

**Bayfield Ratepayers Association
Monthly Board Meeting
Saturday, July 7, 2012, 9 am, Lions Building**

Minutes by Ainslie Willock

NOTE: Members are welcome at our monthly open meetings held at the Lion's Building, at 9 am on the first Sat. of the month. EXCEPTIONS: No January or June meetings.

Meeting dates can be found on our web page: bra.camp8.org

Annual General Meeting: Saturday, August 4, 2012, at 10 am in the Community Building.

Directors:

Ainslie Willock, President; Paul Hill, Vice President; Sondra Buchner, Treasurer & Co-Director Membership; Michael Gubesch, Co-Director Membership; Alan Vihant, Planning; Carol Thornley-Hall, Arts & Culture

REGRETS: Sondra Buchner

ABSENT: Al Vihant

Total # Directors: 6 Quorum: 4 Quorum ?: Yes

Volunteer Membership Member: Donna Cartwright

Visitors: Mayor Dowson, Bill Webb, Councillor Tyler Hessel, Geordie Palmer, Margaret Scott, Annette_____

- 1) Call to order & everyone was welcomed
- 2) Listed Agenda Items. An update on Industrial Wind Turbines was requested from a visitor.
- 3) **Minutes: Vote on May's Spring General Membership Meeting Minutes** - May 19, 2012 - Vote to accept by Paul Hill, Seconded by Michael Gubesch VOTE: Unanimous
- 4) **Accept Treasurer's Report** (Sondra forwarded copy to Ainslie) - Vote to accept by Paul Hill, Seconded by Michael Gubesch VOTE: Unanimous

Note: Our books are with Ian Mathews to provide a report for AGM

- 5) **Membership Renewal** - Mike Gubesch - Updated us on special directors' meeting he held to come up with a plan to increase membership and needed revenue as half our members are lifetime members with no annual fee. Meeting's recommendations are to: make a motion at the AGM to slightly increase membership fee; ask for lifetime members to make a donation; and rework the web page to allow for space for paid advertising. Michael has drafted a letter for directors to review. Michael plans to personally approach potential advertisers. Michael also said that he'd have a BRA donations box at the AGM.

Policy Priorities Update - In no particular order

a) **New Library Complex Update:** Ainslie - Building footprint is larger than expected from seeing illustration but very exciting that building has begun.

b) **Village Main Street Renewal** - Paul & Ainslie - Storm Water Study hasn't been done yet but there are the funds to implement the study - improvements can't move forward without a storm water plan and implementation - no money yet to implement a storm water plan's recommendations or Main Street Improvements - BRA (Paul & Ainslie) sit on the Bayfield Revitalization Committee (also 2 reps each from BACC & BHAC) to plan for Main Street, currently we have all agreed that we need a "green" plan for cost saving measures and to prevent new drains emptying into the Lake as there are new costly restrictions on that old practice. **Our Spring General Meeting Members indicated that the revitalization of Main Street was their Number One Priority. Mayor Dowson asked us to write to MPP Lisa Thompson to ask for her support in requesting and receiving grants to revitalize Main Street. The Mayor also told us that until there is consensus in the Village for the "final look" the project would not move forward.** There are now two conceptual plans for Main Street. An older updated plan (in 2010) by London based Wendy Shearer known as the "Shearer Plan" which has been "received" by Council and a 2011 plan by local resident streetscape experts known as the "Heritage Main Street Review Panel's Recommendations" which has been "shared" with Bluewater Council and was adopted by the BRA Board in the fall of 2011. The main difference between the two plans is that the Review Panel's has a unique village look and the Shearer plan is similar in look to other cities and towns. The 2011 Review Panel recommended green features such as a "French Drain" (to prevent overflow into the Lake), and has accessible facing boulevards to help the public cross Main Street and no concrete sidewalks. There are lots of similarities between the plans such as tree planting etc....

