

Minutes of the Chautauqua Residents Association Annual General Meeting May 27, 2019

Board members attending, President John Gleddie, Sec./Treas. Peter Millard, Ruth Denyer, Daryl Rutt, Ross Robinson and Victor Tarnoy. (Kurt Hamm to join the meeting in progress.)

The meeting was called to order by President John Gleddie at approximately 7:06 PM. Ross Robinson moved that Peter Millard be appointed Secretary and Ruth Denyer seconded.

President expressed his delight at the turnout and that it was evidence that many people cared about our neighbourhood of Chautauqua

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was in attendance and she had agreed to entertain a few quick questions or concerns. She was asked about reducing traffic through the Chautauqua neighbourhood and it was suggested to her that the No Through Traffic sign be re-instituted and a larger sign indicating the QEW be put up.

Charlie Schott asked the Lord Mayor if there were any plans to install crosswalks on Queen Street. The Lord Mayor said that there had been some thought about one at the post office but that that was not being pursued at the moment because Council was concentrating on completing the official plan for the town of Niagara on the lake.

After which the Master Plan would be the priority and that would deal with transportation, economic development, noise bylaw all of which probably won't be completed until the fall or the end of the year. There is a Town work plan for 2019 and it's available on the town website along with the names of the council members that are working on various plans; available at "join the conversation" has all the council work plans and timelines.

- Question: what is happening with the sewage lagoons and the answer was that the region is responsible for them. Parks Canada will be consulting with the public for their input on what to do with them once they figured out how much they have to fill them in.

Also, regarding the DND lands and Parks Canada's commitment to put a museum there: That commitment is no longer in place. But Parks Canada are looking toward opening up the beach and nature trails and parking on the former DND lands and that there is a commitment to include the Indigenous community in the discussions about what to do with those lands.

Ruth Denyer - Lord Mayor is there anything that can be done about water testing at Ryerson Park and if the town can help with that? and IF the DND lands are are opened up for Beach access, would that water be tested? The Lord Mayor said that she would introduce a motion at Council to have the town and the Region - along with Gary Zalepa - see what can be done about water testing.

Question about water testing at Queen's Royal Park...the testing found nothing of real concern, but the town did notice that a number of existing (grand-fathered) sewer pipes were leaking/ emptying into the storm sewers near Queens Royal Park thereby increasing the E. coli count somewhat. The town will work with businesses and homeowners to line these sewer pipes rather than digging them up which is more cost effective and then the Region will be called in to test the water to see if this has been an effective remedy. This process will take a few months to complete.

Buddy Andres asked for an update on the new sewage treatment plant. The Lord Mayor explained that the smell that residents of Garrison Village were experiencing was from algae on the sewage lagoons and they got rid of that by chlorinating. Before the new sewage plant can be commissioned, the old one has to be decommissioned first. At the beginning of May 2019, they began testing the system by running clear water through it and found some deficiencies which required ordering new or additional equipment and that had to be ordered. Then they will run clear water through it for seven days and if successful, they will then run sewage through it for a month to test it and once THAT is successful, they will begin the decommissioning of the old plant.

Victor Tarnoy observed that sometimes the Ryerson Park Beach smells as well and the Lord Mayer pointed out that testing was done on an area of 2 mile creek where a farm was not adequately cleaning itself up and so was emptying into 2 mile creek and affecting the quality of the water and the E. coli level was up. She wondered if that might be the reason for the smell that Victor smells.

Ruth Denyer commented that some time ago she was given the impression that the sewage system was at its limits and yet new housing continues to be built. Question: what is happening with that? Lord Mayor responded that that new housing had already been accommodated for in that study that said the sewage system was at its level. And for example the development on Anne Street had already had their approval and acceptance of their plans by the time the study on Sewer Capacity was done - but that any further development will have holding permits put on them until the capacity has increased at the sewage plant.

Betty explained that she was going home as she had had a very stressful day because they are very concerned about the water levels in Lake Ontario especially in the DOCK area of the town where the forecast is that the water may rise another 10 to 12 inches - and they have been pumping all day and looking for solutions to keep the water at bay or to abate the rise of the water. John Gleddie thanked the Lord Mayor very much for coming and giving us the time in the middle of this busy very very very stressful day.

President acknowledge the presence of Regional Chair Gary Zalepa and said that Gary would stay for the duration of the meeting. He then asked for someone to move the adoption of the agenda.

Charmian Entine moved adoption of the agenda and Bill Charnestki seconded: Agenda Adopted.

The Sec read the minutes of the 2018 AGM.

Someone moved to accept Minutes (couldn't make out the name on the recording)

.....seconded by Charlie Schott. Accepted.

The President gave his report and remarks including:

- He knows that the group who were going to put the museum on the D&D lands have now acquired a space out of town and so that there is no more expectation have a museum being built on the DND Lands.

The president introduced the Board who were present, Ruth Denyer; Victor Tarnoy; Daryl Rutt; Ross Robinson; and Peter Millard(Kurt Hamm to arrive later.) John spoke about:

- piping down sun and Ramsay Morrison's Memorial organized by Ross Robinson
- how the golf tournament usually a success pays for Christmas Carol Stroll which has been scheduled
- Corn Roast and Family Picnic (because of a Thunderstorm) was cancelled within 10 minutes of having to pay for \$340 worth of food. Thank you John Gleddie for saving us money!

