

Baptiste Lake Association AGM Minutes

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Birch Cliff Lodge

10:00 a.m.

- **Welcome** – Marlin Horst who is now Chair of the Interlakes Group thanked the many members who attended today's meeting. His remarks included an update of our request for MNRF approval to stock lake trout from our local fish hatchery. He reminded us that our main goal is to protect Baptiste Lake, including its fishery.
- **Mayor Tony Fitzgerald:** Our mayor gave a thoughtful and straight forward address to the audience. His overriding message was that HH tax revenue is limited yet so many priorities need attention. The new Council is determining the Towns direction while dealing with staff turnover, rising costs and critical projects. He reminded us that our local government must work with numerous partners and deal with the county and province. He asked that we all be good neighbours and work together and voice our opinions in a thoughtful and productive manner. He also noted that we do not own the lake that we share it! The mayor suggested residents write to council members regarding concerns and offer constructive criticism with an offer to be a part of the solution.
- **Guest Speaker Fred McConnell:** Fred is President of Wollaston Lake and has a Masters in Environmental Control and Assessments. He has been instrumental in representing Baptiste Lake at monthly MNRF meetings, is securing funds through Watersheds Canada to improve our spawning beds and is our representative at the fish hatchery. Fred's message to us was to be aware of invasive species and the many causes of water quality deterioration. Wollaston has so much milfoil growth it has squeezed boat access which needed passages to be cut to allow boats to get through. His message: Education and Observation is Power.
- Minutes of the 2022 AGM as posted on the BLA website at <http://baptistelake.org/WS/Main/meetings.php> - Motion to Accept made by Kan Chhatwal , seconded by John Jared, carried.

- Treasurer's Report – Diane Jared: Diane provided the group with a printed report of our Financial Statements highlighting revenues, expenditure and informative notes. Motion to accept the financials: Moved by Gary Pirko, seconded by John Vanderpas, Carried.
- Marlin – proposed a motion to waive audited financial statements- Motion to accept made by Paul Coleman, seconded by Alan Stephen, Motion carried.
- Introduction of New Directors – Marlin Horst presented a motion to accept the new list of directors for the upcoming year, including Marlin Horst, Eric Hooey, Anne Coleman, Shelley Pickard, Diane Jared, Hilary Phillips, Gary Pirko, Paul Coleman, Beth Greenberg, and Alan Stephen. Moved by Alan Stephen, seconded by Chis Chhatwal, carried.
- Marlin Horst requested that members consider representing the BLA on the Hastings Highlands Land Use Planning Committee as well as a volunteer to sit on the septic re-inspection program committee.
- Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, John Jared, second John Vanderpas
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- Time of Adjournment: 11:55