

**Chautauqua Residents' Association – Minutes of Annual General Meeting
May 26, 2022
Community Center, NOTL**

7:22 - Call to order: The President called the meeting to order and welcomed members, directors and both Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Coucillors Wendy Cheropita and Sandra O'Connor. The Lord Mayor brought greetings from Town Council and indicated that Council is working towards contextual planning in order to stop over-built “monster” homes in neighbourhoods.

Approval of the Agenda: Moved by the President that the agenda be approved. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 and 2021 Annual General Meetings: Weston Miller made a motion to accept the minutes, with Shaun Devlin seconding the motion. Peter Millard then moved that the 2020 and 2021 minutes be approved as “amended”. There was no seconder, so the original motion carried.

President's Report: President Brian Crow provided a verbal report of the Board's activity over the past six months. Covid continued to have an effect on the ability to conduct business as usual and we were forced to adapt through the use of Zoom for meetings and a socially distanced AGM. The President noted the return of the community newsletter under the authorship of Margot Devlin, the new and updated website, and new signage and logo. In order to keep the Town apprised of issues in Chautauqua, the Lord Mayor, Council and the CAO have been sent copies of the newsletter and any reports generated by the CRA, such as the report on Short-Term Rentals. In addition, a presentation was made to Council on the issue of STR's. The President explained the extraordinary efforts that were made to ensure that all sides of the issue were represented by the various committee members, and by asking for feedback and input from the membership once the report was written. Trees remain a priority and the CRA has asked the Town for clarification on aspects of the tree by-law. The answers will be distributed to all members once several more questions are answered. The “Caroling in the Park” event took place this year, in lieu of the Christmas Stroll. “Piping Down the Sun” will take place on June 24, 2022 at Ryerson Park, the annual golf tournament is being planned as is this year's Corn Roast. The Board would like to encourage more participation by all members and these events provide a great way to get involved, as is writing for the community newsletter . The President was also happy to report that membership now stands at 102 households—the largest number in recent memory.

Approval of Updated CRA By-Laws and Practices Document: The President was joined by Shaun Devlin to explain and review changes in the CRA by-laws. The by-laws were updated due to new legislation from the government and were based on past CRA practices. Policies for the CRA were also drafted based on best practices. By-laws require membership approval because they need to be re-filed with the government if changes are made. Policies, however, don't need to be filed with the government.

Bylaws now stipulate that members elect 7 directors and these directors nominate a President, Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer. There is no position of Past President. The Chair and the President can be the same person. 30% is now required for a quorum (as opposed to 25% in the past), regular business is decided by a simple majority, 60% of votes cast at a meeting are needed to change the by-laws. Members can now participate and vote by mail, electronic means or by telephone. There is no provision for associate members. Clarification was made to section 6.1 and Shauna has agreed to clarify the language in this clause that membership is open to both renters and people who own property in the Chautauqua community.

A motion to allow more time to let people think about the draft by-laws was made by Peter Millard. No seconder so the motion failed.

Motion to approve the draft by-laws with discussed amendments was made by John Scott and seconded by Weston Miller. One opposed. The motion was carried.

Later in the meeting, Buddy Andres noted that the policies document was not voted on and he asked that the policy document be accepted as distributed, with typos corrected in both the by-law and policy statement. Victor Tarnoy moved, Buddy Andres seconded the motion. One opposed. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Shaun Devlin to change page 2 of the policy document as well as correcting section 2a of the bylaw for consistency in language. Seconded by Weston Miller. Motion carried.

Financial Report: The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the summary of the financial statement noting that it was divided into two sections due to the delay in both the AGM (due to the pandemic) and thus delaying the signing over of the banking authority until November 10, 2021. Motion was made to accept the financial report by Kurt Hamm and seconded by Dave Glasz. The motion was carried. Buddy Andres suggested that some of the \$3746.14 in the bank be donated to a charity and that he would leave it to the Board to come up with a worthwhile cause.

The auditing of the books is another requirement in the Act. Audits are expensive and the Act allows us to opt out of the audit for associations with assets less than \$500,000. A motion was made to request that we not have an audit for the financial report. Peter Millard moved and John Gleddie seconded. Motion carried.

Election of Board of Directors: by acclamation, the new Board will consist of Derek Cadman, Brian Crow, Margot Devlin, Kurt Hamm, Weston Miller, Kate Sullivan and Victor Tarnoy. Motion made to accept the slate of directors by Bill Charnetski, seconded by Dave Glasz. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Liability insurance for the CRA Board – the Board will study this and report back to the membership, balancing both the fact that the Town has liability insurance for the parks, where our events take place, and that the personal homeowner’s insurance policy would cover anyone acting in a volunteer capacity at a community organization, against the reality that any legal action against a Board member would force them to pay legal fees, which could be very expensive.
2. Membership fee increase – the incoming Board will make a recommendation regarding this issue. Fees have not been raised in at least 25 years.
3. Chautauqua Oaks Rejuvenation Project – Holmes Hooke reported that the acorns he nursed four years ago are now tall oaks at Niagara College and will be planted by students this fall. Decisions still have to be made as to where they will be planted.
4. Use of CRA membership email - suggestion made to place items of interest on the website and send an email directing the membership to check the website. The passing of a community member should be sent to all members in an email. The use of email will be at the Board’s discretion
5. New builds in the neighbourhood – other than providing the information to the Committee of Adjustment from the survey taken of residents’ concerns back in 2014, the CRA has not weighed in on new builds in Chautauqua. Daryl Ruth suggested that we resurrect the idea of having Chautauqua recognized as a distinct neighbourhood with a secondary plan in the Town’s Official Plan. Victor Tarnoy is heading up a Planning Guidelines Committee, so watch for information coming from that group.
6. One Mile Creek – the water in One Mile Creek is minimal this year. Suggestion made that the new Board contact the Friends of One Mile Creek and the NPCA to investigate. The Friends of One Mile Creek has a website and the link is on the CRA website.
7. Ryerson Park name change – the Niagara Regional Native Center and the Town are working towards a name change for Ryerson Park. A suggestion was made that the new Board be involved in the name change. Another suggestion was made that the landing of the Battle of Fort George during the War of 1812 be somehow commemorated at the park through the new name or recognition of its significance.

8:56 - Adjournment: Brian thanked exiting Board members Ruth Denyer and John Gleddie for their years of service, and then adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Ruth Denyer, Secretary-Treasurer

