

April, 2011 Minutes
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MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF COTTAGE OWNERS INC.
P.O. Box 281 Station Main, Winnipeg, MB, R3G 2G9

Date: April 19, 2011

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: CanadInns-2100 McPhillips Street, Winnipeg.

Present: Larry Baker, Marian Jones, Jim Neufeld, Gus Wruck, Jim Nicholson, Norma Kerr, Dave Crabb, Rilla Britton, Lorne Britton and Brian Blahey

Regrets: Mo Tipples, Donna Jean Crabb, Pat Dunlop.

1. Call to Order

Dave Crabb called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm

2. Adoption of Agenda

Gus Wruck moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Rilla Britton.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Financial information in March, 2011 minutes too brief for members' understanding. Rilla Britton moved that more information on the Financial Report be included in the minutes. Seconded by Lorne Britton. Motion carried.

4. Financial Report

Jim Nicholson provided Financial Report as of March 31, 2011 to members. Moved by Jim that the summary at the bottom of the Financial Report be included in the minutes from now on. Seconded by Marion Jones. Motion carried. (see attached financial summary taken from report).

5. Business and Action Items Arising From the Minutes

- a. East Road Write-up done – link not on website yet.
- b. Member orgs to website – done
- c. Wildlife Safety – Lorne Britton – table for next meeting.
- d. Waste Disposal – Donna Jean Crabb – table for next meeting.
- e. Provincial Land Use Planning Survey – Pat Dunlop – table for next meeting.
- f. Recycling – Mo Tipples – table for next meeting.
- g. Snowmobile Safety – Gus Wruck – table for next meeting.

6. Old Business

- a. Eastern Beaches Coalition – Conservation website contains all the letters re EBCC (over 50). No conclusion until the snow melts. Development in limbo.
- b. Website: The member associations are now up on the website. A replica of the School Tax Sign is now showing on the website with information on how to obtain a sign.
- c. School Taxes:
 - i. Motion put forward by Larry Baker that MACO contact all cottage associations and ask that, for this year only, on a voluntary basis, they send a \$2.00 per member donation to assist with the promotion of the elimination of education taxes during the 2011 provincial election. Seconded by Lorne Britton. Motion passed.
 - ii. Motion by Gus Wruck that municipalities each be asked to donate, on a voluntary and one-time basis, \$50/\$150/\$250 for a small medium, or large population to assist with the promotion of education tax elimination in this election year. Seconded by Lorne Britton. Motion passed. Gus Wruck to provide a template for use in soliciting donations. (see attached.)
 - iii. Motion by Larry Baker that Education Tax Elimination signs be available to directors at \$3.00 per sign and to the public at \$4.00 a sign. Seconded by Rilla Britton. Motion passed. Larry Baker has a meeting planned with Heather Stefanson to discuss the tax rally.
 - iv. Gus distributed a letter to the editor in the Lac du Bonnet Leader written by Carolyn Giles. The letter pointed out the unfairness of the current education tax, the inequity of “inside the park tax” and calculations on how a 1% increase in sales tax would benefit an “outside the park” resident. Gus Wruck moved that this letter be published on the MACO website. Seconded by Marian Jones. Motion carried.
 - v. Gus provided an informative Manitoba School Board Association website:
www.mbschoolboards.ca/whatwedo/communications/Rethinking%20Ed%20Funding.htm
- d. Lake Winnipeg Levels – nothing to report.
- e. Revised Membership Categories:
 - i. “Cottage Associations - \$1.00 per member – minimum \$30.00

- ii. Individual - \$20.00
- iii. Municipal - \$50.00 small/\$150.00 medium/\$250.00 (based on size and number of cottages)
- iv. Corporate - \$300.00
- v. Associate - \$20.00
- vi. The above motion was moved by Gus Wruck and seconded by Lorne Britton. Motion carried.
- vii. Moved by Jim Neufeld that advertising costs will not be included in Bylaw #2. Seconded by Larry Baker. Motion Carried.

