



Draft Minutes – 2022 Virtual Spring Meeting
Thursday, May 26, 2021, 7:00 pm
Via Zoom

(The Minutes will be endorsed by the KLCOA Board of Directors at their meeting on August 10, 2022. They are to be approved by the Membership at the 2022 AGM on September 3, 2022.)

Note: For the meeting slide deck, go to KLCOA.org and click on Records –2022 Spring Meeting Presentation Deck. In addition, the audio recording of the meeting is also available there.

1. **Call to Order** – Deb Wratschko
KLCOA’s By-laws set quorum for a Members meeting as a minimum of 25 members present and entitled to vote. Eighty-nine Zoom connections were recorded at the beginning of the meeting. The following Board Members in attendance were: Deb Wratschko, Jim Prince, Arlene Burch, Rod Dobson, Frances Duiker, Scott Durie, Tina Fagg Jacquie Geall, Lynn Lawson, Patrick Wenger and Natalie Wood.

President Wratschko welcomed everyone, provided an overview of how the virtual meeting would operate, and provided instructions & protocols on how to use Zoom.
2. **Motion to Approve Agenda for the Meeting**
Motion: To accept the agenda for the 2022 Spring Meeting, as presented.
M: Jacquie Geall
S: Scott Durie
The motion carried. None were opposed.
3. **Motion to Approve Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting.**
To approve the minutes of the 2021 KLCOA Annual General Meeting, as presented.
M: Jim Prince
S: Scott Durie
The motion carried. None were opposed.
4. **Introduction of Board Members**
President Wratschko displayed the list of Board members and thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the organization and the lake.
5. **Remarks by Deputy Mayor Patrick Kennedy, Dysart et al.**
Deputy Mayor Kennedy covered several County-level items in his presentation:
 - Regarding the Shoreline Protection Act, he recommended that members look at the latest revision available on April 27th, 2022. It included clarifications on fifteen items, including avoidance of wetlands. In addition, the shoreline is now defined as 20 metres from the water. The Act is now under legal review. In the meantime, an individual has been hired to look at the



discrepancies between the upper and lower tier bylaws. Also being considered is the creation of a Haliburton Watershed Council, similar to what Muskoka has created.

- The County is also looking at a Community Safety and Well-Being plan- an integrated approach with several services, strategies, and programs. An Executive Director will be hired to run the organization.
- The County is undergoing a strategic review and looking at twelve areas including roads and buildings, waste management services, a fire services review, economic development and planning. Some of these areas are delayed as there are staff vacancies waiting to be filled. Also included will be looking at areas of coordination between the upper and lower tier governments
- Hike Haliburton will return for 2022. Dates are set for September 21-25th. The number of people per hike will be reduced.
- The County is looking at the short-term rental issue. Consultants have been hired and over 1500 people responded to the first phase survey.
- In conclusion, Deputy Mayor Kennedy advised that he will not be seeking another term in the fall municipal election.

Next, Councillor John Smith provided an update on Dysart news:

- Road improvements will be made on Watts Road 2.4 km up from second entrance, Eastview Road, Winkler Road and Boomerang Road, and re-gravelling of lower traffic volume roads including Pine Point Road and Land Road. Council has also committed to a new hardtop surface for Kennisis Lake Road from Paddy's Bay bridge down to the dam. There was some degradation of portions of West Shore Road this past winter/spring and repairs later this summer will be made by spray patching affected areas. Sweeping of the roads has just started and should be largely completed in the next week or so. Brushing of local roads will take place later in the summer of 2022. Council allocated increased funding to brushing for 2022 and staff have yet to finalize which roads will be brushed.
- Councillor Smith is on the County's Climate Change Advisory Group. The group is looking at how we can prepare our properties for the impacts of climate change, such as higher water levels. The CEWF (Coalition for Equitable Water Flow) received a grant from HCDC and is producing some educational material for property owners, which should be available in the fall.
- Parks Canada and the Trent Severn Waterway have published a draft version of their 10 year Management Plan. Public comments/input are being accepted until June 30th. Online Public Meetings have started and run until June 9th. You can register, attend and then provide input individually or as part of a group. Details are found through the CEWF website.
- With respect to Landfills and Transfer Stations, the Government of Ontario has not approved a new landfill for many years. Most Dysart landfills are now "transfer stations" with waste hauled away by private contractors at considerable expense. Information on how to reduce waste is being provided in the insert included with the final tax bills now in the mail.
- There will be access to 14 hazardous waste days at locations all around Haliburton County. Information is on the Dysart website.



