

**BIRD RIVER COTTAGE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Executive Meeting – October 9, 2021**

In Attendance:	Brian Smiley	President
	Carol Guicheret	Secretary/Membership
	Lynn Richard	Treasurer
	Leah D'Errico	Director
	Patricia Leverick	Director
Absent:	Brad Wall	Director
	Greg Milhausen	Web Site Administrator

The meeting was held at the Lee River Snow Riders shed. Brian called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

**Membership**

Carol advised that we currently have 61 paid members and about 40 additional contacts. A few long-time members have sold their properties and we have added a couple of new members. Member information is kept updated; however, the list of additional contacts is shrinking as emails become outdated.

Brian observed that we should promote the Association to increase our membership. He will contact The Clipper newspaper to ask if they would be interested in running an article about the BRCOA and its activities. It was mentioned that we should update our handout to distribute to various new builds along the river and as many other potential new members as possible.

Carol will rework the brochure and distribute to the executive for review.

**Water Testing**

A motion was passed at the September 2018 AGM that water testing would be done in 2020. The testing was postponed due to COVID so plans are to test in the summer of 2022. Protocol has been to take samples at four different spots at four intervals: early May, end of June, July, and end of August. (June and July can be combined to limit costs.) Samples must be submitted to the lab in Winnipeg within 24 hours. The RM has provided grant money for testing costs.

Cathy Stewart, the former Chair of Water Stewardship for the Association, previously managed the testing. She has volunteered to provide guidance and to help us interpret the results. Carol will contact Cathy to obtain her advice as to how we should proceed. We will need volunteers to accomplish the sampling and pick-up/delivery of water testing equipment.

**Family Fun Day**

Stephanie Jeffrey, the former Social Chair, previously coordinated the Family Fun Day with Lynn Richard providing assistance. Stephanie has left the Bird River area and Lynn will be stepping back from these duties.

Patricia expressed interest in taking on Family Fun Day responsibilities with some help. Brian mentioned that he may know of a candidate for an assistant.

Moved by Lynn Richard; seconded by Leah D'Errico

**that Patricia Leverick be appointed as the Social Chair of the BRCOA and tentative Family Fun Days Coordinator.**

Carried.

Our present health situation creates challenges for planning the Family Day (unvaccinated children, vaccine cards, contact lists, masks, etc.) Due to the current uncertainty we will evaluate at a later date the feasibility of holding a Family Fun Day in 2022.

Lynn cautioned that preparations need to begin long before the event and offered the benefit of her experience when needed. A number of volunteers will also be required on the day.

A representative of the Still Cove Cottage Association approached Brian about holding a joint family day between their Association and the BRCOA. It was felt that it would be worthwhile to explore this possibility and perhaps other cottage associations could be included as well.

### **Executive Positions**

Executive positions will be reviewed and finalized at the AGM. It would be desirable to have at least one more member on the board.

### **2022 Annual General Meeting**

Planning for the 2022 AGM is dependent on the public health world and will be revisited at a later date.

### **Meet and Greet – Spring 2022**

Discussion took place on organization of a community get-together in the spring to offer an opportunity for people to meet and chat. Suitable venues were discussed. Lynn commented that the information session on the Vessel Operations Restriction Regulations (VORR) at the Tageson boat launch in August of 2020 worked out well. Tables were set up with various information booklets and people brought their own chairs. Another possibility is the open public space across the road from the boat launch. A Sunday morning at the end of June might be a good time. Drinks and muffins/donuts (Costco?) will be served. Advertising would be via email to the membership as well as posting notices at Tall Timber Lodge and Trappers.

Since boating regulations and safety are a common concern on the river, it was felt that people would be encouraged to come out if we could provide information about the progress and activities of the VORR regarding water safety, soil erosion, and other issues. Perhaps Mac Kinghorn could fill this role. Brian will speak to Mac.

Further discussion will occur at the spring executive meeting.

## VORR

The Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations (VORR) Committee was formed to gather information, receive public input, and report recommendations to the Municipality of Alexander.

The restrictions applicable to Lee River will be brought into Bird River. The intent is to raise water safety awareness. Signage will be established and the RCMP will provide enforcement. Brian advised that the new rules would be communicated via newspapers, signage, and word of mouth. Everyone agreed that enforcement is vital and could be a problem due to a lack of official manpower.

## Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners (MACO)

MACO has provided notice of its AGM which will take place on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Carol will contact our membership to advise how they can participate virtually.

## Treasurer's Report

Our current balance is \$7,407.04 including \$3,000 in grant money which can be recalled if we don't use the funds. If we proceed with water testing in 2022 the cost will be approximately \$1,200.

## Web Site

Our web site needs updating, e.g. a new platform for posting photographs. Brian will contact Greg.

## Other Items

- The BRCOA promotional banner needs to be replaced
- Tentative date for the Meet and Greet is Sunday, June 26, 10:00 AM at the Tageson Boat Launch
- **Spring executive meeting will be on May 14, 2022 at 10:00 AM** at the Lee River Snow Riders' shed.

Moved by Carol Guicheret; seconded by Lynn Richard

**that the meeting adjourn**

Carried.

Adjourned 11:30 AM.