



Port Elgin & Saugeen Township Beachers' Organization

Annual General Meeting Minutes July 31, 2004

The Annual General Meeting of the Port Elgin & Saugeen Township Beachers' Organization was called to order by Dave Martin at 10:05 am at Rotary Hall in Port Elgin.

Attendance

General membership: List on file with Business Manager

Board Members: Dave Martin, Phyllis Fagan, John Mann, Todd Aitchison, John Kyles, John VanBastelaar, Peter Waldock, Bill Rose, Margaret Grottenthaler

Guest Speakers: Mike Smith (Deputy Mayor), Doug Lions (Saugeen Shores Police Services), Mike Myatt (Community Services), Doug Freiburger (Saugeen Valley Coastal Conservation)

President-Dave Martin

Dave Martin began the meeting by introducing the attending members of the Board of Directors. Introduced Tina Hill as the new business manager. Dave also informed the members that Peter Waldock will be resigning his position on the Board and recognized his contribution over the years.

Dave introduced Deputy Mike Mayor, Constable Doug Lions, Mike Myatt and Doug Freiburger to the members and thanked them for coming, indicating that Mike Myatt, Doug Freiburger and Doug Lions had limited time due to several other engagements on the same day so would have to leave immediately following their remarks.

Welcome and Saugeen Shores Update-Deputy Mayor Mike Smith

Deputy Mayor Mike Smith welcomed the membership and noted that Bill Henderson, Doug Gowanlock, Fred Schildroth, Doug Freiburger were also in attendance.

Council Official Plan

1-consultant and encourage ways of public input

2-development of Saugeen Shores lots of new houses being built. Justification of development changes on any new development

3-water treatment upgrade will start this year finishing in 2006. Will be located in Southampton, and removal from Port Elgin plant

4-Dr. recruitment from our tax dollars

He indicated the intent of the plan concerning beach access routes is to ensure the municipality's interest is protected and to allow public access where appropriate.

Welcome Doug Freiburger. Doug is from the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation

Concern for water and the Shoreline. Main reason for being here is to pitch the association. We are a non-profit and non Government Organization.

We just completed a 20 year summary on the shoreline. Was presented to the government.

Article on disappearing waters due to climate change. Lower water levels started in 1918. We are losing battle on water levels.

Healthy coastal eco system. 4 focus areas :

1-Water Quality.

2-Coastal processes-your coast continues to change. Dunes builds or receding or shore you have never seen before.

3-Climate change: summers are not the same, winters-snow never before Jan 1.

4-Bio diversity-keep everything as diverse as it was. Keep shoreline as bio diverse as it always was.

What is the health of our lake in Saugeen Shores?

Over all health in Saugeen Shores is very good, but it is sensitive. A relic beach is a beach where the natural events, which have created the beach are no longer present. It will not be replaced naturally. Increasing pedestrian use. Trampled dune

grass. We have quite raking beaches. Animal droppings/baby droppings are not good for the beach. Lets do what we can to keep our beaches clean and healthy.

Take home message:

Our beach is sensitive, delicate and irreplaceable resource.

How to help?

-Septic study

-Join the conservation center to help out. Always need your dollars and more members. Phone 519-523-4478, website:

www.lakehuron.on.ca,

email address: coastalcenter@lakehuron.on.ca

Questions:

Member: Stopped Raking loosing sand. Sand being taken from Saugeen Beach Road.

Doug: Not aware of sand being taken away. Can't answer all of the questions. Will get an answer.

Member: Who are we saving the beaches for?

Doug: For us, our children and our grand children. Try to use it wisely.

Member: Raking Gobles Grove

Doug: There will be certain times that raking needs to be done. Need to try to get beach debris. Caught between a rock and a hard place.

Member: Garbage along beach. Why are there no garbage cans?

Doug: Municipal will gladly get garbage cans from your tax dollars. Garbage will overflow, as people will throw out their own personal garbage into the municipal garbage cans.

Member: Municipality is still mowing the grass. Thought that was stopped.

Doug: Unaware of that. Pass on to Mike Myatt.

Member: Rusty oil coming up from the ground. What is it?

Doug : Do a septic study in your area. Health dept. could look at it. There is a black algae from Port Albert to Southampton. Talk to Gord Eagles from the town.

Member: What about mosquito's and west nile virus?

