree survey to determine which trees, because they are protected, should not be removed. Once they had gathered the required information and determined what they needed to do to rehabilitate the earthen dam, they expected to consult with the community.

There was considerable interest in the presentation and various points were made by residents. Several issues raised were noted by Mr. Tweedie and he promised to relay concerns/questions to persons better equipped to respond. The bottom line concerns raised were that, while safety was of utmost concern, there were other issues that needed to be included in an assessment of what to do and how, including the recognised unique heritage of the canal, the historical, cultural and other needs of the community living on the island and aesthetics. It was felt that consultation could not be limited to what was being proposed and that, in particular, the community had to have an opportunity to help shape the scope of the work.

**Secondary Plan for Burritt’s Rapids**

As a result of a successful intervention by the community, planned work on side streets was halted and the NG Municipality tasked its planning department to develop a Secondary Plan for the Hamlet in consultation with residents. (The NG Official Plan recognises the possibility of Burritt’s Rapids developing a Secondary Plan that is in keeping with its own needs and character.) The Chief Planning Officer, Phil Gerrard, presented a plan for proceeding on this. In sum, following an introduction to the process and a desktop review and review of other background studies, the Municipality proposes to conduct a ‘visioning’ session with residents to allow them to share views on what they want their community to look like which would allow the Municipality to prepare an Options Paper. This paper would be presented to, and discussed with residents and revised until there was consensus on how to proceed. When there was consensus a final plan would be presented at a public meeting and adopted as part of the Official Plan.

Mr. Gerrard essentially wanted the community’s feedback on the proposal for proceeding and indicated that the desire is to have the Secondary Plan in place when the Official Plan is approved in about 9 months’ time.

There was discussion on the proposal with suggestions as to whether it allowed sufficient points of consultation at the appropriate stages and whether the visioning session could and should be done earlier in the process.

The Board indicated that it would consider these issues and get back to Mr. Gerrard within two weeks.

**Traffic Calming**

The Chairperson presented residents in attendance with a rough illustration of the proposal put forward by Les Shepherd (County Engineer, Leeds and Grenville) on traffic calming. In essence, the proposal is for at least three removable speed humps along Grenville Street.

There was concern expressed by some (based on their experience) as to the noise this might cause, although others suggested that the number of humps proposed and their placement might mitigate this. The general reaction was positive especially inasmuch as the humps are removable if they prove to be either ineffective or causing unanticipated problems.

The Board committed to consulting all residents on their mailing list once a proper proposal was received.

**Greening Committee**

The Greening Committee presented their report. The Treasurer of the Committee indicated that there will be a plant sale in 2016 and outlined the various initiatives being taken to encourage more volunteers.

Finally, the Treasurer informed residents of the Greening Committee’s wish to develop a Monarch Butterfly Way Station in commemoration of Canada’s 150th celebration.

**Other Committee Reports: BRREA**

BRREA reported on continuing efforts to begin a micro-generation program for the benefit of the community.

The current status is that a FIT application has been made and they await a decision on it. Assuming the application is accepted and work proceeds as planned, the BRREA portion of profits will, initially be in the range of $35,000 a year, and go up to $100,000 a year later on in the project life-cycle. Of real interest to the Association is getting community input on how that money will be used to benefit the community.

Details on the process and on upcoming events – including their AGM in March – are available on their website [www.brpower.ca](http://www.brpower.ca)

**Election of a New Board**

As required by the by-laws the existing Board stepped down.

No community members indicated a wish to join the Board.

Board Members for the previous year, with the exception of Brad Smith (not present; but he had informed the Board of his intention at the November regular meeting), indicated that they would continue to volunteer for a year. The Chairperson hoped that a resident would step forward in the weeks ahead to fit the vacancy left by Mr. Smith departure.

The Meeting was adjourned.