

VCA Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

7pm – 9pm via Zoom



MINUTES

1. Call to order:

- a) Mona Babin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. It was recorded for posting on the VCA website. Fifty-seven registrants attended via Zoom.
- b) Sue Henry and Judy Huntington-Mackay confirmed that the meeting followed VCA By-Laws regarding notice of meeting sent (II-d) and surpassing the minimum quorum (II-e) of 15 members.
- c) Sue Henry reviewed the virtual voting process.

2. Approval of Agenda:

A motion (by Anne Robinson, seconded by Jon Schmidt) to approve the agenda was carried.

3. Review and approval of Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of Oct. 14, 2020:

A motion (by Peter Douglas, seconded by Cathy Saytar) to approve the Minutes of the October 14, 2020 AGM, carried.

4. Approval of VCA membership dues (Article II-a-ii):

A motion (by Tom Harrison, seconded by Heidi Brown) that the current membership dues remain at \$30 per household, passed.

5. Executive Reports - questions and updates:

- a) President: Further to her report available on the VCA website, Mona also reminded everyone of the **Town of NOTL parking rules**. To ensure safe roads, please pay attention to the following guidelines:

Do not park a vehicle:

- **Within 10m (33ft) of an intersection**
- **Within 3m (10ft) on a fire hydrant**
- **In front of or within 1.5m (5ft) of a laneway or driveway or a curb-cut**
- **For a period of time exceeding 12 hours**

- b) **Vice-President:**

Ardeth's report on the website covered four items in her portfolio. The following are updates from her last report.

- i. Little libraries: If the budget is approved Ardeth will buy materials to supplement donations already received and construction will begin. She will also be putting hand sanitizer and a reminder of masks, distancing etc. at each site by the post boxes. Each side of the libraries will have information about the NOTL library plus VCA social activity/events. No "lost cat signs".
- ii. Lighting on the pathway to ravine: This was an issue raised long ago and not completed. Ardeth had a virtual meeting with the Conservation Authority and the Town. There was agreement to begin step one; i.e. the transfer of the pathway land from the Conservation Authority to the Town. Step two is finding someone to pay for lighting.
- iii. Speeding and traffic flow: In February 2021 Niagara Regional Police did a monitoring study of Niven St. The police felt they were able to educate about 50 people through this process, with only a few over the speed limit. It will be highly unlikely and a very difficult process to get the speed limit lowered there. Roads in the Village were built narrow to help reduce speed. Once we're out of lockdown Ardeth will ask for another "monitor and educate" visit. The Town is not interested in speed bumps. This was a similar result to the Brock and Garrison Village Drive monitoring in the past.
- iv. Playground: Playground funding has been approved by the Town but it will be some time before it will happen. Village residents will be asked to give input into the kind or design of playground, such as the one in The Cannery area of St. Davids or in Queenston, and a similar process.

c) Treasurer:

- i. Joe expressed thanks to Jim Wallace for reviewing our books for the second year in a row. We are in a very good cash position right now because of Judy's membership committee getting prepaid fees. Thanks also to John Hawley and Craig and Karen Brown for holiday lighting donations, and also for an anonymous donation to cover electrical costs for the Holiday lights.
- ii. Most of our expenses each year are for liability insurance (\$1000), and for the holiday lighting project, which amounts to 75% of our budget. So when you pay your membership fee you are "helping to keep the lights on in the Village".
- iii. Further to the Fire Department recommendation that we not have actual flames for "lumieres" lighting, we will be purchasing battery powered candles for that.
- iv. While not designed to be a "for profit" event, the Golf Tournament is priced out so that if numbers are below anticipated, there should not be a loss.
- v. A motion (by Joe Allevato, seconded by Sue Henry) to accept the 2021-2022 budget as proposed, carried.

d) **Communications Director:**

- i. Newsletters: Sue appreciates suggestions for topics and content. The opening rate of the newsletter is very good.
- ii. New website: Thanks very much to Dee Fahlman, who is re-designing the 6-year-old VCA website. The cost will remain the same, but there is a new host and platform. A great deal of work and exciting results which we will soon see.

