



**Minutes of the
Beaconsfield Citizens Association (BCA) Meeting of
Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 7:30 PM
Beaconsfield Recreation Centre
1974 City Lane,
Beaconsfield, Quebec**

Present: Al Gardner, Nora Graham, Rick Jones, François Jubert, Warren Mayhew, Larry McKinnon, Norma Moore, Roger Nader, Marcel Roux, John Whatmore, Charles Bourgeois

1. Welcome

The President, Al Gardner, welcomed everyone to the BCA's November meeting and invited the participants to introduce themselves.

Al Gardner informed the members that Gilles Perron had indicated in an email that he was resigning from the Executive Committee effective immediately. Those present recommended that the President respond to Gilles' email thanking him for his contribution to the BCA over the years.

Al Gardner enquired whether the members would be in favour of a more festive format for the December meeting. The response was resoundingly and enthusiastically affirmative and everyone promised to bring food or drink to the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The following items were added under New Business: Noise, Condo Construction Project, the City's Waste Reduction Program and Diane Shahmoon's letter.

Upon a motion duly made by John Whatmore and seconded by François Jubert, it was moved to approve the agenda of the November 12, 2014 BCA meeting as amended.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the October 8, 2014 Meeting

Upon a motion duly made by Rick Jones and seconded by Warren Mayhew, it was moved to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2014 BCA meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of the October 8, 2014 Meeting

Since all relevant points were covered in the evening's agenda, no discussion took place.

5. Treasurer's Report

Warren Mayhew submitted the monthly report. The Association's balance as of October 31, 2014 was \$770.13. The Treasurer's complete report is attached to these minutes.

The Treasurer recommended that an effort be made to raise funds for the BCA.

6. Revised Meeting Schedule

Al Gardner informed the members that the room currently used for the BCA's meetings would no longer be available at 7:30 PM on Wednesday as of January 2015. However, it would be available from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The members agreed to meet at these times from January to June 2015.

7. Updates

7.1. Neighbourhood Watch

Marcel Roux reported on the most recent Neighbourhood Watch (NW) activities, notably the October 29, 2015 meeting held at Centennial Hall. Thirty-five individuals attended including an SPVM representative, Giovanni Di Legge, who discussed the recent spate of break-ins in the West Island. The next NW meeting will also take place at Centennial Hall, but outdoors in the spring.

Marcel Roux indicated that NW members would henceforth be subject to a background check and that this would work to NW's advantage adding credibility to its activities.

The SPVM has asked Al Gardner to attend a meeting with the various sector commandants and other citizen representatives. He asked if the members had any input as to what issues he could raise during the meeting.

Al Gardner indicated that he would contact Karen Messier and ask if the police would be allowed to address the persons attending an upcoming seniors meeting.

7.2. Safety Day

Al Gardner reported that he had looked further into certain logistical issues related to Safety Day. Bill 3 remains an unresolved issue and may impact the event. In the light of a recent email from the City's director general, Al Gardner indicated that he would contact the mayor to clarify the City's willingness to participate in the event. It appears that the City would prefer a June date while the BCA is suggesting an April or

May date with May 9, 2015 being the date of choice.

7.3. EAB

Al Gardner commented on the new EAB bylaw which was amended to take into account many of the BCA's recommendations. Among other things, the City will allow pre-emptive felling of up to two trees per property.

John Whatmore raised the issue affecting property owners located near Angell Woods and suggested that special provisions be made for them. He also referred to Diane Shahmoon's recent letter published in one of the local newspapers.

7.4. Membership

Al Gardner reported that there were 180 members, but that he was concerned that his emails were not getting out to everyone. He tested the system when sending out the survey that initially resulted in only ten responses. Follow-up yielded another 56. The problem may be because some people are still using Internet Explorer.

He reminded the members of the Executive Committee to continue calling former members in order to increase the association's membership numbers.