Doug: You don't have to be worried about that. Mosquito's don't breed in dirty water.

Member: Do you have clout with the legislations?

Doug: Yes we do have clout. Environment of Canada asked us to do their study.

Dave: Highly recommends joining the conservation center. It is a first class organization. Can't speak highly enough about them.

Doug: When we take a look at the property, we do that on a historic basis. If we can find information back a 100 years or more, we will do that. You may find out historically that you are not on a sand beach, and the sand in front of your place may not belong there. That may belong there due to human impact. So keep in mind when you see sand being moved.

Member: Sea grass. Is it the roots that are keeping the sand there or do they need to be in a specific height. It is taking over.

Doug: Is it the grass we planted. If so we need to call or email Jeff Peach. It is the height of the grass that maintains the sand.

Welcome Doug Lions

Our chief was suppose to be here today, but sends his apologies due to a death in his wife's family. Not able to attend as planned. If you need anything from us please call us, were right beside the plex.

Member: Fireworks are driving us crazy.

Doug: It is a matter of priority, and firecrackers are the lowest priority.

Welcome Mike Myatt

Talk about sand migration. One of the questions last year was: Could you put 3 rows of snow fencing up in the fall and take it down in the spring? We will agree. It paid dividends this year. Will continue to do this again in the fall.

Member: This was the first time in 12 years that I have not taken wheelbarrows of sand off my lawn.

Some exciting news, we are doing a development of a Parks and Trails master plan. Meeting for this is Thursday Aug 12, 2004 at 7:00 at the Rotary Hall. Vision Mike has is linking up trail system from McGregor Park to Saugeen River to Southampton and back to McGregor Park. We want to have one big loop through Saugeen Shores. Over the next 5-10 years we will see some really exciting things happen. Great deal of cost and the need of partnership dollars for the Park and Trail Development.

Playground inventory:

Put some funds together for removal of 6 old playground swing sets last year, and putting up 3 new swing sets this fall. The Tourist Association has donated \$15,000.00 for more sun shelters, and new swing sets.

Washroom Cleanliness:

Went from 3 staff last year to 6 staff this year. Washrooms are being cleaned 3 times daily. Some washroom upgrades by Gobles Grove washroom, new septic system and new water lines. The washroom by Jerry's Fries will have a \$30,000 upgrade renovation.

Beach Access Study:

Not our intent to rush out today and put 55 beach access signs up at the top and bottom of every access point. Will we someday put 1,2,3 on higher beach access points. The interest from the town is to protect our beach access points in perpetuity. We want to make sure beach access points are protected and give people a sense of permission that they are allowed to walk on them.

Questions:

Member: The lampposts are still not lighting up. They are only on for 12 seconds. The gazebo stays on.

Mike: We will get that looked after.

Member: With beach access, some beach access points are intentionally blocked. You say to sign the higher traffic ones. There will be more traffic on mine, while other access points are not being maintained properly. Improve access to the beach by either all or nothing. Can't penalize those who have done their duty, while others sit back and enjoy their total privacy.

Mike: Well said, I don't have all the answers. It is going to be a long process. Will include the public in the decision of the signs when they are to go up. This is not an easy one to handle. It will be a transparent process. We want to protect 55 beach access points. The people who are blocking the beach access points that are not encouraging people to walk down them, those are the points that the town will deal with.

Member: 30 ft mobile parked on the beach last night. Is it not against the law?

Mike: Have talked with Dave Preston a week ago. There is to be no overnight parking. They won't be able to go into the flea market for next year. They are going to start to ticket on the beach or the streets if they continue to park there.

Member: Change the speed limit to 40 km from 50km on Harbour St. This is where we have the flea market, bingo. Maybe have some people walking signs.

Mike: Will look into that.

Approval of Minutes

John Mann made a motion to pass the Aug 2, 2003 AGM minutes as written.

Seconded by Margaret Grottenthaler,

Motion passed.

Disclaimer/Mission Statement

Peter Waldock read the following disclaimer:

I move that all acts, contracts, by-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections, and payments enacted, made, done, and taken by the Directors and Officers of the Port Elgin and Saugeen Township Beachers' Organization since the last Annual Meeting of the Organization as set out or referred to in the Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors or in the Financial Statement submitted to this meeting be hereby approved, ratified, sanctioned and confirmed.

Seconded by Glenn Reist

Carried

Peter Waldock read the Beachers' Organization Mission Statement.