6. **Committee reports:** Further questions or updates on the reports as posted

- a) Village Round Table - Mike Siverns
- b) Holiday Decorating - Dale DesIslets
- c) Street Lighting - Mona Babin was asked why there is lighting on both sides of Perez St. Judy Huntington-Mackay will follow up on this question with John Hawley.
- d) Social Committee - Cathy Saytar
- e) Membership and Loyalty Partner Program – Judy Huntington-Mackay
 - i. Judy took over from Randy Churchill as the VCA's Membership and Loyalty Program coordinator. Judy expanded the Membership/Welcome Committee to include 16 Ambassadors, a volunteer group made up of residents across the entire Village. This committee will help with both membership and welcoming new residents into The Village. Judy thanks the Ambassadors for their great work on the membership drive: **Erna Antaya, Connie Cristovao, Susan DesIslets, Diana Dewar & Les Fincham, Diane and Rob Fahlman, Greg Fedoryn, Rose Garrard, Pat Klotz, Carol Lake, Bonnie Lockington, Susan MacDonald, Sharon Peter, Anne Robinson, and Sharon Sullivan.**
 - ii. Our latest numbers: As of April 21, 2021, 128 members have signed up, including 24 new members. These new members are a direct result of the efforts of our Ambassadors. Residents are continuing to sign up. Given the constraints of Covid, the Committee did very well.
 - iii. Membership cards: We will delay distribution of new membership cards until the current Covid Stay at Home order is lifted. Loyalty Partners will accept current cards until then.
 - iv. Loyalty partners: With Mori Gardens no longer on the roster, **Country Basket Garden Centre** has joined the program to fill that gap. Other new loyalty partners include **Joanne Young**, garden coach and former Mori employee, **CFX The Chocolate Factory, Cheese Secrets**, (be sure to ask for the complimentary jar of honey), **Creek Road Paint, My Motif Flower & Art Atelier, NEOB Lavender, and One Earth.** A big thank you to our returning loyalty partners – **Bravo Niagara, Creek Road Paint, Hypnotyc Hair Lounge, and the Old Winery Restaurant.** Please support our loyalty partners and also support all of our local restaurants, pubs, and shops. This has been a trying time, and they need our help more than ever.
 - v. New Residents: The Membership/Welcome Committee is also responsible for delivering Welcome Packages to new residents. Please let Judy know if you have new neighbours. Even though we cannot deliver these packages at the moment,

Judy and the Committee will make sure they receive one once the stay-at-home order has been lifted.

Thanks, Judy for all your hard work and your entire team with fantastic results.

- f) Street Lighting - Mona Babin
- g) Gardening - Mona Babin. According to Mona, two very special Village angels take care of the gardens around the post box areas. Thank you very much. Another Village resident has offered to do all the garden work and would like to remain anonymous. There will be no formal list this year for garden help but if you pass by and see something that needs doing, please go ahead on an ad hoc basis.

7. New Business:

- a) A message from John Hawley:
Soon you will be able to access the Village Architectural Codes and application forms via an online portal. This is intended to address questions and streamline the process of applying for approval of minor changes to the exterior of your home. Stay tuned for updates from John and Adam Hawley.
- b) Breaking news:
Traditional Neighbourhood Developments Inc. has signed an offer with LifeLabs for space adjacent to the planned Medical Centre for the Spring of 2022.
- c) Village entrance project update:
Dee Fahlman started this committee and updated us in November. She has been speaking with John Hawley and Kevin Turcotte with the Town. At the moment the project is on hold and will need more people to work on it. Please contact Dee if you are interested at rdfahlman@gmail.com.
- d) VCA Resident Survey: (results will be posted online)
Thank you to everyone for your participation. 197 residents completed the survey regarding a four way stop at Garrison Village Dr./Perez St./Jordan St. The majority were in favour. Mona will be presenting these results to the Town on May 10.

As for the “poop bin” question on the survey, most residents were opposed. We may look at having an annual community garbage pickup day. If interested, reach out to Mona and Sue will include this in a newsletter.

- e) Tribute for Liz Hawley:
Mona has spoken with the Hawley family and the Town. A recommendation will be communicated in a future newsletter. They are currently looking at a two-step approach, that is, 1. Possibly installing a bronze memorial plaque on a stone somewhere in the village or near one of the mailboxes (with dates and a quote or saying) and 2. Later on, moving the plaque to a bench overlooking the proposed new playground area (representing Liz’s grandchildren) and flanking the bench with 3 trees. In the end we will look and see what residents want to do. The Town says if we plan for it as part of the playground, some of it could be integrated. Current estimates are \$500 for the plaque and \$3000 for the bench. Discussion will continue.

8. Elections:

Ardeth reported that the nominating committee had received the following nominations:

- a) President, Mona Babin. Acclaimed.
- b) Communications Director, Sue Henry. Acclaimed
- c) Recording Officer. No nominations. Carol Fraser will serve on an interim basis.

9. Introduction of new Board:

10. Meeting adjournment:

A motion to adjourn recommended by Heidi Brown, and seconded by Jon Schmidt, passed unanimously.

Guest Speaker: Allan Bisback , Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Councillor

Thank you to Allan for a very interesting talk about Council's accomplishments and current activities, as well as some views on a sustainable budget. For the full version of Allan's talk, please follow the link posted on the website.

Some of the topics covered include:

- The Interim control bylaw (since repealed) - which created a pause in development until the Official Plan was completed.
- The Official plan – completed and awaiting regional approval.
- Follow through on a host of former planning files inherited from past Councils.
- Controlled development - moving forward again in Old Town
- Private tree by law - may need some changes.
- Pool safety bylaw
- Continuing work on Cannabis control legislation vis a vis grapes and tender fruit
- The Heritage Register – another 15 properties added, including the special estates along Queen St.
- Expanding and enhancing the Heritage District. Future use of the Hospital property.
- It's not all about Old Town - long term view on major infrastructure in the Glendale Gateway and Virgil highway corridor areas.
- A discussion of representation in **all** of the villages of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Staffing and budgets