8. Report on the Meeting with Geoff Kelley

During the 1½-hour meeting with Geoff Kelley, Al Gardner reported that he raised the following issues:

- The BCA's recent accomplishments:
 - The Batshaw Project
 - The BCA's reorientation emphasizing cooperation with the City
 - A meeting between the BCA and City Council
 - Preparation and delivery of a presentation on emergency preparedness
 - The production of a revised BCA flyer
 - Assistance to Neighbourhood Watch in Beaconsfield
 - Preparation of publicity flyers, instructional manuals, the registration process, etc.
 - Design of the NW website
 - Coordination and organization of a launch meeting at City hall with the SPVM, City administrators and the media present
 - Continuing efforts to broaden NW's scope including improved networking with the SPVM and background checks on members
 - Evaluation of the proposed EAB bylaw, preparation of a position paper on the issue for a meeting with Council, participation in the City's Open House and consultations and presentation of the BCA's brief on the topic

- Organization of a Safety Day
- Items of concern:
 - EAB/ALB: i.e., firewood regulations, the high cost to citizens and options for assistance, importance to act now on the ALB threat
 - Train de l'ouest
 - PMAD, i.e., impact on Beaconsfield, effective date, Montreal's powers over demerged cities, impact of St. Charles and Woodland, densification

9. Report on the Meeting with Francis Scarpaleggia

Al Gardner reported that the meeting lasted 30 minutes. Mr. Scarpaleggia expressed surprise upon hearing about the EAB bylaw's impact on homeowners, but was not optimistic about the possibility of a tax credit to lessen their financial burden. The transport of firewood was also discussed.

10. BCA Registration

Charles Bourgeois reviewed the steps required to register the association as a not-for-profit organization and recommended that the BCA's bylaws be amended in order to proceed in the matter.

First, the official name would have to be changed l'Association des Citoyens de Beaconsfield even though Beaconsfield Citizens Association and ACB/BCA could also be used unofficially.

Second, he recommended that the organization's aims and objectives be revised and simplified. After considerable discussion, the members agreed to the following:

1.3. Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 To foster promote and advance all matters that are of public interest to the citizens of the City of Beaconsfield;

1.3.2 To assist and promote the interest and involvement of Beaconsfield citizens in public affairs and activities that concern their City;

1.3.3 To keep ACB/BCA members informed on current issues affecting the City of Beaconsfield;

1.3.4 To strive with the City and other entities toward improving the community and quality of life of its residents.

Upon a motion duly made by Rick Jones and seconded by Roger Nader, it was moved to approve the above-mentioned amendments to the bylaws.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. Budget Committee

Rick Jones mentioned that no volunteers had stepped forward to work on the committee, but that he intended to conduct his analysis and forward the results to the Executive Committee. While the City's planning is already advanced, the topic will be raised at the next BCA meeting.

12. New Business

12. 1. Noise

François Lebel sent an email to Al Gardner raising the issue of noise and how the City's bylaws could be reinforced to deal with the issue. Al Gardner will contact him suggesting that the current bylaw should cover his concerns and that he should raise any particular complaints with the City's municipal patrol.

Items 12.2 to 12.4 were deferred for lack of time.

13. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 2014, at 7:30 PM.

Al Gardner reminded the members of the date and time of the next BCA meeting.

14. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made by John Whatmore and seconded by Rick Jones, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 PM.

The motion passed unanimously.

Al Gardner, President

Charles Bourgeois, Secretary

Beaconsfield Citizens Association
Financial 2014

Bank balance @ January 1, 2014.		\$	1,849.14	
Donations		\$	30.00	
Less:				
Bank charges: Jan - Oct 2014		\$	53.50	
Cheques:				
Gardner, Al 23/6	\$	300.11		
Montreal Printing 25/6	\$	554.64		
Montreal Printing 15/8	\$	<u>200.76</u>	\$	<u>1,055.51</u>
Bank balance @ Oct 31, 2014.			\$	<u><u>770.13</u></u>