- Next, Councillor Smith provided an update on the EORN Cell Gap Project. He advised that a contract was awarded to Rogers in March 2021. An update on the project will be delivered to all Councillors in June so we can all see more details of expected service improvements. There is a public meeting in June for a proposed new cell tower in the southern portion of Haliburton County. Rogers is still seeking property owners willing to host a tower. They pay compensation for the privilege.
- With regard to housing, Councillor Smith reported that Building Permits valued at over \$98 million were issued by Dysart in 2021. This is more than 60% higher than any previous year. Permanent housing is badly needed in Dysart and Council is doing all it can to address the urgent need for more housing in our community. All 66 units of the original Garden Retirement development, are now occupied and Council approved Stage 2 – 34 additional units which the developer intends to finish within one year. In 2021, Council approved a 21-unit rental apartment development across from the SIRCH Bistro on Maple Avenue. The private developer was back last month with an updated version of his plan changing it to 18 units. Council recently provided land at no cost to Fleming college for a new student residence which in time could house over 100 students. The college believes construction will be started within two years. For the past two years Council has been working with Places for People. Council's plan is to gift this not-for-profit some land on Wallings Road on which Places for People is proposing to build up to 48 units of rental housing – mostly to be offered at market rates with a few units designated affordable housing. Private developers are now working with Dysart planning staff on other possible housing projects including another proposed condominium development near Grass Lake.
- Speeding is becoming a major issue on Dysart roads. Dysart Council has reduced speed limits on some roads and purchased flashing radar signs which have proven quite effective. It as agreed to complete an assessment of all roads to establish appropriate speed limits for each stretch of road. Public input regarding areas of concern, whether speeding traffic or dangerous intersections, is always welcome. Individuals or groups are welcome to submit emails addressed to Council through the Municipal Clerk or through Councillor Smith.
- Finally, Councillor Smith reported that there are many job vacancies in the Township. Dysart is currently looking for four seasonal roads workers- a great opportunity for a student summer job.

There were no questions from the floor. President Wratschko thanked Deputy Mayor Kennedy and Councillor Smith for their time.



6. Update – KLCOA President- Deb Wratschko

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –2022 Spring Meetings Presentations Deck)

First, President Wratschko conducted a Zoom poll to see what percentage of attendees would have attended an in-person meeting, had it been held in-person on the Saturday of the May long weekend. Forty- eight percent indicated that they would have attended. She noted that the Board will need to re-think the format of Members’ meetings as more people attend the virtual formats. Next, she gave an overview of spring and summer events including the road clean up, Ladies of the Lake Luncheon, and the July 1st fireworks, which she thanked Minden and Haliburton Home Hardware for their generous sponsorship. Other activities include Rock Bass Fishing Derby and Art on the Dock. She thanked Parker Pad and Printing and Viper marketing for sponsoring Art on the Dock. The Regatta is back after a 2- year break. Volunteers are needed. The Sailing Regatta and the Summer Sailing series will also be returning this year. Regrettably, swimming lessons will not be held because of insurance issues and lack of available instructors. KLCOA will work over the winter to see if the issue can be resolved, but in the meantime, should any instructors come forward to offer private lessons, the information will be passed along.

