

**Minutes of the BIRPOA Annual General Meeting of members
held on Sunday, August 5th 2018 at 11:00 am
at the Library near Lot 57**

Members of the Executive Committee present:

Brett Cavanagh	President
Rory Gooderham	Secretary/Vice- President
Mike Davis	Past President

Regrets:

Vipool Desai	Treasurer
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1. **Welcome:** Brett Cavanagh welcomed everyone to the meeting and following tradition, asked members to introduce themselves for all in attendance.
2. **Minutes of previous AGM held August 6th, 2017:** Were adopted as presented.
3. **Comings & Goings:** Brett Cavanagh asked Bob Cavenagh to say a few words. Bob welcomed all the new cottage owners and then spoke about Art Horton who had passed away over the summer. Arthur 'Art' Horton was one of the earliest to come to the island. He was a familiar and friendly figure and was often seen driving his large tractor and mower, keeping the meadow and many trails open. Art was a Shriner Sad Clown who entertained sick children, participated in parades, making balloon animals. On the island he was an active tinkerer and worked on many projects, fished, and hunted in season. Art lived in his own home in Welland until 2017. He was 100.
4. **Gala Award:** The BIRPOA GALA Award was announced for Jae and Andy Shaw, who were not able to attend the meeting. The citation reads: "For outstanding contributions to the Birch Island community, including creating island signs and benches, helping build the Library and creating its bookplates, working to help limit speeding boats, counting loons, building loon platforms, and serving in virtually every position on the BIRPOA executive." Jae and Andy have been consummate Birch Island supporters over nearly the entire time they have lived on the island. The award (a certificate) will be presented at a suitable time.

(The GALA (Got A Lot Accomplished) award is presented occasionally to Birch Islanders who have made significant and sustained contributions to the life of the island, including to BIRPOA. Coincidentally, Andy Shaw proposed the name and created the certificate.)
5. **Treasurer's Report:** On behalf of Vipool Desai, Rory Gooderham referred to the Treasurer's report which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Funds at the beginning of 2017-2018 fiscal year were \$3,374; membership revenue was \$1,920; total expenses were \$1,839 resulting in a small surplus of \$3,455 at year-end.

Rory noted that memberships were up year over year by 20% to 48 and suggested a reasonable goal for next year would be to get memberships up to 60. With a large and growing group of members, there would be no immediate need to increase annual dues.

6. **Constitution Amendment proposals:** Rory Gooderham noted that amendments had been worked on over the past year but may not be immediately necessary. If it were to be decided to proceed with amendments, they will be brought to the next AGM.

7. Reports

- i. **Trails:** Ry Weisiger commented on trail maintenance and noted that for the most part the trails are in good condition. There were areas where roots are exposed and these should be crossed carefully. The culverts at the causeway were also beginning to collapse and this may require the area to be closed in the future. Cottagers were advised to take care whenever using the trails.
- ii. **Library:** Bob Cavenagh indicated that helpers are always needed. Ideally teenage kids to provide guidance on book titles for younger readers. As always, donations of thoughtful, current and quality titles are welcome.
- iii. **Garbage Pick-up** Brett Cavenagh noted the new drop off point - Sunday's 4-6 p.m. at Sand Lake Marine until Thanksgiving. He also reminded members that garbage must be in clear bags with appropriate tags.
- iv. **Tools & Toys Sharing:** It was noted that there was little interest in this over the past year but some forum for including items for sale or to give away as well as such things as cottage rentals, might be good to have.
- v. **Rights of Way:** On behalf of John Feltmate, Rory Gooderham provided a brief report. A small group of property owners have already confirmed Rights of Way for their properties as part of an earlier initiative. Securing Rights of Way is considered important as it will increase the enjoyment, value and marketability of your property. While it is unlikely that access to the trails around the island will be stopped or interfered with, the best way to ensure your right of way is to have it registered. Rory noted that further initiatives were being planned and information would be sent around at appropriate times.
- vi. **SandLake Marine:** Brett advised that the upper road into the marina is for private use of the home owners and should not be used by cottagers. Cottagers should also park carefully to make room for more vehicles and please drive slowly.
- vii. **Butternut recovery program:** Brett noted that information on this wonderful program is posted on the Birch Island website.

8. Nomination and Voting Executive Committee Positions for 2018 – 2019.

Members approved the slate of Directors

Trails	Ry Weisiger
Library	Bob Cavenagh
Rights of Way	John Feltmate
Wild Life	Vacant

The slate of Officer Nominees

President:	Rory Gooderham (current VP)
Vice President:	Bob Cavenagh
Past President:	Brett Cavanagh (current President)
Treasurer:	Vipool Desai (current Treasurer)
Secretary	Rory Gooderham
Librarian	Bob Cavenagh

There being no further nominations, the members' appointments noted above were approved.

9. Other business:

It was noted that tree clearing on the Hydro easement was expected to get underway through the summer, fall and winter.

10. There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 12:10 noon

Members were then invited to enjoy some ice cream treats.