

BLUEWATER SHORELINE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the BSRA General Meeting held Saturday June 4, 2011 at St. Peter's Church Hall

Present: Lynn Lindsay, Jan Purvis, Mal Kay, Sandy Oswick, Keith Locking, Dave Griffiths, Jim Hall

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:07AM by Lynn Lindsay.

2. Approval of the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the BSRA Meeting held August 28, 2010

The Minutes, as posted on the BSRA web site, were approved without any changes.

4. Treasurer's Report

Keith Locking provided his report and the following were noted:

- The May 31, 2011 bank balance was \$17,563.00 and the Action Fund/investments balance was \$3805.12.

5. BSRA Board Reports

- (5.1+2) Lynn and Keith led the meeting through the detail of several slides. In terms of Bluewater shoreline residents' contribution to Bluewater's overall economy: 1) providing a review of shoreline property tax dollars as a percentage of dollars generated in the whole of Bluewater; 2) providing a review of shoreline contribution toward building permits for renovations and new builds along the shoreline as a percentage of whole of Bluewater; and 3) providing support for how the shoreline otherwise contributes to the economy through money, jobs and services;
- Lynn emphasized the BSRA's monitoring of the increasing tax assessments that move in alignment with increasing property values/assessments due to new builds and renovations;
- (5.3.1) Jan Purvis provided the meeting with an overview of what the BSRA does to monitor and improve the Bluewater shoreline experience including: a) water quality testing (and related grants and projects); b) the Ridgeway Project (and related grant monies for ABCA); c) septic systems and the likely mandatory monitoring/testing in the short term future; d) efforts to stop erosion and build up the beach (dune grass [ammophila

breviligulata] is natural to the shoreline and therefore good, and common reed grass [phragmites australis] is not natural to the shoreline, is invasive and very difficult to eradicate or control); and e) water cycle levels (significantly below the long-term average level, presently);

- Jan also emphasized that it is the responsibility of individual property owners to monitor, maintain and remedy those matters that affect the quality of our shoreline;
- (5.3.2) Keith Locking summarized the status of the planned Bluewater sewer project including approximate possible costs - which are moving around and not set in any way yet - and other issues that are of significant consideration to residents (likely increased economic value of residents' properties, and an increase in people density with a resulting increased demand for various local services);
- (5.3.3) The road grant program including value (\$3,040.00 per km), that it applies to all BSRA associated subdivisions and covers road maintenance (gravel, snow plowing and dust control), and that if monies are not spent in a particular year it goes into a reserve for associated subdivisions up to 3 times the grant amount;
- Mal also noted the BSRA's role regarding insurance for roads to cover liability for each subdivision; and
- (5.3.4) Lynn went over work and other matters that the BSRA is involved in on behalf of shoreline residents including: i) the BSRA's Newsletter and eBulletin communication and information programs; ii) weekly attendance at and monitoring of all Bluewater Council meetings and budget meetings throughout the year; iii) attendance at certain water and environmental conferences held in the greater Lake Huron area; iv) arranging and attending at meetings held with the wind turbine companies that are operating in the greater Bluewater area and attendance at wind turbine rallies; v) responding to residents expressed inquiries via email, telephone and in person; and vi) attendance at subdivision meetings upon request.

6. Industrial Wind Turbines in Bluewater

Dave Griffiths addressed the various issues and matters in connection with wind turbines ("WTs") and their installation in Bluewater. There were many questions posed as Dave went through his presentation. Items addressed by Dave included:

- Attendance at the recent "Wind Concerns Ontario" Empire Club presentation by John Laforet in Toronto (upcoming Bluewater rally with Laforet is June 10th);
- What the new organization Bluewater Against Turbines ("BAT") is and does;
- Whether or not WTs actually decrease the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere;
- The need for investment in wind energy as an appropriate source of alternative energy;

- The need for government subsidies to attract world class WT companies;
- Whether land owners – farmers – should or should not be left alone to earn a little extra money by leasing land to the WT companies;
- Whether or not the potential loss of property values near WT installations is real or just a not-in-my-backyard (“NIMBY”) mechanism;
- The need for WT in Ontario since the McGuinty government plans to close down a number of coal fired electricity plants;
- The various and conflicting studies about the “kill rates” for wild life (birds and bats) in and around WT installations suggesting that such installations represent either an apocalypse for wildlife or not a big deal since they do no more damage than BSBs (bright-shiny-buildings) and no one seems to be trying to stop building them;
- How does anyone know that the studies the BSRA refers to in their negative attitude towards WTs are any more independent and legitimate than the studies indicating that WTs are good for everybody;
- Does not common sense suggests – absent reading any studies – that the natural environment including wildlife will be harmed as a logical effect of installing WTs;
- If WTs do indeed reduce property values, will that not also result in a decrease in municipal taxes on shoreline residents and create a hole in future Bluewater budgets;
- Why shoreline residents should or should not care about WTs since there is a moratorium on the installation of WTs in the Great Lakes;
- The consequences of the Municipal voice having been taken away from the elected representatives of Bluewater under the Green Energy Act of Ontario (briefly addressed and confirmed by Mayor Dowson who was in attendance); and
- Should not the BSRA be presenting both sides of the WT issue – both the “for” side as well as the “against” side - and also promote the resident’s access to all of the positive and negative arguments and information sources (web sites, studies, etc.) regarding the installation of WTs in Bluewater (Paul Mennil, formerly on the BSRA Board, provided some background on what the BSRA is and how it works including that – quite apart from the BSRA web site and Newsletter and Bulletin - easy and immediate direct access to individual shoreline residents via electronic devices and through print is just not available to the Board presently. Further, Paul indicated that the BSRA’s principal role is to provide information to shoreline residents about matters that may affect them, now and in the future, and to take a side either for or against only if and when sufficient information is available to drive the Board to take such a position).

7. Other Business

Lynn addressed the attendees regarding the BSRA, the functioning of the Board of Directors, the need for new Board members, and the many, many perks

available to new Board members including muffins and fresh coffee. She asked that if anyone was interested in serving on the Board to contact her or any other Board member at their convenience.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57AM.

Jim Hall - Secretary

Lynn Lindsay - President