(Kurt Hamm joined the meeting at 7:34 p.m.)

Date set for Carol Stroll

- Events suggested by residents:
- Dog Show "bark in the park"
- Film Festival
- Dixie got new sewers no curbing
- Oak drive would be resurfaced.
- Some one in Chautauqua Sponsored 9 and 10 year old Football(soccer) Club -no CRA funds were used for sponsoring this team

Buddy Andres heard the re-surfacing will be delayed.

A question was asked again about the DND Museum land - the proposal is dead.

-Question - why is Oak being re-surfaced rather than other streets which are in worse shape?
The Town decided it.

-Ross and Victor suggested that resurfacing will raise the level of the road.
The Presidents remarks being concluded,

Financial report was read.

Ross suggested that the loss was actually greater than stated but it was explained to him that the statement was correct and that he had been reading the wrong totals.

Question -How many members? 50

John said 240 homes...but fewer actual Members because of rental homes and weekend visitors. Victor asked if we could raise the Membership Fee...that was left to be discussed by the Board before presentation at next year's AGM if needed.

Suggestion by Ross to use Ryerson Park for Corn Roast. Taken under advisement.

John moved adoption of Financial Report and seconded (I believe) by David Laing. Motion Passed.

All members of Board are willing to stand again and Richard Harley, Editor of The Lake Report nominated himself to be added.

Victor recommended acceptance of Richard Harley with the proviso that there is an understanding that the meetings are confidential. Richard accepted and agreed to that condition.(In fact, keeping all internal Board communications confidential, is a rigid condition of being a Board Member.)

There being no other nominations, there was unanimous consent to re-elect the current Board and to elect Richard Harley.

Ruth Denyer reported on the Chautauqua Oaks Rejuvenation; On Wilberforce and Circle Streets, 82 trees planted and another dozen to come.

“Sugar Maple Allee was stunning in fall 2018!!!”

Niagara College partnering with the Project and 180 Chautauqua trees are growing at Niagara College...280 seedlings growing. Project on Hiatus until trees big enough to plant. Ruth gave kudos to Holmes Hooke and Leslie Frankish. And Chris Earle. For all their work. 5 Years at least till the seedlings are ready for more planting.

Launch of Leslie Frankish's website about the trees mychautauqua.ca will be coming soon.

Victor invited to chat about History of Chautauqua and Neighbourhood Designation. He reported that we are not in line for a circumvention of \$50,000 to \$100,000 cost for Designation. But he will be going forward with planning and heritage study in next year or year and a half. Victor has been doing research along with his mother. Our claim to fame, he says, is Mississauga Beach. Where Americans landed. It is a Heritage District in that sense. We are a copy of New York Chautauqua. Our Chautauqua lasted only 6 years.

(As a by-the-by the Niagara Museum has a youtube video tour and history of Our Chautauqua)

Buddy noted that today, May 27th, 2019 is the 206th Anniversary of the American invasion in 1813 - landing just west of Ryerson Park.

John suggested an information Meeting about the History of the Park and Peter suggested people visit the website and write in that you are interested. (There were no emails indicating any interest.)

Golf Tournament - August 14, Piping Down The Sun June - 27th (2019 dates)

RE: Testing of Water: Gary Zalepa brought copies of an information sheet with the results of a "survey" that was done by the region - on two days - to see how many people were in the water (to test whether or not Ryerson Park IS a BEACH) which, if YES, would require Testing. Betty Disero will make a motion to Council and if accepted will then bring it to the Region for investigation.

Ruth asked what could we residents do...Gary said if we had 250 homes/members on a list to petition, that would help. Ruth also asked what is the cost of Testing the water. Answer- \$400. Peter asked should we send the petition letter to Gary? He said send it to the Region.

John again thanked Gary for attending.

Carol Miller, 53 years here on Shakespeare, has seen many changes, and is still upset at losing access to the area west of Ryerson Park. Said we've lost the view because of the Large Shrubbery west end of the Park...Buddy added that it is a delicate matter...because of the coverage of the Lot next to the park. Buddy continued we should get the Town to cut that shrubbery down. John said Kevin Turcotte is the person. Buddy says Kevin has said he doesn't think it should be cut.

(The upshot is, that after the CRA talked to the Town, the shrubbery was trimmed back somewhat, but still remains a sightline barrier.)

-A resident talked about Invasive Lesser Cellendine (AKA Fig Buttercup) Buttercup growing in the area. Recommends digging out the first ones you see - don't put in compost...burn it... Buddy will try to find an information sheet on this plant to be posted on Our Website.

-Ruth reminded us Museum will be mounting a Chautauqua exhibit...anybody who has photos send them in.

-Also watch out for street hockey games in the neighbourhood.

-Ian Gillespie pointed out that Google Earth has 1940's aerial photography of our area. There's a time icon...niagara region see the 1940's and.

-Peter asked him to send him the link.

-Holmes Hooke spoke about Clean Up Day - 23 or 83 bags of garbage(couldn't make out how many bags.)

The Sec/Treas. thanked the new Members, and all the neighbours who looked after and watered newly planted trees trees and especially Ann and Herman Handels who supplied water for Sugar Tree Allee.

Ross moved the termination of the meeting and Ian Gillespie seconded..all in favour.

Meeting terminated at 8:42 p.m.