

# Seeley's Bay Area Residents' Association

## Minutes of the 18 Jan. 2024 meeting at the SB United Church - prepared by Mary Whitney

Regrets: Jan H., Michelle T., Paul G., Ron R., Brent C.,

Visitors: Mike Urtheil, David Lunman, Janet Panabaker, Librarian Jackie H

1. Monique welcomed everyone.
2. Mary moved for the adoption of the minutes of the November 16, 2023, meeting. Seconded by Ed. Carried.
3. Additions to the agenda: Library report - Jackie H  
Canada Day celebrations – Mary
4. Financial Report: Michelle T was unable to be there to give a report.
  - (i) It was moved by Monique and seconded by Peter that we pay the United Church \$175.00 for the use of the CE Room for 9 regular meetings plus the use of the basement room for the AGM. Carried.
  - (ii) Chris said Dave Munro would invoice us for work he has done for SBARA.
  - (iii) Peter B asked that all newsletter expenses and revenue be tracked separately from other SBARA Items – similar to what Michelle is doing for flower donations and expenses.
5. Housekeeping:
  1. Creation of a depository for agenda and minutes: It was agreed that the agenda and minutes (after they have been approved) would be sent to Cindy H. and put on the SBARA website **visitseeleysbay.ca** commencing with the January 2024 minutes.
  2. Review of Bylaws and see what needs adjusting e.g. nominations. Monique asked everyone to look at the bylaws, the nomination process in particular, before the February meeting.
6. Review of our electronic resources and who owns what: Cindy H.
  - (i) SBARA's website is **visitseeleysbay.ca** This website was re-written on the current platform in 2022 which provided SBARA a savings of approximately \$200. It allows us to use the Ecommerce platform **Square** for Small Halls events liquor sales and 50/50 draws).
  - (ii) Ridgway allows SBARA the use of their platform **Constant Contact Ridgway Confections** for emailing notifications for events such as Storyfest.
  - (iii) VOLT (volunteers of Leeds and Thousand Islands) **volt.care** our new volunteer website is available to all community groups. It costs \$650/year and is currently paid for by SBARA.
  - (iv) The Seeley's Bay Walking Tour **YourAudioTour** costs approximately \$30/year and is paid for by SBARA. It will be linked to our SBARA website **visitseeleysbay.ca**.
7. Launch of **Seeley's Bay & Area Public Events and Information** newsletter: Peter  
Peter reported that 600 full colour copies of first 4-page edition were sent out. Printing cost was \$540, and mailing cost was \$115. Advertising revenue was \$540 so a net loss of -\$115. Peter expects the next issue to be double the size with more ads and will put the project back into the black with a net profit. Everyone liked the newsletter and thanked Peter for his considerable effort.  
Upon request by SBARA members, Peter said he would commit to doing the newsletter for one year. Also, he will fix the confusion around our Facebook listing in the newsletter.
8. Information Updates:
  - (i) VOLT - Cindy and Monique made presentations to the Chamber of Commerce and the Frost Fest committee. The Frost Fest committee gave them 13 jobs to post on the VOLT website and 11 have been filled – a great start.
  - (ii) Flowers: Jan - There have been 2 people offering to pay for a hanging pot of flowers already and Jan will pursue this actively after Frost Fest.
  - (iii) Fire Hall Repurposing: Brent has been in discussion with Councillor Jamison and the Township CAO. Now that the building of the new Fire Hall has been approved, Brent will continue working on creating a small, diverse working group that is representative of all community groups. Peter would like to be part of this group. Mark cautioned that the

date to begin building the new Fire Hall has been moved ahead and he recommends that this group have a plan in place by the end of August 2024.

(iv) Doctor Recruitment: The committee's promotional video is almost ready to go out to medical schools at Queens U. and Ottawa U. and a recruitment brunch is being planned for those medical students.

(v) Incorporation of Not-For-Profit Ontario organizations: There are new rules that govern NFP's in Ontario. There was discussion as to whether SBARA, having been incorporated federally, is exempt or not.

9. Coming Events:

(i) Frost Fest – The organizers are concerned about signage for the event. Janet Panabaker and David Lunman asked for permission to put stakes to hold signs in the community red canoes. Everyone agreed that would be fine.

(ii) Storyfest – 'The Changing Arctic' presented by Dr. James Raffan on 17 March at 2pm at the Community Hall – Ron offered to help make a stew and biscuit light lunch at the event. It was decided to do it for a free will offering. It was moved by Cindy H and seconded by Ed to advance Ron \$200 for ingredients for the stew. Carried.

(iii) Spring Clean-up - Organizing details are being considered.

10. PEER update: Monique

(i) Ice rinks in Lansdowne and Lyndhurst are almost up and running.

(ii) Changes to the Special Event Permit process have been made to make the process more streamlined.

(iii) Residents can sign up to receive Township calendar notices by email.

(iv) Residents should watch for information regarding a Senior Grant, the CIP (Community Improvement Plan), community flowers.

(v) Monique is planning to attend a workshop on writing a Strategic Plan on 12 Feb. in Smith Falls. She asked if anyone would like to attend with her.

(vi) Peter asked that the minutes of the PEER meetings be made available to SBARA. Monique replied that they could be.

Township update: Angie and Mark - The motion to build the new Fire Hall passed and the 2024 budget passed.

11. Library Information: Seeley's Bay Librarian Jackie H -

There are new Art and Storytime programs running for children. Jackie and Ed are leading discussions regarding 'News of the World' for residents at the Seeley's Bay Lodge. Peter offered to help students with Math homework at the library. A request for a program offering technical assistance to Seniors was made.

12. Canada Day: Mary relayed a request made by Danny Roantree that SBARA take on organizing the Canada Day celebrations. Long-standing organizers, Karen Simpson and Peter Gard have resigned leaving urgent planning details for July 1<sup>st</sup> such as booking the fireworks and applying for a community grant unattended. SBARA members felt this very popular event should continue and requested that Mary invite Danny, Karen and Peter to our regular February meeting to give us details about what the Canada Day celebration involves.

Jan H has investigated buying better quality Canadian flags for Canada Day. Since they were prohibitively expensive, it was decided to go with the dollar store flags. A motion was made by Peter to make \$200 available to Jan to buy flags. Seconded by Chris. Carried. David Lunman will help put the flags up.

13. A motion for adjournment was made by Ed and seconded by Cindy H. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

14. The next SBARA meeting is 15 February 2024 at 7 pm.

**Addendum:** Thanks to some follow-up research by Councillor Angie Kelman, it has been confirmed that SBARA, having been incorporated under a federal act, is exempt from the new provincial incorporating laws.