



Kushog Lake Property Owners Association
1117 Graham's Lane, Algonquin Highlands ON K0M 1J2
info@kushoglake.org

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting June 15, 2022

Conducted virtually by Zoom

The meeting commenced at 7:35 PM with the facilitator and moderator Rob Rick introducing the rules of engagement for the meeting.

Jere Pike provided a tribute to the Indigenous Peoples.

Norma Goodger, President, welcomed the 27 participants to the ZOOM meeting acknowledging that it was nice to see many new faces.

- Introduced the KLPOA Directors: Jere Pike, Milt Sheppard, Ron Bobbie, Carol Puttock, Rita Moore, Rob Rick, Wayne Black, Susan Harvey and our Environmental Consultant Dagmar Boettcher.
- Provided a summary presentation on the board's activity the past year and how hard it has been with attacks on herself personally and the board by a small number of individuals. These individuals spouting fake news, untruths and non-factual made-up data. Most discouraging. Fortunately, there have been many positive countering responses from the membership.
- Introduced our guest speaker, Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt:
 - Mayor Moffatt has been on Algonquin Highlands Council for 16 years and has served as Mayor since 2010.
 - Mayor Moffatt's contribution to Municipal and County Councils cannot be understated: she brings much thought and research to every discussion – she sees the big picture!
 - It is hard to imagine where Haliburton County would be without her and wished her well in retirement this coming November.

Guest Speaker: Algonquin Highlands Mayor, **Carol Moffatt**

Algonquin Highlands is in excellent financial shape, our main projects continued despite COVID. These are challenging times. Check [budget highlights](#) on the Algonquin Highlands website.

Shoreline Preservation Bylaw: This has been very divisive – it's really sad to see changes in our community. Mayor Moffatt agrees with the intent but the process has been very frustrating for her particularly around communications. She fought hard for clarification and an education program. There are still people who say they are going to cut down the trees and remove vegetation. Public sentiment has been heard; government overreach is a common concern. Mayor Moffatt brings public comment to the table. Lake health is about many things and the SPB needs to be part of a bigger picture. Muskoka Watershed Council is a good model. The County is creating a job description for a new lake health portfolio position.

Short-term rentals: Mayor Moffatt has had lots of comments from folks on Kushog. This issue is not new. There are concerns about increased commercialization of waterfront property and complaints about egregious behaviour. Landlords are not taking responsibility.

Zoning bylaw review: most important policy that the public should pay attention to, and no one does. It is now officially completed and in place.

Maple Lake landfill: Council is aware of the frustrations and concerns. The plan is to transition to a larger operation centre with more efficiencies. There have been delays in staffing and COVID supply chain but should be completed by April 2023.

Let's Connect on-line communications portal will expand over time, created to have fun with serious township business. Council meeting agendas and minutes are available there.

Election on Oct 24th: vote by internet or phone. Covid has had a lot of impact on cottaging. Mayor Moffatt encouraged all waterfront property owners to vote. Need to understand the difference between what council and what staff does. Councillors do not work with staff on day-to-day issues. Council makes decisions that go to the CAO who then gives them to staff to get taken care of. Council has no authority outside the Council Chambers. Council is about strategic and informed dialogue, and about making difficult decisions that may upset the public. Make sure candidates you vote for have a broad knowledge of the bigger community and can work within the legislative process (which can be frustrating). Don't elect an angry person with an axe to grind because once they get elected what are they going to do for the community for the next four years? Knowledge, integrity and professionalism are the name of the game. Being on Council is not an easy job, pay is terrible and hours are worse.

Rob Rick Secretary, thanked Mayor Moffatt for being our guest speaker.

Business

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting: Rob Rick, Secretary, stated the minutes of the 2021 AGM have been emailed to all and posted on the KLPOA website. Moved by Rob, seconded by Susan Harvey to accept the minutes as printed. All approved by a show of hands.

2022 Financial Statements: Ron Bobbie, Treasurer, presented the financial statements for the year ending April 30, 2022. Financial statements were emailed to all and posted on the KLPOA website. Highlights:

- Total revenues are almost the same as previous year:
 - Memberships are consistent. Over the years this number has settled in the 300-member range.
 - Advertising revenues were up slightly, remarkable considering the financial costs that Covid-19 shutdowns have had on many of our 46 advertisers. Please acknowledge their ad when you next patronize their company.
- Expenses vary considerably, when comparing 2021 to 2022:
 - Research costs were higher in 2022 due to hiring a consulting group to provide spring time testing with additional tests being performed.
- Our Balance Sheet is healthy. We have the funds to continue our mandate of monitoring lake health and encouraging good lake use practices.

