

Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners  
Garden City Inn, 2100 McPhillips Street, Winnipeg

January 19, 2016

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**Minutes**

**Present:** Dave Crabb, Pat Dunlop, Jim Nicholson, Jim Neufeld, Mo Tipples, Greg Hamilton, Liz Speers, Ray Poole

**Regrets:** Ken Corbett, Larry Baker, Norma Kerr

**Chair:** Dave Crabb

**Recording Secretary:** Shelley Morris

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda –**

It was moved by Pat and seconded by Ray that the agenda be adopted. CARRIED

Dave noted that Network for water would be added to the agenda

**3. Adoption of Minutes of November, 2015.**

It was moved by Liz and seconded by Greg that the minutes for November 2015 be adopted. CARRIED

**4. Financial Report – November, 2015**

- a. \*Approval of Financial Report.
- b. \*Receipts from members for purchases.
- c. \*Banking
- d. \*Update on Grant.

Jim reported on the November 2015 statement with transactions relating to the AGM and some membership renewals. There was \$500 in income and \$559 in expenses with the balance at Nov 30<sup>th</sup> being \$11059.

For December, we did not get a statement and there was no activity. Jim is working with Pat to get online access to statements. A small error seems to have occurred on the interest charge which Jim will follow up and provide update at next meeting.

It was moved by Jim Nicholson and seconded by Liz that Board accept the financial report for November 30, 2015. CARRIED

It was noted that an invoice needs to be requested for the website update.

## **5. Standing Items**

### **a. Membership**

Greg reported that he had gone through the membership list and divided into current and past members. For 2015, there are 1949 paying members and 1021 former members. There are 18 associations that have not renewed. Greg will work on trying to get those past members reinstated. Greg drafted a single membership application form where you could check off the option of individual or association membership. Greg will make the required changes, send the form to Pat who will send to Bill for uploading to the website.

We have been distributing communications to current members and one year past - 2014 and 2015.

In terms of content, Ray has been circulating some of the recent information that has been in the Free Press re: education taxes. Jim Nicholson made the point that our property tax issues are not restricted to cottage owners, these issues are of interest to all property owners.

**b. Facebook** – nothing to report. Greg suggested that anything that goes to our website could also be posted on Facebook. It was asked whether the webmaster might be able to assume this responsibility. Dave said that if anyone sees items of interest, send it to him for potential posting. Lake Winnipeg Foundation and Conservation communications might be of interest. Liz will take a look at the MACO page.

### **c. Website - New items for Health and Safety section.**

Jim developed a list of potential topics - Legionnaire's disease, lighting and surge protection, electrocution, electrical safety, mosquito borne viruses and protection, blastomycosis, deer ticks. All were thought to be of interest. Rabies article was sent to Bill for posting. Dave could write intro piece on surge protection – and Hydro may have some material that could be linked. Re: lightning, Hydro had a map of all locations where lightning struck in the last year. Jim will look at a piece on mosquito borne viruses – the issue is how to protect yourself against these viruses.

Greg noted that there are a lot of associations listed on our website that have not been members for awhile. There was discussion about the insurance which we have the master policy for. There are considerable cost savings by being part of the MACO policy. Morris Insurance refers to MACO website to ascertain membership. There are some that have not been members since 2012. Greg suggested only 2014 and 2015 members should be listed and previous to that, they can be contacted to attempt to get them back on board. Membership may

fall between the cracks when there is change in volunteer personnel. Suggestion to have question on home page asking if your cottage association is a member of MACO.

Pat noted that the Board list needs to be updated on the website. Liz noted that drop downs and photos were not working on Ipad, but does work on I-phone.

AGM minutes will be posted on website in draft form. Shelley to send minutes to Pat and she will circulate to Board for vetting.

Reference was made to the website stats.

**d. Education Tax Issue: STOP Project**

Dave circulated a couple of articles which seemed to be well received. These could be considered for Facebook.

**e. Lake Manitoba**

Water is within operating range – 810.5 – it's 811.73. Lake St. Martin is up right now. Cedar Lake – zebra mussels have been found. Gull Lake closed down its boat launch last summer. There is a lot of water flowing right now, road into Beaconsia is about to flood. Ditches are filling and freezing and getting up near road height.

**f. Advertising** – discussed locating last correspondence from Norma –draft letter sent in September – Pat will circulate again. Jim has list of potential companies it could be sent to based on business cards collected at shows.

Dave asked if MACO needed to do its own advertising to create more awareness.

**6. Business and Action Items Arising From Minutes**

\*Tax Rally – (Larry)

**7. New Business**

**Parks Coalition Update** – 4 associations have met. Mo was asked to represent cottages around Lake Winnipeg. Minister given deadline to freeze current fees until situation thoroughly examined. There will be a freeze until after the election. Coalition has been growing and achieving success. Grindstone has joined in the effort as Whiteshell is doing a very good job of uniting the various interests. Whiteshell prepared map re: MLAs correlated to their members. 210,000 was the count once families were taken into consideration. Would MACO see benefit of doing something likewise on the education tax and make the politicians see how many votes are at risk. Should be able to take the address and track constituency. The local associations would have to do this as MACO does not have the individual addresses.

Rep from SK visited before Christmas to review how they operate and the documentation that they have to substantiate costs/services.

Mo is keeping MACO's support for Whiteshell visible. Could MACO come up with written report on waste in education taxes and present to MLAs and RMs. Could be an opportunity to bind the two groups. A lot of their members would share our interest and be on board.

There is a lot of info from Jim and Larry that needs to be publicized. It would have to be acted on soon to take advantage of upcoming election. It would be good to get copy of Whiteshell materials and understand how they got it done and who did it. Greg offered to send an email to the membership in an attempt to collect info.

Greg wondered how easy it is to combine the two issues. MACO may be better served to form its own coalition. We could ask local cottage associations to advise how many of their members are in each riding or provide their postal codes. It needs to be clear that the issue applies to all property owners.

Newsletter article – thank you to Marion, Tom and Cathie for their service to MACO, and include on the website.

It would be helpful to get shorter clips of the info that Larry has – bite size bullets

### **Strategic Plan**

Pat noted that the strategic plan on the website is not current. Shelley offered to provide some support in updating a strategic plan if that would be of interest, identifying priorities, aligning resources with the priorities and being more focused. Pat gave Shelley her file to review. The last plan was reviewed in 2013 but not finalized

Ray had question about plan with provincial parks and the lack of services being provided.

#### **8. Correspondence Received/Responded to:**

Building a Community for Network – on Jan 30 at the library – MB at crossroads on its water and its waterways. CAC MB and Public Interest Law Centre – listening, sharing and network building – all interested invited to attend and admission is free.

Registration by Jan 25 requested. Dave will circulate the information for anyone who may wish to attend. This could be posted on website or facebook.

#### **9. Next Meeting Dates are Tuesdays:**

**February 16, 2016, March 15, 2016. April 19, 2016, May 17, 2016 June 21, 2016 July 19, 2016, August 16, 2016, September 20, 2016 October 18, 2016, November 15, 2016**

**10. Adjournment – 9:15 p.m.**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Assigned to:</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Jan 2016 meeting</b>		
Approach lapsed members to renew membership / only current members should have access to insurance so website needs to be updated to reflect current members	Greg	
New membership application	Greg/Pat	
Facebook postings	Dave/Liz	
Website articles Article on surge protection	Dr. Jim Dave	
Update Board listing on website	Pat	
Circulate Norma's draft letter re: advertising List of companies that can be approached	Pat Jim	
Consideration of MACO lobbying effort similar to Whiteshell		
Strategic Plan review	Pat/Shelley	
<b>Previous meetings</b>		
Banking – set up view and print option for monthly statements	Jim N.	
Track grant monies and associated expenditures	Jim	ongoing
Send in photos of cottage country for website	all	
corporate membership letter	Norma	asap
Invite Investors to take out corporate membership	Dave	asap
Speakers for tax rally and confirm if it is going ahead	Larry	asap