



**Minutes of the
Beaconsfield Citizens Association (BCA) Meeting of
Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 8:30 PM
Beaconsfield Recreation Centre
1974 City Lane,
Beaconsfield, Quebec**

Present: Al Gardner, Rick Jones, Bruce Macdonald, Warren Mayhew, Norma Moore, Gilles Perron, Derrick Pounds, Marcel Roux, Roland Sayegh, John Whatmore, Charles Bourgeois

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

The following items were added under New Business: Registration of the BCA and Montreal Urban Agglomeration Land Use and Development Plan.

Upon a motion duly made by Bruce Macdonald and seconded by John Whatmore, it was moved to approve the agenda of the October 8, 2014 BCA meeting as amended.

The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the September 10, 2014 Meeting

Upon a motion duly made by Warren Mayhew and seconded by John Whatmore, it was moved to approve the minutes of the September, 2014 BCA meeting.

The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of the September 10, 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 August 31, 2014 was \$743.63. The Treasurer's complete report is attached to these minutes.

6. Membership Update

Al Gardner indicated that membership had increased to 180.

Rick Jones mentioned that calling the households listed on the old membership lists that had been provided to the Executive Committee proved beneficial. His efforts had yielded 20 new members. He and Al Gardner urged other Executive Committee members to continue making

these calls in order to boost membership numbers.

Al Gardner mentioned that he had received 65 responses to the EAB questionnaire and would follow up with non-respondents to determine whether the system was allowing him to reach all BCA members.

7. Updates

7.1. Neighbourhood Watch

Al Gardner and Marcel Roux met with the police. There are currently 52 NW volunteers.

The first meeting of NW volunteers will be held on October 29th at 7:30. At least one SPVM representative will be present.

7.2. Safety Day

The event was postponed because of the impact of Bill 3.

Al Gardner and Bruce Macdonald visited Pointe Claire's safety day. The event was poorly attended. Ambulances and fire department vehicles were absent. The outcome seems to confirm that the decision to postpone the Beaconsfield event was the right one.

Al Gardner mentioned that the BCA's work on emergency planning has had an impact. Among other things, the Association's role in organizing a safety day was mentioned in the latest *Contact*. Moreover, the mayor recently invited Al to tour the Baie-d'Urfé Styrochem plant.

7.3. EAB

Al Gardner informed the members that the proposed EAB bylaw was being discussed at a caucus meeting. A vote on the issue could take place at the next council meeting, but could also be delayed should major amendments be introduced.

Rick Jones said that he had asked Andrew Duffield for information regarding the benefits of felling trees with the 100-meter perimeter, but had not received a response.

Al Gardner reminded the members that the September 22nd consultation turned out to be a Q/A session and he was not allowed to present the BCA brief publicly. He nevertheless submitted a copy to the mayor and councillors.

It was mentioned that a new bylaw will soon be passed to prohibit the over pruning of trees.

The City of Montreal has posted a map of the spread of the EAB on its website.

Al Gardner said that he had posted an article by a biochemist on the EAB problem on the BCA website.

8. Trash Pickup

Al Gardner described a meeting with Karen Messier to discuss media stories on the issue. She confirmed that the reporting was largely inaccurate. He reminded the members that the city has scheduled three open houses on the topic. The city's objective is to reduce volume. The open houses are meant to get ideas from the public and what the media reported is not a fait accompli.

Rick will do a presentation on the subject after the open houses have been held.

Derrick Pounds provided his personal success story with composting.

9. School Board Elections

Al Gardner indicated that there's a general misconception that if one does not have children enrolled in school, one is not allowed to vote. He reminded everyone that there is still time to register with the school board of one's choice.

10. Opening of Heroes Park

Both the city and BCA websites provide information on the opening. The event is scheduled for October 15th.

11. Budget Committee

Al Gardner reminded the members that the BCA had always considered the municipal budget a particularly important issue and had openly and consistently expressed its views regarding it over the years.

Rick Jones who chairs the BCA's budget committee asked for volunteers to analyse the budget and compare Beaconsfield's to that of other cities. He indicated that his objective was to produce a position statement to be discussed by the Executive Committee.

12. New Business

12.1. Registration of the BCA

Al Gardner and Charles Bourgeois met with the president of Baie-d'Urfé's citizens association. The Association organizes many social events throughout the year such as the Baie-d'Urfé Days, the Winterfest, the Christmas Light Tour and the Garden Tea Parties. It also publishes *News and Views*, a magazine similar to *Contact*, but entirely funded by sponsorships. Baie-d'Urfé's association is registered with the government as a non-profit organization which allows it, among other things, to obtain permits for staging events.

Upon a motion duly made by Rick Jones and seconded by Bruce Macdonald, it was moved to that the Executive Committee would prepare a proposal for registering the BCA as a non-profit organization and submit it for discussion and approval at the November 12, 2014 meeting.

The motion was passed unanimously.

12.2. Montreal Urban Agglomeration Land Use and Development Plan

Al Gardner and Gilles Perron attended the information session held on October 7, 2014 at le Marché Bonsecours. Al Gardner handed out documents regarding the plan. Gilles Perron presented a summary of the plan and the timetable for its implementation.

A consultation will be held in November and individuals and groups are invited to participate by presenting briefs. It was agreed that the BCA would not prepare a statement for this event, but would consider the possibility of putting forth its opinion on the topic in early 2015 when the city would be considering legislation for the plan's local implementation.

If the plan's density requirements were to affect Beaconsfield, it would appear that they would call for housing similar to the townhouses on Brown Owl Lane. However, noise and safety factors as well as proximity to rail lines may come into play.

13. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 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 Jon Whatmore and seconded by Bruce Macdonald, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 PM.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Al Gardner, President

Charles Bourgeois, Secretary