Moved by Ron Bobbie, seconded by Rita Moore to accept the financial statements as printed. All approved by a show of hands.

Committee Reports

Social – Susan Harvey, Social Director

- Outlined the extensive line-up of summer events this year. All in an attempt to make up for 2 years of lost time due to Covid-19.
- Canada Day Boat Parade, Kushog Lake Picnic with Decorated Boats, Kushog Lake Kid's Rock Bass Derby.

Fisheries Advisory Group for Zone 15 - Rita Moore, Director, Lake Steward

- Review has been going on since 2017, ambitiously thought they could do it in 3 years.
- All committee meetings are completed and the draft is being compiled.
- The final draft document will be available for public comment and will be posted at the Environmental Registry of Ontario (<https://ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/>) in late 2022 or early 2023 possible implementation by 2024.

Kushog Lake Water Quality Monitoring - Dagmar Boettcher, Environmental Consultant

Gave an informative presentation on the various water tests being performed, why and their relevance to us the property owners. Have been working with Fleming College for 10 years and are considered by Fleming as one of their most valued mentoring opportunities that Fleming has. Three or four students from Environmental Management program come to Kushog Lake for one weekend in the fall. These students possess skills that enable us to do our water quality testing. We are currently in Year 7 of a 10 year plan. In the Fall of 2021 we tested 3 open water chemistry sites, 3 lake sites for benthics and requested a literature review of Water Level Impacts.

Spring testing was conducted by Zygopera Consulting in an attempt to find inflow locations with enough water for testing since our Fall sites have dried up due to low water levels. But still didn't have enough water but did give us the strong sense that we have positioned ourselves properly for doing our testing in the fall. So looking at the results since we started testing, we are seeing changes in the lake: pH, Dissolved Oxygen, TKN and Total Phosphorous. Not sure if changes are due to the crazy weather or other environmental and human factors. Diversity in the zooplankton communities has improved; however spiny water fleas have been detected in the north end of the lake.

Dagmar gave us some information about how to look after the lake.

Photo Contest - Wayne Black, Director

- Thanked Paul & Tammy Wilson at Kushog Marina for sponsoring the contest for the past 13 years with wonderful prizes each year. Even with the pending sale of the marina, the new owners have agreed to sponsor the 2022 contest.
- Thanked Bonnie Black, the volunteer overseeing the contest.
- This year there are a few changes and a new category added. Please read the rules.
- Explained how the judging is done to be totally impartial and fair to all.
- Members are encouraged to participate – send in your entries to photos@kushoglake.org now – don't wait until the August 31st deadline. This is open to anyone on the lake.

Nomination & Election of the Board of Directors - Jere Pike, VP

- It is our usual practice to review the eligibility and qualifications of candidates to find the best fit for our needs. We welcome new members to the board – new blood is essential to the future of the organization.
- Jere presented two slates for board members for the next term:
 - There are 4 directors who are entering their second year of their two-year term as members of the KLPOA Board of directors for 2021-2023: Susan Harvey, Rita Moore, Wayne Black and Carol Puttock.
 - There are 5 directors who have agreed to stand for another two-year term from 2022 to 2024 on the KLPOA Board of Directors: Norma Goodger, Milt Sheppard, Ron Bobbie, Robert Rick and Jere Pike
- Jere Pike moved that the directors be elected in the above slates. Carol Puttock seconded the motion. All approved by a show of hands.
- KLPOA whole heartedly welcomes volunteers to join up any time during the year; you can then consider being officially elected to the Board at the next AGM.

New Business – Norma Goodger, President

- The floor was opened for discussion and comment. There was one member who raised a concern about the nomination process and that there was no way to come forward and put your name up to be elected. He also complained about the lack of information flowing his way – he feels that Facebook is not an acceptable way to communicate. This was addressed positively by 6 property owners who explained they were most satisfied with the way the Board acts and keeps them well informed. This individual was asked what else he thought could be done other than a personal letter each time! He offered no suggestions.
- The same individual suggested there should be a more informative way for members to join the board and the process involved. Norma responded that she had inadvertently neglected to include that information in the communication package, with a sincere apology. The individual was asked directly if he wants to volunteer for board work and activity, but he declined!
- There are new ONCA rules and regulations pertaining to the roles and responsibilities of board member.

Carol Puttock moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM.