

UPPER FRENCH RIVER COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting
August 6, 2023
The Michael "Aigle" Dokis Community Complex

09:50 Amanda Mainville, President, called for a motion to begin the Annual General Meeting of the Upper French River Cottagers Association (UFRCA). The motion was seconded by Jane Hendrie Macdonald. Unanimous decision.

Amanda welcomed everyone and was pleased at the increased attendance from last year. She made the announcement that new board members are needed. Once the board is formed, then members can decide who holds what office.

A motion was made by Catherine Tokarz to approve the 2023 Meeting agenda. Motion was seconded by Irene White. Motion carried and agenda was approved.

A motion was made by Diane Robinson to approve the 2022 AGM minutes. Motion was seconded by Bert Clarke. Motion carried and minutes were approved.

DOKIS FIRST NATION - Denise Restoule, councillor reported on Dokis First Nation activities over the past year

- An improvement plan for the Dokis Road has been decided between Dokis and West Nipissing they have put in speed signs and speed bumps to assist in slowing people down as they drive through the area
- More people are moving back. Consequently new apartment buildings, single family homes and small homes for single people are being built. With this, school enrollment has also increased.
- An archeological study was done at Browns Island where new subdivisions were proposed in the spring. Artifacts have been found and further work could be done so the owner has agreed to build further away from the shoreline.
- The Museum has been working on a beading project detailing the history of Lake Nipissing and the French River. All are welcome to visit the Museum which is open Monday through Friday
- Thanks to all of those people who participated in the annual Pow Wow which was held in June

WEST NIPISSING MUNICIPALITY – Jerome Courchesne Ward 8 Councillor

Mr. Courchesne explained that there is a new council for West Nipissing that began in Fall 2022. A Term Plan has been created outlining the priorities for the municipality. (Copy to be made available to the Association)

- More housing is needed in the area. Estimated 1300 new units over 10 years
- Better internet services for the area. High speed and affordable.
- Maximize existing service by working with other agencies including charitable organizations.
- Dokis Road rehabilitation. \$1,000,000 investment. Maintenance is key, working with neighbours for services
- Camping and trailer By-law (restrictions) started by previous council but no decisions were able to be made
- Water is being affected by Camping and trailers. Working with environmental concerns
- Short term rental, Air BNB bylaw is being reviewed for new restrictions
- Meeting accessibility. Meeting locations will rotate every 4-6 months within the municipality
- Better communication strategy Not just Web page or Facebook but more face to face
- Work with neighbors to help coordinate and provide better service

A copy will be made into a pdf and uploaded to the UFRCA website

The floor was opened for cottagers to ask questions of Mr. Courchesne.

Q - Will the Dokis road ever be paved?

Answer: Will have to work with different levels of government to accomplish that.

Q - What is West Nipissing's stance/plan regarding the new plastics plant in North Bay?

Answer: Have just found out about it. Council will be looking into it and working with neighbors. Tim Murdoch had several articles about the plant that he is willing to share with the council. Dave McFadgen will also help the council with this problem. Cottagers are concerned about the water quality and the future of the lake and the French River. The Association needs to have a strong voice. It may be possible to create an ad hoc committee about this issue. Copies of Documents and Articles were provided to the councillor by Tim Murdoch

Q- What jurisdiction does your ward cover?

Answer: some 2000 sq miles Lavigne, West Bay, Monetville, the islands up to Dokis, Markstay, Warren

Q - Is the municipality working with the French River Provincial Park?

Answer: There are some connections with the park.

Q - What can be done about garbage collection?

Answer: Working with neighbors to provide possible garbage depots. Monetville has a garbage drop off. The MNR manages the landfill which Dokis uses for garbage off the river that is brought to Riverview but this is filling up. Provincial laws about recycling are changing so changes will be coming but nothing immediate. The garbage/recycling drop off in Noellville is only for residents of French River. there was an order from the Ministry of the Environment to stop allowing the general public to use this site

Q - What kind of Emergency Management is there?

Answer: The fire department has plans in place for fire and evacuation by Dokis Road. Mr. Courschesne will ask to have those plans shared with the Association.

Q - How much time is spent on the concerns of the French River and Dokis?

Answer: Mr. Courchesne's role is to gather information and report concerns back to the council. Decisions are based on the good of the whole municipality.

A cottager shared that Rogers company has money to provide service to rural areas. He suggested that the municipality may be able to provide better internet services through this program.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sheilah Scrocchi, Treasurer, reported on the UFRCA finances. A motion was made by Murray Somers and seconded by David McFadgen to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion carried. The balance for the UFRCA is \$6,459.32. The approved report is attached these minutes.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Jennifer Young reported:

2022-23 members went from 41 to 99 due to the efforts of the membership committee formed at last years AGM. The committee created a letter which was emailed out to past and present members last fall as well as mailed to 161 members. A total of 200 phone calls were also made by the committee. Jenny thanked the committee members work in reviving the membership.

2023-24 members total 61 as of August 5, 2023. About 50 members have not renewed their membership from last year. There are an additional 100 members from past years that could possibly join as well.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS FOR 2023-24

Amanda Mainville called for members to step up and help the association. Those who volunteered would meet as a board and decide what office or committee the member wanted to hold. The previous board has stood since 2019, Claire Thorpe, Martin Scrocchi and Sheilah Scrocchi will be stepping down. They are thanked for their service. The Roles and Responsibilities were distributed before the meeting for consideration by all.

Amanda asked if anyone wanted to stand as President, she would step down to another position. No one responded so she will remain as President for another term

Vic Paul stressed the importance of involvement in order to give the association a stronger voice in the community at large.

Nominations were taken from the floor.

Jamie Macdonald nominated by Jane Hendrie Macdonald, seconded by Diane Robinson. Jane accepted on Jamie's behalf.

Tim Murdoch nominated by Pasquale Murdoch, seconded by Molly Finnell. Tim accepted.

Liliane Murdoch nominated by Tim Murdoch, seconded by Pasquale Murdoch. Liliane accepted

Victor Paul nominated by Shelley Belford seconded by Irene White. Victor accepted.

Vic Paul subsequently agreed to be the Treasurer replacing Sheilah Scrocchi.

Jon Lemke nominated by Diane Robinson and seconded by Sarah Becker. Jon accepted.

Victoria Little, nominated by Brad Truax seconded by Rod Flaherty. Victoria accepted.

Motion was made to accept the nominations by Bert Clarke. Seconded by Molly Finnell. Motion carried.

Final Comments

Amanda said that with membership money, the association will resume making donations that they have not continued over recent years. An announcement will be made as to what the donations are.

A pot luck was suggested for the meeting snacks or refreshments in lieu of being catered. To be discussed by board
A suggestion was made for pick up of Garbage on the river by barge from individual cottages. To be discussed by board

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bert Clarke and seconded by Jenny Young. Meeting adjourned at 1220.