

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

August 15, 2017

MINUTES

Present: Dave Crabb, Pat Dunlop, Val Hammond, Jim Nicholson, Gus Wruck, Gary Dunlop, Ray Poole
(by Skype/audio conference)

Regrets: Mo Tipples, Ken Corbett

Chair: Dave Crabb

Secretary: Shelley Morris

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The June 20th agenda was used as template with the addition of strategic plan and some communication items

It was moved by Jim and seconded by Pat that the agenda be approved. CARRIED

3. Minutes – June 20, 2017

It was moved by Val and seconded by Pat that the minutes be approved. CARRIED

4. Financial Report

a. *Approval of Financial Reports.

Jim Nicholson reported on the financial statements and noted balance of 11, 215 to end of July .

It was moved by Jim and seconded by Gus that the financial report for June and July 2017 be accepted. CARRIED

5. Standing Items

a. **Membership** – Val reported that there was one membership since last meeting. Jim brought forward Silver Harbor Property Owners association that could be approached for membership. There could be a couple of hundred members and they appear to be well organized.

Reference was made to an invitation to join letter prepared by Greg and Pat will send it to Val so that she can send to Silver Harbor along with membership application.

b. **Facebook** – No update

- c. **Website** – The information re: woodticks hasn't been added yet. Jim has circulated information. It was suggested that the links be added to our website.
- d. **Education Tax Issue:** Nothing new to report
- e. **Lake Manitoba** - Pat attended Open house event and reported on developments with access roads and consultation with First Nations Treaty 2 group. There is a commitment to proceed. Water level is down a bit – 813 - and 814 is flood level. Lake St. Martin is finally below flood level.
- f. **Advertising** - nothing new

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

a. **Strategic Plan** – Shelley reviewed the drafted plan. Jim made a few suggestions. Gus asked if this is the right plan at the right time. He noted the level of activity in the past and important issues that had been addressed, with significant research and content added to the website. Gus thinks that the membership issue has to be addressed – how to attract new members and retain existing ones. He asked if it is possible for MACO to continue and suggested the most important issue on the plan is Organizational Effectiveness. Pat agreed that more Board members are a necessity. She has been looking for a Lake Manitoba representative to replace her. Everyone has been so involved in flood issues that they are unable to commit to anything else.

Jim had suggested the possibility of merger with Whiteshell but Dave felt they don't address some of the issues pursued by MACO.

There is the question of what would happen with the insurance program and the website – perhaps the potential loss of the insurance program would be the catalyst to get volunteers.

Val feels that there are volunteers assigned to the various tasks on the plan so there is interest in proceeding. Perhaps the call for volunteers needs to be specific re: the jobs, tasks, skills that are needed.

Insurance costs would be almost double without the MACO policy.

Next step – need to post on the website the need for volunteers and perhaps promote that MACO is making it easier to participate.

It was moved by Jim and seconded by Val that the following message be added to the website and distributed to cottage associations. CARRIED

“MACO is calling upon individuals with an interest in cottage country to consider joining the MACO Board. Great opportunity to discuss with other cottage owners issues that are important to your cottage investment – such as education property taxes, environmental issues and more.

MACO has just made it easier for you to participate – Board meetings will be held quarterly instead of monthly. Plus, we will soon have the ability to participate in meetings by conference call, reducing your travel time.

The success of MACO depends on volunteer input and has in the past resulted in great member services such as the MACO insurance program which keeps your insurance costs down, as well as our excellent website with a wealth of informational resources.

If you're interested, please contact Secretary Shelley Morris at shelly.morris@mts.net"

It was moved by Val and seconded by Jim that the 2017-20 strategic plan be approved by the Board. CARRIED

b. Finalizing grant – Options were discussed for phone system. CanadInn has Polycom. Logitech is good system but quite expensive. It was questioned if the expenditure should go ahead at this time. It was noted that funds have been committed and are available from the grant. It was asked if a conference call line would be another option so that people don't have to travel to meetings. It was suggested that the decision on equipment purchase be deferred until after the AGM and seeing what response there is to the call for volunteers

c. AGM Planning

Date of meeting is third Tuesday in October (Oct 17th). Notice needs to go out one month in advance to the cottage owners associations. The registration form is posted on the website with contact names. Val will work on getting a speaker. Usually a token gift or honorarium is provided. Gus noted that he has become President of Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society and there are events to commemorate 100th anniversary which has included celebrating Anishinabe culture. MACO may wish to likewise look at their list for speakers that can address various topics. Board discussed what would be the connection to attract cottage owners to the event and it was suggested that environmental stewardship might be a topic that could be covered.

(Past speakers have addressed issues like cottage succession, flooding, Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium and several names were put forward) Gus suggested a veterinarian in Selkirk, now the MLA – Alan Lagimodiere – as another speaker prospect. Dave will confirm with CanadInns that the room has been booked. Pat will provide notice from previous year which can be used as template.

Newsletter – done twice per year – spring and fall – usually goes out at time of notice of annual meeting which includes updates, President's message. It has been sent electronically except for those without email are mailed.

Request for tax signs noted – Val will respond. Dave has some signs that Val can pick up.

Jim could write article relating to taxes using Larry's material. There could be an article promoting people using the website.

7. **New Business** – none raised

8. Correspondence

a. Grahamdale RM – is looking for support in asking government for assistance with expenses arising from legal, technical advice and socio-economic impact assessment connected with the Lake Manitoba outlet drainage. The need for the project is understood but there is concern that the project costs and impacts will be borne by Grahamdale residents.

It was moved by Gus and seconded by Pat that MACO lends its support to the RM of Grahamdale in their efforts to find a resolution to the Lake Manitoba drainage outlet through the RM of Grahamdale. CARRIED

- b. Email re: AIS circulated by Pat. MACO was copied on emails regarding a proposal to form an AIS committee partly in response to the issues with zebra mussels. It was agreed the proposal has merit.

9. **Next Meeting Dates are Tuesdays: September 19, October 17, November 21.**

10. **Adjournment** – It was moved by Gus and seconded by Pat that the meeting adjourn at 8:50 p.m.