

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF IBPOA Inc Saturday July 22/2006**

The meeting got underway at 10:03 in the Anglican Church Hall [Lion's Head] with approximately 50 people present. Dennis Stier as president chaired the meeting. Dennis Stier stated only paid up members as of today can vote & he encouraged those who haven't yet paid to do so.

Don Tefft acted as secretary for Eleanor Evans during this meeting & read the minutes of the last annual meeting. Moved by Peter Tasker & seconded by Roy Nichols that the minutes be accepted. Members approved motion.

Bob Spearing presented the treasurer Report which indicated a bank balance of \$2768 as of December 31, 2005. He also reported on revenues & expenditures. [see copy of enclosed Treasures Report]. Jane West & Alan West audited the 2005/2006 books & approved the same by written letter. It was moved by Gray Thynne & seconded by Jane Tibideau that the report be accepted. Members approved motion.

A presentation was made for amending the Association's constitution. Discussion arose concerning who was eligible to vote. Moved by Don Snow & seconded by Don Tefft that all those present who have paid their dues & are property owners can vote at this meeting. Members approve motion. Moved by Bob Spearing & seconded by John Newton to accept the present bylaw changes as read. Members approve motion. The voting status to is be clarified at the next AGM.

The next order of business was the election of Officers of the Executive. Mike Noble [present Officer at Large] agreed to take on Vice-president position & was acclaimed. There were no nominations for secretary & is presently vacant. The three vacancies for Officers at Large were filled by acclamation by Bruce King, George Hambleton & Don Snow. Bob Spearing was acclaimed as Treasurer.

Dave Cooke assumed the chair as the new President & outgoing Vice-president.

Milt Mclver [mayor of our municipality] made a presentation of local & municipal issues & introduced the councillors present—Patricia Grieg, Betsy Stewart, Tom Boyle & Jeff Meilhausen. The following are his comments—

- the municipality tax rate increased by 4.8% which was affected by 8% increase in policing & increase in fuel costs
- the county rates went up 8% over last year which was contributed by the opening of two long term care facilities & the 13 million museum in Southampton
- the education portion of the tax bills went up 9.3%
- the overall levy is a 7.4% increase over last year
- the mayor stated that municipality of NBP has the lowest tax rate of any of the Bruce County municipalities
- however, the actual municipal mill rate decreased by 15% because of the large property assessment increase [23%]
- speed limits on local roads [especially Isthmus Bay Rd] were an issue as members wondered why the OPP cannot enforce the speed limits

- the Mayor will try to arrange for radar speed indicators during the monthly meeting with the OPP
- water quality in the Great Lakes was a concern with increased development, some faulty septic systems & large cattle farming operations
- the mayor outlined the purchase of the much needed new fire equipment for a cost of \$500,000
- a member questioned what could be done with noxious weeds on the road allowance [namely poison ivy]
- according to the Mayor, contact the County weed control officer

The Mayor was questioned about the Lion's Head water system & whether a rate structure had been set. There was some concern about those outside the area paying for a system that was of little benefit to them. Also, some residents of the Isthmus Bay area were interested in a possible water main extension provided capital & operating costs were reasonable. The Mayor indicated that water rates were still being investigated. Also, over-sizing of the system would be a municipal responsibility & thus those outside the benefiting area would pay a small amount annually in their taxes. Extensions to the system would be for future consideration, any area for expansion considerations would be subject to the needs, environmental assessment & the will of the property owners so affected.

A presentation was given by Mike Noble about the new web site for our Association & he gave an overview of what could be found on the site. Presently, there is no site contact email planned. The website is [www.isthmusbay.org](http://www.isthmusbay.org).

Bob Spearing presented information from WRAFT & other organizations concerning the unfairness of our current assessment system as it applies to waterfront properties.

Don Tefft made a presentation regarding Great Lakes falling water levels & in particular Lake Huron, Georgian Bay & Lake Michigan. Don made a resolution which was moved by John Newton & seconded by Gray Thynne. Members approved the motion.

The resolution is as follows:

*WHEREAS Georgian Bay, Lake Huron & Lake Michigan water levels are gradually dropping over the long term; and,*

*WHEREAS approximately 140 trillion litres of water have been lost from these water bodies since 1986; and*

*WHEREAS private and public water structures such as docks, boathouses, marinas and shore wells have been impaired or stranded due to fallen water levels; and*

*WHEREAS commercial shipping has been financially impacted due to loading restrictions; and*

*WHEREAS climate change due to elevating carbon dioxide levels is raising ambient regional temperatures and exacerbating evaporation over and above normal water level fluctuations; and*

*WHEREAS manmade construction activities such as dredging, channel widening, sand mining and shore protection works in the St. Clair River and water diversions in Lake*

*Michigan & Georgian Bay have lowered water levels by increasing flows, accelerating channel erosion and reducing volumes.*

*LET IT BE KNOWN that the Isthmus Bay Property Owners Association Inc. hereby requests the County of Bruce and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations to sponsor this matter and request that the Government of Canada through its relative Ministries investigate the social, economical and environmental impact of this matter in order that water restricting measure may be considered in the ST. Clair River for water level regulation of upstream water bodies.  
[Separate resolutions will be sent to each jurisdiction.]*

One of our members questioned violations re: desecration of shorelines and asked who is responsible & what can be done? It was indicated that the MNR in Owen Sound is the coordinating body on reparation shoreline construction activities.

Dave Cooke made a presentation on status of the trailer park at the Swan Lake Drain on Isthmus Bay Rd. Several adjacent property owners hired a lawyer to fight this attempt to reinstate a trailer park on land that had lost its "grandfathered" C-4 Commercial zoning and return the land back to residential designation. The matter was settled out of court with the developer agreeing to abandon the commercial use and apply for a zoning change to residential use provided the neighbouring property owners would not oppose severance of the property in up to 5 development parcels. This was accepted by the property owners.

There was a general discussion on road allowance signs put there by businesses on trees & utility poles. The following resolution was presented.

*WHEREAS the northern Bruce Peninsula is one of the most scenic & environmentally sensitive areas in Ontario and*

*WHEREAS cottagers, tourists and permanent residents are attracted to this area because of its unique natural areas and*

*WHEREAS a few business people are utilizing utility poles & trees on the public road allowance to advertise their services while creating a cluttered & distractive atmosphere*

*LET IT BE hereby requested by the IBPOA Inc that the Council of Northern Bruce Peninsula investigate this matter with the objective of formulating a municipal by-law to regulate & control indiscriminate sign placement on County & Municipal roads in its area of jurisdiction.*

Moved by Elizabeth Tasker & seconded by Doug Newton. Members approved the motion.

Kudos were given to the following: the Parks Canada Museum at Tobermory and the operation of the Lion's Head Marina by the Municipality.

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm.