

Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners

Garden City Inn

2100 McPhillips Street, Winnipeg

July 21, 2015

MINUTES

Present: Dave Crabb, Pat Dunlop, Cathie Zarfes, Tom Thorsteinson, Jim Neufeld, Mo Tipples
Jim Nicholson, Larry Baker

Regrets: Norma Kerr, Marian Jones, Ken Corbett, Ray Poole

Chair: Dave Crabb

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 Cathie and seconded by Mo to adopt the agenda. CARRIED

New business – add AGM and Marion

3. Adoption of Minutes of June, 2015

It was moved by Pat and seconded by Mo that the minutes of June 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Financial Report – June, 2015

a. *Approval of Financial Report.

b. *Receipts from members for purchases.

Income of \$2100+ for the month and expenses of \$69. Total balance of \$11,132.63 at end of June. It was noted that the grant was listed separately as an income line. The thought was that perhaps monies associated with the grant be tracked separately noting how the grant monies are spent, in case it's necessary to report back to the granting agency.

There will be a bill shortly for the website from Bill Campbell. \$5000 could be shifted to the savings account, leaving about \$5000 in chequing.

It was moved by Mo and seconded by Larry that the financial report for June 2015 be approved. CARRIED

c. *Update on Grant.

Though the grant is complete, this will stay on as an agenda item as there needs to be a further plan on how the monies will be spent, in addition to the website. Also discussed was brochures, AV for the AGM & meetings (e.g. projector)

5. Standing Items

a. *Membership - Pat gave Jim 6 or 7 memberships at this evening's meeting, mostly renewals. The website is up to date

b. *Cottager Magazine

Next article due Aug 7th. It was suggested to include thank you to Marian Jones for her work over the years on the Board and with MACO membership. The magazine is out in the middle of Sept. so timing would be conducive to promoting a rally if one was being held. If anyone has been working on any issues or has ideas in the next 10 days, please let Cathie know. Jim suggested reporting on issues discussed at various Board meetings – e.g. new memberships, breadth of membership, receipt of grants to assist with communications, donation to Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium. Pat noted that she gets a lot of telephone calls requesting information and connections. Dave suggested including a thank you to those that have contacted MACO through the website and by telephone. Jim suggested a call for Board members with contact information. Tom suggested the idea of having MACO's articles in the Cottager magazine housed on the website.

Marian's service could also be acknowledged on the website as "headline" news that can be taken down after some time has passed. There could be a few blurbs on the home page with links to the full article on other website pages.

--Information on length of time advertisements are in for costs advertised. To be carried forward for Norma's return.(Action: Norma)

c. *Facebook

Nothing new to report

d. *Website

One item from last meeting (watershed observer) has been linked with MACO website. Minutes on website have been updated. New content is needed as the current information is from November. Volunteer opportunity also on front page. It would be helpful to have ideas on website submitted for the next meeting so that Bill has the input while the site is under development

e. *Education Tax Issue: STOP Project

Dave noted that this topic has been in the news a lot lately. No other updates and nothing is happening with the STOP Project. Mo spoke to the issue of the need to solve the education tax issue. If this were removed from recreational properties, it would strike a better balance between the 2 groups – inside and outside of parks. In the past, the focus has been on value for fees charged which is different from the question of levying of the education tax. Whiteshell has looked to SK as a model for determining value.

f. *Lake Manitoba

812.6 is current reading. Pat wrote letter to Premier regarding flood protection at Lunder Beach – re: super sandbags, decision re: the future of the lake. Template letter is being prepared by the local association for use by interested parties who wish to add their voice.

g. *Advertising

Dave asked for ideas on who could be solicited for advertising on our website, mailout costs etc. In the past, different companies have paid for copying and mailing.

6. Business and Action Items Arising From Minutes

***Tax Rally – (Larry)**

By the next meeting, Larry will try to set a date for the rally. He talked about other seniors organizations that might be able to assist with distribution.

- a. *MACO on Escalating fees in Provincial Parks – Policy Paper (Dave) – an MOU has been signed and this should be on the website.
- b. *Road Restriction on Water Delivery – (Dave) – to be removed from the agenda, difficult to know how to approach it

7. New Business

AGM – need to set date, identify a speaker, review Board terms. Larry referred to CTF

director and it was clarified that the region is “Prairie” rather than a MB rep. Federal election is Oct 19 so best to put some space between the election and the MACO AGM. Suggested Tuesday, Nov 3, 7:00 p.m. as hotel space is available. There would not be a regular meeting in Oct. Cost last year was \$25 – to be confirmed with hotel. Graham Lane just wrote stellar article on land transfer taxes and other taxes – retired Chair of MB Public Utilities Board – would be a very good speaker – to cover topics of education tax, land transfer tax, capital gains, property assessment. Dave suggested another option would be Deveryn Ross who also writes for the Free Press. Discussed options for promoting the AGM to increase attendance – some senior publications, Free Press community billboard, notifying local cottage associations and asking them to circulate information to their members and include on their websites.

Replacement for Marian on Membership – Jim could look at application for contact info and Dave will make contact. Cathie open to making some contacts to encourage participation on the Board as she is not likely to continue once her term is up this year. Most recent report from Marian is from last fall. Mo and Pat updated email addresses before the next newsletter

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

a. **Email – Whiteshell Cottage Association MOU**

To be posted on website. Copies were distributed to Board by email. It is a public statement of support and there are no restrictions on publicizing it.

b. **Letter and Petitions re annexation**

Petition sent to Province – signed by 500+ residents of north cottage owners objecting to amalgamation/annexation of north of 54 cottage property area with Flin Flon. Petition was rejected. It has to be in format so that they are not directing the government – can only recommend government consider an action. It does not seem to include many current MACO members.

c. **Email re insurance**

Email from newly formed Duck Mountain area cottage owners association – considering MACO membership to take advantage of insurance – to cover a number of small cottage associations under larger umbrella group; however, the MACO product does not seem to be the type of liability insurance they are seeking. Clarification still being sought.

d. **Ground water regulations**

40+ page document sent to Board.

e. **RM Lac du Bonnet**

Updating their information on Associations. Pat said that she would let MACO members know to send current info to the RM.

f. **Call from Richard Rattai to Dave** – to be followed up

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

Next meeting dates are: August 18, September 15, 2015.

10. **Adjournment** - It was moved by Larry and seconded by Jim that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Task	Assigned to:	Deadline
Track grant monies and associated expenditures	Jim	ongoing
Cottager magazine - send ideas to Cathie	All	July 30
Thank you to Marion Jones for long service to MACO	Cathie	
MACO articles in Cottager magazine posted on website?		
Submit ideas re: website for the August meeting	All	Aug 18 mtg
Date for tax rally	Larry	Aug 18 mtg
Add MOU on escalating fees to website		
AGM - set date, review Board terms, speaker		
Confirm meeting space for annual meeting with hotel- Nov 3	Pat	
Contact Graham Lane as potential speaker and email Board as to response	Jim	
Replacement for Marion on membership	Jim/Dave	