Jim Prince, Vice President, KLCOA provided an overview of KLCOA’s water quality program. He noted that maintaining water quality was important in maintaining property values. He reviewed the bulk tree planting program, shoreline restoration projects and workshops and the three water quality testing programs. Next, he discussed KLCOA’s lands program and advised that the transfer of the land surrounding Soap Pond from Dysart to KLCOA should be complete by July. A workshop will be held on land use principles. He noted that the rope swing had to be removed for insurance purposes. Finally, an education program had been put in place for abandoned docks. While there are fewer than in previous years, a work day will be organized to remove the ones currently across from the marina.

In conclusion, President Wratschko discussed invasive species as well as the new “Clean, Drain and Drive Program” which is now legislated to reduce the transfer of waterborn species from one water body to another. A vessel has to be cleaned and drained before entering another body of water. Fines of up to \$1000 are possible. A boater engagement event will be held. Further information is on the KLCOA website.

7. Remarks by Constable Peter Allore – OPP :

Constable Allore has been with the Marine Unit since 2013 and have been working in Haliburton County since 2003. Regarding boating safely, he advised that courtesy and common sense go a long way. The use of life jackets is very important- most fatalities are not wearing lifejackets. He advises that everyone wear them in boats. He recommended that docks have some sort of reflective devise on them, and discussed boating rules around rights of way (non motorized vessels have the right of way over motorized vessels etc.) He advised that there is zero tolerance for alcohol when it comes to boating. He then listed the equipment required for various boating crafts. In conclusion, Constable Allore indicated that he will respond to any questions via email.

8. Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve- Malcolm Cockwell- Managing Director



Malcolm began his presentation with an update on their tourism and recreation programs. Most programs are now back up and running. The Thursday evening wolf howls are back on, and the Wolf Centre is open and there is a new pup. There is a fibre arts show on the Wild Woods Walk. He gave a thank you and shout out to Wendy O' Brien, who is on the lake and made the show possible. The Cookhouse is under new management, and they are open to comments and suggestions. The Forest is now back open for private events and meetings. Regarding the Forest Products Division, it has been a productive year with all three sawmills in operation. With the recent severe storm, some staff have been sent to the Hastings area to salvage wood. Malcolm touched briefly on invasive species and noted that Beech Bark disease continues to be a horror. He reminded members not to move firewood and especially do not bring it up from Toronto. He concluded his remarks saying that Forest staff are always open to comments, suggestions, and complaints. He asked people to be as specific as possible if there is a complaint.

Questions:

Why are ATVs are allowed in the forest in the winter not the summer?

- ATVs are allowed in the summer by Lessees for access and transportation. They are not intended for recreational use. If there is enough interest expressed in summer ATV trails, the Forest might consider it.

What are the dates for wolf howl?

- They will be held on Thursday nights.

When a couple gets a joint pass for the Forest, they only get one card. But sometimes they are doing two separate activities. Can we not get a pass each?

- That seems like a very reasonable request. Malcolm will take it up with his colleagues.

Are the huskies gone?

- The dog sledding program has lasted 20 years, but it is a tough and expensive business to run. The Forest decided to exit the program in an ethical manner- 75% of the dogs have found homes. The remaining 25 % will remain on-site until they die naturally. Plans are underway to replace the program with a comprehensive network of trails for Cross-county skiing, hiking and snowshoeing.

9. Kennisis Lake Marina Update- Chad Burdon, Gary Bouwmeister, Jim Dale

Jim Dale did the presentation. They are in Year 2 of ownership. The initial objectives were to upgrade the store, upgrade the coffee bar and build new Pickleball courts. The renovation of the store is mostly complete, with a new roof, painting and new signage. The Pickleball courts are being re-surfaced, including in the forest, and two gazebos are being constructed by the courts. Next Lisa Dale described plans for the Courts programming, including clinics, learn to play lessons, tournaments and round robins. You can join as a member or pay as you play with same day booking. Jim then reported that the Marina has purchased the food truck and Mike Rae will be running it. Parking has been improved and docking capacity has been added. They are very



supportive of KLCOA and are thrilled to be hosting the Regatta this year. In conclusion, Jim thanked everyone for their support and noted that in everything they do, they consider the move from a cottagers perspective first.

