



DRAFT Minutes from the 2024 Annual General Meeting ("AGM")

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DELIVERED AT THE AGM [NOW POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE]

[The Gull and Silver Lakes Residents' Association (the "GSLRA") AGM was held at 9:00 am., on Saturday, July 13, 2024 at St. Paul's Parish Church, Gravenhurst. The AGM was called to order at 9:00 a.m. There is a list of attendees available.]

President's Welcome

Randy Levine, President, ("RL") welcomed the members, several Councillors of the Town of Gravenhurst ("TOG") and other guests in attendance.

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion made, seconded and carried ("M/S/C") to accept the Agenda as presented. No items were added.

Acceptance of Minutes of 2023 AGM

Draft Minutes of the 2023 AGM were provided in paper form at the meeting. RL asked for any edits or amendments to the draft Minutes. There were none.

M/S/C to accept the 2023 Minutes as presented.

Financial Update

- Paul Temple, Treasurer prepared the Financial Report for fiscal 2023 (Jan. to Dec.)
- The opening balance of cash on hand was approx. \$20,597
- The GSLRA took in 54 paid memberships last year @\$35 = revenue of \$1,890
- The two largest expenses were incurred for the MLA water testing program and the expense of the 2023 AGM. The cash held at year-end, after expenses, was \$20,170, a decrease of \$427 (despite earning interest of \$331 from the Association's GIC investments). The fiscal mandate of the GSLRA is to take in members' dues and earn interest sufficient to meet the annual expenses of the organization and to establish a modest "reserve" to safeguard against excessive development, the introduction of new or amendment of existing local by-laws etc., on matters of concern to our members. It will therefore be the focus of the 2024 Executive to encourage more members to renew and new lake residents to become members.

There being no further discussion on the Financial Report, there was a M/S/C to accept the Financial Report as presented.

BOARD REPORTS

President's Report – Randy Levine

Mission Statement of the GSLRA

- To act in a responsible manner on behalf of the Association members to promote the ongoing enjoyment and interests of Gull and Silver Lakes residents.

GSLRA - Areas of Focus [include, but are not limited to]:

- **Water quality** – for approx. 20 years we have carried out annual testing of several sites on Gull and Silver Lakes, 4 times a year
- **Responsible and sustainable development** – we monitor and act on issues/matters pertaining to land development that could negatively impact our lakes and residents
- **Safe and lawful water activities** – we encourage responsible conduct on the water including observing all regulations regarding proximity to shore, excessive speeds and wake size
- **Liase and lobby all levels of government** – we embrace the opportunity to approach the appropriate level of authority on matters of concern to our members, if warranted
- **Communications** - we are committed to informing our members, using several types of media to keep them up-to-date on all matters of interest. We employ newsletters, a website, email-blasts, mailings, telephone and in person meetings to do so. This is a two-way channel, and we encourage our members to reach out to the Executive to be heard. We highly value your input!
- **More Social Events (New)** – we welcome Ola Wielgolawska as a new Director. She has volunteered to serve as a Social Committee Chair. There are many new cottagers on our lakes and— with her guidance we will be planning more social events to encourage all members to meet up and get to know their neighbours. These can provide a safe

forum to network and discuss topics and ideas to further enhance the Muskoka Experience.

with a comprehensive tips and recommendations section on how to reintroduce vegetation etc.

Membership Report – Cathy Temple, Chair

- Cathy advised the members that the Board is concerned about the declining number of annual memberships. Historically this averaged between 80 and 100 memberships but in recent years less than 60 households have renewed or signed up. Memberships are the lifeline of the Association on three fronts:
 - i) the cash is used to meet the financial obligations of the Association such as the MLA water testing program;
 - ii) it provides the contact information of our members so the Association can deliver timely and important information to them; and
 - iii) there is “power in the numbers”. We can collectively lobby and speak to issues of interest with the power of X number of members. One voice might not be heeded but the advocacy on behalf of 100 or more households will be heard.

[Help us help you – renew or sign up today!]

