

SAMBRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 25, 2023

Oyster River/Black Creek Fire Hall, 2241 Catherwood Rd., Black Creek, BC

MINUTES OF MEETING

In attendance:

Directors: Jonathan Brenner; Pearl McKenzie ; Marion Waters (Acting Chairperson);
Barrie Wheatley
Approx. 25 additional attendees

Guests:

Bruce Green, Chief, Oyster River Fire Department
Edwin Grieve, Electoral Area C Representative

Preamble:

The Chair introduced herself and Jonathan as the only attending directors. Curtis Scoville recently resigned as chairperson and as director. Bud Bablitz also recently resigned as treasurer and as director. With only two directors in attendance (Marion and Jonathan) and a total of only three with Karin Koschack (who was unable to attend), the Chair reviewed qualifications of directors and then called for nominations for directors in order to meet the number required for a quorum (three directors). Pearl McKenzie and Barrie Wheatley stepped forward.

Election of officers will take place at a subsequent directors' meeting.

Jonathan explained that there are many ways to be involved in the work of SAMBRA without being a director. The Beach Committee is an example of a group of residents who saw a need (to clean up and monitor the beaches) and act on it.

Jonathan also welcomed representatives attending from MRANA (MacCauley Road and Area Neighbourhood Association).

Call to order: Marion Waters, acting chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Agenda:

Motion to accept the agenda.

Moved/Seconded: Jonathan/Pearl

Resignations:

The chair thanked Curtis Scoville for his many years of commitment to SAMBRA as chairperson and director. She also thanked Bud Bablitz for his three years as treasurer

and director. In addition, she thanked Pearl and Barrie for stepping forward to volunteer as directors.

Terms of Reference:

The chair invited the attendees to review the Terms of Reference which were recently reviewed and updated by the SAMBRA directors. The Terms of Reference guide SAMBRA's decisions and actions.

AGM Minutes from 2022:

Motion to accept the minutes.

Moved/Seconded: Pearl/Jonathan

Chair asked attendees if they were interested in attending more meetings per year (rather than just the AGM). The majority was willing to attend 3-4 meetings and preferred attending in person rather than zoom. Bruce said the firehall would generally be available except on practice nights (Tuesdays).

Treasurer's Report:

It was noted that there is still a healthy surplus of over \$7000. Residents are asked to consider ways to use those funds. Some ideas so far being considered by the directors are: website improvements; Seaman Road beach trail; beach benches; food bank; Halbe Hall.

Miracle Beach School received \$2836.00 from SAMBRA in support of their school gardening program.

A question was raised about whether those funds will still be needed in the future for the mosquito treatment program. The CVRD has committed to funding the program for five years.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report submitted by Bud Bablitz:

Moved/Seconded: Barrie/Marion

Guest Speakers:

Bruce Green, Oyster River Fire Chief:

Bruce explained about the size of campfires currently allowed (60 cm). Concern was expressed about properties that are covered in Scottish broom, which is very flammable. Questions were asked about the responsibilities of O.R. Fire Dept. as regards Mt. Washington and whether the added responsibility is stretching resources and manpower. Bruce responded that it is challenging building a firehall on the mountain. As for responses he said the department is now in a better position to respond with the added resources and added firefighters.

Edwin Grieve, Area C Representative – invited to answer questions regarding the stalled Local Area Plan (LAP):

- Edwin introduced his alternate, Mike La Roche
- Concerns raised about many local roads not being user-friendly for pedestrians. Edwin explained CVRD is working on safer access, Active Transportation Plan
- New Parks – Tasmin Road land donation – Brandt Hermitage Society
- Zoning and Flood Plain Mapping are ongoing
- Completion of LAP was delayed because work began on the Regional Growth Strategy. Many attendees expressed confusion as to why the LAP was nearly completed and then suddenly stalled – and will now have to be restarted. Many attendees asked Edwin to push to have the LAP completed rather than starting all over, pointing out that without the LAP there is a lack of guidelines for future development of the area.
- Emerald Estates at the end of McLary Road will be going ahead – must build own septic system infrastructure. Concern raised about possibility of marine outflow at Saratoga Beach.
- Saratoga Speedway rezoning is moving forward. Many concerns were raised about noise. Requests were made for public hearing and/or plebiscite on the issue. June 11 EASC (Electoral Area Services Committee) meeting regarding the speedway.
- Moratorium on new water connections being lifted because new supply is now producing enough water.

Closing remarks – Jonathan thanked everyone for coming and being involved.

Adjourned 8:55 Moved: Marion