Questions:

Is the marina going to have cleaning facilities for boats under the new regulations to prevent invasive species?

- They are looking into it.

Deb thanked Jim and Lisa for their presentation.

10. KLCOA Financial and Administrative Update – Deb Wratschko & Scott Durie

See slides on KLCOA.org site for details. (Go to Records –2022 Spring Meetings Presentations Deck)

Deb advised that the KLCOA treasurer Grant DeMarsh, is currently travelling, so Board member, Scott Durie will do the presentation. Scott advised that the organization is in a healthy cash position. All accounts are with CIBC. As a not-for profit, we try to have one year's operating expenses in reserve. In 2021 there was a small deficit of just over \$3k. It was not a normal operating year because of Covid. He reviewed the expenses in detail. Advertising and sponsorships for 2022 are looking strong. Scott then covered the MPAC assessment of the Blueberry Islands, noting that an appeal was submitted. In the meantime, the taxes have had to be paid. The Soap Pond acquisition will have some legal fees.

Q: Please explain doubling of expenses for programs and events compared to 2019?

- Fireworks expenses will be greater, however a sponsorship of \$4K will offset some of the expenses. In addition, there are additional expenses with the history book, and shoreline restoration projects.

Motion: To accept the 2021 KLCOA financials as presented at the Spring 2022 members meeting on May 26, 2022.

M: Deb Wratschko

S: Jim Prince

The motion passed. Two members opposed

Motion: To accept the 2022 budget as presented at the Spring 2022 members meeting on May 26, 2022

M: Deb Wratschko

S: Jacquie Geall

The motioned passed. Three members opposed

Further updates:

- Membership is at 550 members as of today. Annual stickers are at the Marina.



- The Connectivity Committee is working towards better cell/internet coverage. They are cautiously optimistic that an announcement will be made shortly. Deb thanked Tayce Wakefield for all her work.
- Regarding communications, our members continue to use our E-blasts, website and newsletter for their information.
- Deb thanked the numerous businesses in the Haliburton community for their advertising and sponsorship support, and specifically Minden and Haliburton Hardware for sponsoring the 2022 fireworks.
- She noted that the number one concern in the 2021 survey was about water quality and blue-green algae. The first of a series of “What’s Up Kennisis” webinars will cover this topic.
- A fisheries review by MNRF has been undertaken on Zone 15, which includes Kennisis Lake. Details can be found on the KLCOA website.
- The Traditional Rights of Way committee is looking for volunteers.
- The Hazard and Navigation markers have been deployed. Not all hazards are marked.
- The Group Propane Buy Program has over 50 members. A webinar was recently held for potential new members and a summary is available on the website.
- The KLCOA board is currently working on the following initiatives: a privacy policy, advocacy policy, a land acknowledgement an update of our advertising and sponsorship program, and updating the bylaws to be compliant with the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.
- A new volunteer database is being developed.

Before moving on to the Question and Answer part of the meeting, President Wratschko thanked everyone for joining.

11. Questions and Answers

Margaret Cox submitted a question in advance concerning the negative environmental/noise impact of the fireworks. She asked whether an alternative could be found, such as a laser display. Another member also suggested a drone show instead of fireworks.

- We certainly recognize your concerns. The fireworks committee has investigated alternatives such as a laser light show and silent fireworks put to music, but currently the costs are prohibitive. The committee will regularly discuss this issue.

From Andy: Can we please have the no wake marker at the Blueberry islands moved to the entrance of the second channel to the west or add an additional marker? Watercraft entering the middle rarely slow down.

- The question will be directed to the hazard marker team for consideration.



From lesliesmyth: This is a question about water quality - does any testing occur regarding hydrocarbons in the water? (Can be answered later..)

- The question will be forwarded to the water quality team for response

President Wratschko concluded the meeting at 9:02 pm, thanked everyone for attending, and advised that the full slide deck and a recording of the meeting would be posted on the KLCOA website in the next few days.

Adjourn

Minutes prepared by:

Sheelagh Lawrance
KLCOA Recording Secretary