

Minutes of the May 21, 2006 Nestle Trail Association Annual Meeting

10:15 am: 14 owners in attendance, 11 properties were represented: Bernie & Ray, Brent, Rick, Steve, Cynthia, Nola, Bruce, Bonnie A, Michel & Bev, Paul, Laurel & Brian.

Guests: Ward 3 Councilor Donna Graham, and Glen Madill who is running for election as Municipal Reeve in the upcoming November election.

Minutes from last year were discussed with approval moved by Bernie, seconded by Brent. Carried.

Treasurer's Report showed current account balance \$45, GIC \$1,750 including \$550 reserved to start Stormy Lake Association. Approval moved by Nola, seconded by Ray. Carried.

Elections: Bruce resigned as treasurer and was immediately re-appointed by acclamation.

Issues Discussed with Guests:

Nestle Trail culvert at Alsop Road: Bruce has written to Highlands East requesting improvements. (Work done May 24).

Zebra Mussels: No reports of them in Haliburton County. They are in the Trent Canal. Hot water, bleach and 5 days in the open air kill them. Discussion of what can be done: bleach station at the boat launch? No guarantee as they may be brought in by birds. See www.invadingspecies.com for a distribution map.

Property Taxes: three rates are set - county, education and municipality. Cottagers made the point that increased assessments should be balanced by lower mil rates. Also it is not fair for water front properties to pick up an even larger portion of the tax load when they are not benefiting from the majority of services. Donna reports that seniors only pay half the education rate.

Asphalt Plant: The matter was dormant at meeting time but we have heard since that it is on track for approval by Minden MNR. Highlands East has sent an objection letter to the Ontario Government. One concern that has not been addressed is the possible effect on ground water. It would be unusual for the use to be granted under these conditions but it looks like that is what is happening. An open house is being hosted by Dennis Simmons at the Bark Lake Quarry Saturday July 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He is an employed lobbyist for the plant and, in the writer's opinion, this is just a token gesture to appease the locals and make it look like their concerns are being into account - but they aren't.

Waterfront Setbacks: Has the 66-foot shoreline setback been increased to 100 feet? After the meeting Donna informed us that the setback is currently 30 meters.

Light Pollution: There are still several annoying "street" lights on Stormy lake. Apparently the OPP can charge offenders with 'disturbing the peace'. Cynthia will compose a letter to other road associations asking for people to be considerate of others when lighting their properties.

Nestle Trail Road Issues

Winter Needs:

Plowing: Vince plowed the road wider than D&L. Paul did some spring ditching. This minimized spring runoff damage. Driveway plowing is not included in the road fee. You have to arrange this directly with Vince and pay him directly.

Sand: Pails in Collins garage worked fairly well. The salted sand from the Township pile by the dump did not freeze. Bernie will provide new pails this summer. Paul hand sanded the road twice.

Summer Maintenance:

Install a 20 foot 6" metal culvert by small turnaround. Lower two others. Some minor ditching. One hopper near the entrance, over culverts and past Brent's. One or two tandems past Bruce's.

Paul installed arrow signs in both directions at all sharp curves. No more signage is currently required.

Vince plans to widen the entrance so it is easier to plow. Ray wants the blind hill widened. Apparently there was a third head on collision there. Trouble is, the better the road, the faster people drive.

Road Clean-Up 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Sunday August 6:

Meet at the parking lot across from #6. Bernie will coordinate activities and provide refreshments.

Activities: Trim weeds. Prune overhanging branches. Throw debris well clear of the ditches. Clear sight lines around curves. Dig out culvert ends and ditches. Remove problem trees.

NOTE: Cottagers are expected to perform the above work along the road as it passes their property. In addition, every cottage is expected to contribute toward getting those tasks done on the first 1.2 km of the road, which does not cross anyone's property. If you cannot participate on the day of the work party, you are expected to do two hours of work on your own time in advance of the work party. Everyone is expected to make a contribution of effort. The only exception is for health reasons.

Annual Road BBQ 4 p.m. Saturday August 12, 2006:

Neil & Cynthia have once again offered to host the party at their cottage #8. Cynthia will also coordinate burgers and buns. If people could bring either a salad or dessert, that would be great! There will be games and prizes - please help by donating!

FOCA Insurance Discussion (embellished by FU info):

Multiple roads maintained by separate committees cannot be covered under one insurance plan. Each road must take out their own policy however they can all combine for FOCA membership. Cost of the \$1,000 deductible plan is \$500 for up to 15km. Director and Officer coverage is another \$250 if required. Event coverage is available at additional premiums depending on the number and type (picnics, regattas, etc).

Stormy Lake Association Discussion:

There is still a lot of interest from all areas around the lake in starting a lake wide association. We tried to all go together in a joint FOCA membership. The current proposal is to get the association started for social, environmental and security purposes with no road commitment to road issues. The South Road will not join FOCA separately until after another discussion on July 1 at their work party.

Bernie moved, Steve seconded a motion to start the Stormy Lake Association with the \$550 being held in reserve. Carried.

Annual Road Fee 2006 - 2007:

We should be able to keep expenditures around the same level as the previous year. If necessary we can reduce the GIC to \$1,000. Brent moved, Nola seconded that the road fee be set at \$150. Carried.

Please make cheques payable to Nestle Trail Association. Drop off payments to Brent at 1281 (#4) or mail cheques to Bruce at Box 1245 Haliburton ON K0M 1S0 before July 1 PLEASE.

Local & Environmental Issues

Recommended reading: an excellent flyer in the Echo last week. Wild Haliburton - Envirobook 2006. All about the sacred wild, disappearing species and respect for nature.

Rock Bass Derby - August Long Weekend:

Ray offered to organize it again this year. He needs \$300 to fund trophies and prizes. It is expected that the new Lake Association will be able to provide funding. Weigh in 10 a.m. Civic Holiday Monday.

12:10pm: Bonnie A moved the meeting adjourned, seconded by Brent. Carried.

Please drop off your \$150 fee to Brent at 1281 (#4) or mail to Bruce at Box 1245 Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
Remember to SLOW DOWN on our road - let's help to keep everyone safe!
Have a great summer and keep watching stormylake.ca for updates and pictures