

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

May 17, 2016

Minutes

Present: Pat Dunlop, Mo Tipples, Greg Hamilton, Liz Speers, Jim Nicholson, Ray Poole

Regrets: Dave Crabb, Ken Corbett, Norma Kerr, Jim Neufeld

Guest: Val Hammond

Chair: Pat Dunlop

Recording Secretary: Shelley Morris

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
It was moved by Ray and seconded by Liz that the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED
3. **Adoption of Minutes of February 16, 2016.**
It was moved by Liz and seconded by Mo that the minutes of February 16, 2016 be adopted. CARRIED
4. **Financial Report –**
 - a. *Approval of Financial Reports.
 - b. *Receipts from members for purchases.
 - c. *Banking
 - d. *Update on Grant.

Jim reviewed the four monthly financial statements.

- Jan – 4 memberships, balance \$11,000+, resolved the missing interest credit – happens if we fall below \$5000 chequing balance, so best to transfer monies to savings.
- Feb – limited activity, interest, no liabilities, balance \$11,184
- March – interest income, couple of cheques cashed, annual corporate filing \$25, Cottage subscription, \$10,092 balance
- April – invoice for MACO website just over \$1500 and hosting and maintenance for coming year for total expenditures of just under \$2000 and balance of \$9000.

Jim received the 3 cheques that Mo had from January.

It was moved by Jim and seconded by Mo that the financial reports for Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr be approved. CARRIED

Greg has been picking up cheques/mail and asked about cheques sitting for longer than the month. It's usually not a problem as meetings are monthly. If that happens again, we can look at dealing with the cheques to get them deposited.

Grant – Pat noted a final report will need to be done. Jim noted that we earned \$3000 and \$1575 has been spent on the website update, so \$1425 remaining. Discussion re: skyping which has worked for Ray, but is not great for those in Beaconsia due to satellite internet. Conference call is alternate, cost of \$600 for conference phone. Greg & Liz will test using cell phone as an option.

5. Standing Items

*Membership

a. *Facebook

b. *Website

- New items for Health and Safety section.
- Approval of invoices for website.

c. *Education Tax Issue: *STOP Project*

d. *Lake Manitoba

e. *Advertising

Ray asked if anyone has heard from Sandy Lake/Ditch Lake – potential new members that Ray has made contact with. Pat has also had contact.

Greg reported that we are at 42 cottage associations for 2015, 7 individual members, 25 renewals for 2016 and 7 of those renewals were from lapsed members from 2 to 4 years ago. Now at 2479 members.

Jim noted interaction with Delta Beach, encouraging them to reinstate membership on the basis that we are stronger as a united voice.

Pat reported on website – she has been adding/deleting material. She added information re: burning bans. Liz noted that she could add info to Facebook also. Let Pat know of any updates to the website that are needed. With respect to advertising, a draft letter was circulated and Norma had previously provided copy of a letter. Some thought it was too long but no specific Board feedback was provided. She has had an issue with her computer and some information may be lost. Jim had provided scanned business cards and will check with Norma if she needs another copy. In terms of website, there may be max. pixels that can be accommodated on the website. Cottager magazine business card size ads is \$375 – not clear how many inserts this includes.

The letter from Norma proposes corporate membership at \$300 to include advertising for the year on the website, which would be more cost-effective than advertising in Cottager magazine. We have two prospects for corporate advertising/membership.

Liz noted on our Facebook, it is not possible to submit comments and she has had contact from someone that may be interested in advertising – Brad – Spartan Fire. Greg will follow up with the 3 prospects (the other 2 are from the cottage show)

Contacted by Recycle Everywhere to circulate program info which was sent to the associations. They were hoping Cottager associations would distribute the boxes in their areas (made out of heavy duty plastic). Some areas already have recycling pick up at a fee on tax bill.

Liz has been posting info from our website onto Facebook and we are reaching more people. Any appropriate info can be sent to Liz for posting. Liz will be aiming for 1 to 2 postings per week.

Education Tax Issue – received more petitions. Must have a Member of the House to present them to the Legislature. Jim suggested checking with Shannon Martin if he would be prepared to present our petition. Liz could be posting “Did you know” facts on Facebook. Need to emphasize that it is not a cottage issue – it affects every homeowner. It was noted that Jon Gerrard is supporter of cottage/lake issues. New Brunswick was suggested as a point of comparison.

Lake MB – Greg noted 811.99 is the lake level – has not changed.

Lake St. Martin – 800.52

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

*Tax Rally – don’t have Larry as organizer anymore. Greg thinks we should touch base with the coalition group. Let’s Pay Fair – see if they have anything on their agenda. Peter Squire of WREB did speak at one of the rallies. Heather Stefanson was at one of the rallies. (She presented petitions before Shannon Martin.) Greg will follow up. Another contact is Ian Wishart who was involved in some way in the rallies.

- a. *Parks Coalition Update – Mo reported that she attended a meeting recently. There is interest in working together – their concern is provincial parks issue and the increase in fees. Interested in expanding the coalition and meeting with government. Still to determine who to meet with in the new government. They are wondering if MACO would be OK with other local cottager associations being contacted to garner their support and get everyone on the same page. Usually, we have had such requests go through MACO rather than distributing any contact info directly. Currently, the fee increase is on hold based on meeting with previous government through Tom Nevakshonoff.
- b. *Strategic Plan – Pat and Shelley to meet to review
- c. *Cottage Show – Pat reported that it had gone well. Zebra mussels display was in place. Suggestion would be to have had list of MLAs but with the election it wasn’t available for this show. Jim suggested powerpoint presentation on computer with MACO website, Did you know?, info on membership, forming cottage associations, invasive species, 20 – 25 slides to give a good overview of MACO (5 to 10 minutes). Jim mentioned that more still needs to be done to create more awareness of MACO, citing the example of Lake of the Woods cottager owner and the benefit of them being involved in MACO.

Contact to be made with Cottager magazine to get update on working with them and potential for articles etc.

7. **New Business** – No new business

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

Pat noted correspondence from individual in Beconia. Dave said it was a municipal issue rather than conservation issue. Liz also plans to make contact with the municipality.

Correspondence from individual prepared to donate equipment that has been opened but never used. Question re: if he can’t sell it, would there be any liability issues of MACO using it as a giveaway.

Correspondence from vendor in Morden wanting us to circulate info – potential corporate member?

Update on Steep Rock executive sent to Greg.

Discussion re: types of groups that MACO could be connecting with based on the sorts of activities that people do at the lake.

Jim mentioned the cloud resource used by MACO. He will circulate access info and password to Board. Research that we have done on tax issue is stored there. It has to be kept active once per year.

9. Next Meeting Dates are Tuesdays:

June 21, 2016 July 19, 2016, August 16, 2016, September 20, 2016 October 18, 2016, November 15, 2016

10. Adjournment – 8:45 p.m.