c) **MTO - Pedestrian Crossing & Community Safety Zone (CSZ):** Sondra is away - brief update from Ainslie: Councillor Palmer advised us that the solar powered sign used to monitor and record traffic speeds (northbound & southbound) was very successfully used in Dashwood recently and would be shared with us very soon. And, that we should use the record of traffic flow it will generate, as part of our appeal to the OPP and the Municipality for a CSZ. CSZs are mandated by the OPP **not MTO**. Sondra has a letter of support from MTO for a Bayfield CSZ.

d) **Village Tree Renewal Update** - Sondra is away - Ainslie let us know that www.BayfieldTreeProject.com is now up and running and encouraged members to "take a look". More trees will be planted this fall (4th planting) dependent on funds available

e) **Integrating Bluewater Communities** - Sondra is on the Communities in Bloom committee and will be with the judges July 11-13th as they tour the Municipality. This program helps communities in Bluewater get to know one other.

f) **Blue Flag Program & Marina & Pier:** Ainslie Update - Ainslie, on behalf of BRA sits on the ABCA & Bluewater's: Main Bayfield River Sub-Watershed Landowners' Committee which is looking for community involvement, suggestions and their priorities to improve water quality along "our" Lake section of the watershed. Soon there will be meetings with local groups to get their input and assistance. [Note: As our meeting didn't follow the draft agenda directly - not sure if we got to this point....but I wanted it to be recorded]

g) Industrial Wind Turbine Update - Approximately 40 turbines will be up and running by the end of 2013 - if NextEra meets provincial requirements & deadlines. Councillor Tyler Hessel expressed his disappointment that the BRA was not represented at the last and most recent NextEra public meeting and that we didn't have more of a policy than simply supporting the WTO's policy and Central Huron's Policy - see below in smaller type:

Bayfield Ratepayers Association's Policy #1: Industrial Wind Turbines - Passed September 3, 2011 AGM:

A resolution from the Bayfield Ratepayers Association requesting that the Province of Ontario adopt the World Health Organization's policy that Industrial Wind Turbines (IWTs) not be built within 1500 metres of homes including, the Village of Bayfield's Settlement Area. As the Village of Bayfield's beaches and views of the lake/sunsets are a public asset, that no IWTs be built to obstruct the full view and enjoyment of the lake #and or sunsets.

Bayfield Ratepayers Association's Policy #2: Industrial Wind Turbines - Passed September 3, 2011 AGM:

A resolution from the Bayfield Ratepayers Association requesting that the Province of Ontario implement Central Huron County's June 6, 2011 IWTs resolution as stated below.

Central Huron County's June 6, 2011 IWTs Resolution - Passed:

A resolution requesting that the Province of Ontario declare a moratorium on the construction of Industrial Wind Turbines (IWT's) until science based and peer reviewed regulations that ensure public health and well being have been implemented and that the province restore local planning powers to the municipality regarding renewable energy projects.

[Huron County's policy on Wind Turbines as stated in their June 1, 2011 Minutes are:

MOTION: 130 – 11 Moved by: Councillor B. Barnim and Seconded by: Councillor B. Siemon: THAT: Huron County Council; agree to support a moratorium on the further development of industrial wind turbines in Huron County until more health studies are completed. CARRIED]

(Background: IWTs are also know as "windmills" but, IWT's are over 50 KW)

Note: Bluewater Council is submitting their own comments and those that have been submitted to them, including the Bluewater Heritage Advisory Committee's comments on IWT, to: NextEra, the Provincial Government etc.....

Issues of Note:

6) New Business - Public meetings today:

* Municipal Water Distribution System Information Session for Residents today: 10 am - noon (presentation at 10:30)

* Water Meter Program Informational Session for Residents today: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

* Both meetings are at the Community Centre on Saturday July 7th

* Paul Hill let us know that he'd be in Ottawa during our AGM - thought of connecting him by Skype...

* Note: Oct. 27, 2014 is the date of the next municipal elections.

7) Time of Adjournment 9:50 am.