The Organization's primary thrust is to awaken all residents/visitors to the need to preserve the natural beauty of these shoreline communities.

This is achieved by dealing frankly, but fairly with all levels of government; including the new amalgamated government of Saugeen Shores. It is also done by challenging policies and practices that destroy or diminish the recreational lakeshore amenities and by supporting initiatives that preserve and enhance the values inherent in these communities.

While a major focus of the Organization is the welfare of our own Members by "Cottage Watch", the Beachers' Directory and regular newsletters, it is the intention for the whole community to benefit from our efforts and all residents are encouraged to become members.

Our goal is to be the best that we can be in all initiatives we undertake.

Review of the Past Year-Dave Martin

This Organization lost a couple of friends this year Judge Mann, and Bill Martin. These are two wonderful people who will be missed.

Need to get more people involved. We are getting more issues facing us all the time (example tax issues). Dave encouraged members to solicit non-members as the more involvement we have, the more we can do.

Tina Hill has taken over the position of Business Manager from Jen Oliveira. Gary Scammel has agreed to continue as the Beachers' Organization Patrol Person again this year. Winter Patrol went well this year. Gary is to do 2 drive by's and 1 walk by every month.

David commented on Mike Myatt's comments that the 3rd row of fence has made a difference on the beach due to our Organization.

Financial Report-Tina Hill

Tina Hill stated that this year's budgeted income is \$14,160.00 of which \$11,040.18 has been received to date. The expense budget is \$13,235.00 of which \$9086.96 has been used. The Organization's net worth is \$8179.31

Welcome Glen Reist

I have served on the organization's board for many years. Few years ago, my daughter took my place on the board. She vacated a couple of years back, and John Kyles asked me if I want to come back on, I said yes with a qualification. John wanted to know what the qualification was. The answer: As long as I am a cottage owner. The way the taxes have increased on my cottage, I might have to give it up. I am now retired, and I can no longer afford the tremendous tax increase. We have been assessed as lakefront property, but we have the sewage pumping station between our cottage and the lake. The cottage has been in the family for 50 years.

2 years ago we thought that the tax assessment should be around \$74,000 - \$84,000, it was assessed at \$184,000.00. We assumed there was a typing error on the bill. There was not. My daughter is a lawyer and is trying to appeal the assessment. She engaged a local realtor and asked him to assess our property, he said around \$136,000.00. We are paying 3 times the taxes from 2 years ago. One time we were paying \$1100.00 now we are paying \$3300.00.

There are 2 jurisdictions that I know of, BC and Florida. They have a grandfather clause that was passed as a by law.

It prevents the state or the town he lives in to increase the tax by no more than 3%. For taxation to be fair, it should be based on user fee, infrastructure, or on income. I suggest and recommend we network with other cottage associations throughout the province.

Dave read from a brochure called WRAFT. (Waterfront Residents Against Fair Taxation)

If you want more information on the brochure go to www.wraft.com.

This morning our Board of Director's meeting, your association has joined WRAFT. We will have more information on that when it comes available. You should know that the mill rate in town went down this year it is the assessments that are killing us.

Nominations to the Board-Todd Aitcheson

Peter Waldrock is resigning from the Board of Directors. Todd Aitcheson nominated Dr. Clare Rennie and Glenn Reist to join

Seconded: Neil Aitcheson

Motion to close: John Kyles

Carried

Other Business

A motion made by Neil Aitchison from Glen Reist's story if maybe a letter from this association on his behalf using the 30% tax increase in tax as a living example. We write a letter to the municipality and ask them these various points. We can discuss it, 2nd by Todd. We have to set a president. We are going to go through WRAFT and being a member of FOCA.

John V. would like to amend the motion. Wants the letter to go to the Crown Corp. which is set up by the Provincial Government and CC to the Municipality of Saugeen Shores. The letter will come from Glenn's daughter, then the board will approve the letter. Opposed by Alister Yule.
Member wants to also reference the California law.

Member: What are the dangers of the water after a storm. My grandchildren were sick after they went into the water after the storm.

Mike Smith: There is usually a higher bacteria count after a really big down pour. If you are really concerned call the Health Unit.

Member: Sewage smell on Izzard road. Called Gord Eagles and they said she was the first complaint this year.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Todd Aitchison.

Seconded by David Martin.

Carried