- f. Is MACO green? Tabled to next meeting.
- g. Disaster Compensation: sub-committee Pat Dunlop, Bob Cox and Norma Kerr met regarding Disaster Compensation. Purpose of sub- sub-committee is to advocate for a more equitable method of distributing DFA funds. Cottage associations in other provinces to be contacted to get proper contact information, obtain their information and ideas, and most of all, to obtain their support in the initiative. A letter will then go out to all provincial candidates, newspapers, radio stations (i.e. Richard Cloutier). There will be an attempt to obtain either a letter of support or signed petition from cottage associations across Canada, including, Manitoba. A copy of Pat Dunlop's letter to Vic Toews will be put on the website. As well, Larry Baker will be meeting with James Bezan, MP Selkirk/Interlake re DFA. Norma suggested the name "Disaster Compensation" be changed to "Equitable DFA Assistance" (or "Non-Discriminatory DFA Assistance.")
- h. Charitable Status: Gus Wruck provided information on charitable status from a handbook on *Charitable Purpose – Advocacy and the Income Tax Act* that defined charitable status and clearly showed MACO cannot be a charitable organization.

7. New Business

- a. MACO image problem: Discussion on how to promote elimination of education taxes as a property owners' issue, and not just a MACO issue. Suggestion to set up a subsidiary association that includes property owners in the title and has an appropriate acronym. This will be on the next agenda. Members to think about process and name.
- b. Strategic Plan Review: Gus Wruck read out sections of MACO's Strategic Plan and it was agreed that directors would read the Strategic Plan and spend most of the next meeting reviewing it and brainstorm how, what and who will complete the tasks. This will be imperative for the next meeting as the election is approaching.

8. Correspondence Received/Responded to

- a. Letter from Louise Charette of the CBC asking what MACO knows about the situation in Hollow Water. Government is not doing anything for cottagers who do not have any information on how to get to or protect their cottages. MACO unable to help as MACO has no information either.
- b. Cottage Country.com: Cottage Country would like to put a business card size ad on the front of MACO's website. A motion by Gus Wruck to allow the ad and charge a fee of \$100.00 per month, with some discretion to Dave when he meets with the owner. Seconded by Lorne Britton. Motion passed.
- c. International Water Safety – Inflatable vests: MACO will promote. MACO will do an issue summary and put it on the website under Issues. Rilla Britton agreed to drive this issue.

9. Directors' Reports

- a. Directors' Reports were given.
 - i. Marion would like a phone committee to call everyone who received the newsletter. Marion suggested a common message that included: getting proper contact information; mentioning MACO's advocacy on education tax and non-discriminatory DFA assistance; a suggestion to look at MACO's website and its benefits to all re: health, safety and protection of cottage owners; request a donation of \$50.00/\$150.00/\$250.00 depending on size of association for assistance with advocacy for elimination of education tax from property tax bills.
 - ii. There was a suggestion that if directors' reports contained anything that should be in the minutes, it should be given to the secretary in writing.

10. Next Meeting Dates

- a. Next meeting dates are Tuesdays, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 4, and November 15. No meeting in December. AGM to be determined.

11. Adjournment

- a. Moved by Rilla and seconded by Gus that the meeting be adjourned.

**MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF COTTAGE OWNERS INC.
2011 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY
AS OF MARCH 31, 2011**

Summary

| | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Total Balance forward | | \$5,238.82 |
| Total income for the period | | 50.68 |
| Total debit for the period | | 120.00 |
| Total balances as of March 31,2011 | | <u>\$5,169.50</u> |
| Chequing account balance of Mar 31, 2011 | | <u>\$1,977.61</u> |
| Savings account balance of Mar 31, 2011 | \$3,191.89 | |

Motion for School Taxes

Whereas the Municipality of _____ is concerned about the continued use of property taxes as a major source of funding for education financing does hereby enact the following:

1. Goes on record as being opposed to the use of property taxes as a primary source of revenue for primary and secondary school education,
2. Supports the Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners in their role of educating and informing the public of the Municipality of _____ of its opposition to education taxes ,
3. The Municipality of _____ wishes to become a partner in the movement to remove education taxes from property as a means of financing primary and secondary education.
4. The Municipality of _____ will therefore provide support funding of \$ _____ to the Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners or other, which would approximate \$0.10 to \$0.25 per dwelling in the municipality.