Environmental Update – Joanne Smith, Eco Group

Joanne and a small group of dedicated volunteers meet monthly to tackle the following environmental issues:

- ✓ Water quality testing of Gull and Silver lakes
- ✓ Calcium deficiency prevalent in Muskoka lakes - Encourage members to gather and deliver ash from their campfires to help restore calcium to forest floors which will leach back into our lakes
- ✓ Excess chloride content in our lakes from excessive salting on Muskoka roads – lobby the Town to reduce quantity of salt used on Town roads
- ✓ Monitor and be guided by the work of other environment groups such as FOCA (cottagers association)
- ✓ Implementation of and reporting on ‘Bugs in the Mud’ program – gathering data on insect life in our lakes – a further indicator of lake health
- ✓ Investigation of the decline of the White Pines around Gull and Silver Lakes
- ✓ Education of members with a weekly publication on Facebook called Science Sunday
- ✓ Love Your Lake program – an initiative developed by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) to encourage lakefront property owners to take proactive steps toward improving lake health by creating and maintaining healthier shorelines. Next Spring a confidential ‘report card’ will be made available to our lakeside residents

Joanne then introduced Rebecca Willison, Watershed Planning Technician for the District of Muskoka and Muskoka Watershed Council, to speak on the ‘Love Your Lake Program’ -- See the GSLRA website for a copy of Rebecca’s presentation at <https://www.gull-and-silver-lakes.ca>

Development Report – Jim Davis, Chair

- The Association continued to monitor potential development on 3 undeveloped properties: the Kendari Lands (Great Gulf Homes), Moody Bay and Pinedale motel properties. There are currently no submissions or applications for any of these properties lodged with the TOG.
- The Official Plan of the TOG will be reviewed and updated in 2025-2026.
- Short-term rentals by-law in place since January 2023. There is a map available indicating the registered properties. Currently shows 6 rentals on Gull Lake and 2 on Silver. Complaints can be submitted through “Report a Problem” on the TOG website.
- At the next TOG Council meeting a new Docking By-Law will be proposed. This by law will apply to 20 docking areas managed by the TOG, and will restrict short-term boat docking to 6 hours and strictly prohibit overnight parking. Non-compliance will result in fines, fees and boat removal. Jim invited all attendees to remain after this AGM to discuss the pros and cons of this bylaw.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The following Directors agreed to stand for nomination and serve for another year: Randy Levine, Jim Davis, Donna McLean, Paul Temple, Cathy Temple and Joanne Smith. RL called for nominations for new candidates. There was a new candidate nomination for Ola Wielgolowska, a cottager on Gull Lake. There being no further nominations, the nominations were declared closed.

M/S/C that those persons nominated above be elected to serve as Board members until the next AGM.

[Note: You do NOT have to be a board member to help!]

Town of Gravenhurst Update

Mayor Heidi Lorenz and the following Councilors attended the AGM: Penny Varney, Sandy Cairns, Jo Morphy, Christine Hunter and Randy Jorgensen.

Mayor Lorenz then spoke to the following:

- ✓ Wharf Area construction update
- ✓ Bay and Beyond Initiative
- ✓ Upcoming barge concerts and completion of stone seating
- ✓ Change of Farmers Market and other events to Gull Lake Rotary Park
- ✓ Concerns of members included: cars speeding on Bethune Dr., magnitude and scope of future Starboard program, Silver Lake Rd. needs paving, non-compliance of unregistered rental properties and South Muskoka hospital debate and spending commitments of TOG and District, noise from bridge over Gull Lake
- ✓ 'Report a Problem' tool is available to express concerns to TOG

OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

There being no further business, as is custom, Paul Temple made a motion to adjourn the AGM. The motion was seconded and carried without opposition.

Those in attendance were invited to peruse the various visual presentations displayed around the church hall and Joanne Smith distributed milkweed seeds to all as they exited. These seeds are meant to be scattered in the Fall for germination in 2025, to help restore natural vegetation around our shorelines. Those interested in the proposed new docking bylaw were encouraged to remain for a fulsome discussion on this topic.