

Bruce Beach Cottager's Association

Minutes for the Executive Meeting

Date: July 2, 2012

Location: Bruce McKelvey, 48 Bruce Beach

Present: David Tiernan, Bruce McKelvey, David Grant and Susan Davidson

- 1.0** Bruce indicated that everything is in a ready state for the 2012 BBQ. The announcement is printed and will be distributed shortly. Ian Cooke from 150 Gordon Street has volunteered to have his band (AMC) play for an hour at the BBQ.
- 2.0** David discussed the purpose of this meeting was to prepare for a meeting with Lisa Thompson MPP for Bruce County and Mitch Twolan, Mayor of Huron Kinloss. David, Bruce and David will be meeting with Lisa on July 3, 2012 and meeting with Mitch on July 6, 2012. Bruce distributed an outline of the issues to cover at each meeting.
- 3.0** The following decisions were reached to discuss with Mitch Twolan:
 - We have a significant advantage in our collective strength with the BBCA and the other associations in Lurgan Beach and Point Clark. It is important to ensure that everyone is registered to vote in the next municipal election. Huron Kinloss Council will make the decision to offer electronic voting a year before the next municipal election. This process is critical to our ability to vote in the election. We will continue to encourage BBCA members to register to vote, however, this topic will not be discussed with Mayor Twolan at this time.
 - Beach Enforcement Concerns: This is the most critical topic to be discussed with Mayor Twolan, indicating our concern for the 50 invasive plant species, not the native grass. We want to know the township's action plan for removal of these species. Also, ask for an understanding of the relationship between Geoff Peach's organization and the township to ensure there is objectivity in the opinions on the care of the beach. It was noted that there has been a change in approach by the township toward residents removing invasive plants and beach grass, from a passive position to a very assertive position. We need to understand why this has occurred and indicate that it is inappropriate. It was suggested that cottage owners could change their property tax status from lakefront to lake access, thus reducing the tax base for Huron Kinloss. We are also going to get a legal opinion on our rights.
 - Beach Cleanliness: The Township seems more responsive to cleaning the algae and the removal of spring debris from the beach.

- Wind Turbines: Request the townships position on new projects and any impact they can have on the process.
- Natural Gas Project: no further comment
- Nuclear Fuel Storage: Ask the township to sponsor a session on this issue and provide a balanced approach to the pros and cons of these projects.

4. The following items were the topics to discuss with Lisa Thompson – MPP

- Wind Turbines: What plans have been approved by the provincial government for this area and when will the implementation of these projects commence. What is the back hall discussion about future projects and how much input will the township have into this process. What is the status of Wind Turbines in Lake Huron. Is there any indication this will be restarted again.
- Water Quality: Numerous studies have been completed on this issue and we all understand that there is significant run off from the farmer's fields that is impacting the quality our water in Lake Huron. Please direct us to the action plans that have been developed from these studies and the timing for implementation.
- Beach Regulations: Discuss the punitive approach from the Township, and where the responsibility is to remove the invasive weeds from the beach.
- Nuclear Waste: no further comment
- On July 19, there will be a tour of the Scott farm near Belgrave. This farm has developed many environmentally friendly practices and is a model for other farms. Bruce will send an email for others to attend. We want to support this type of project and encourage one of the farmers in our area to implement some of these practices. This will be discussed with Lisa to get direction for funding and support at the provincial government level.