



**Minutes of the
Beaconsfield Citizens Association (BCA) Meeting of
Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 7:30 PM
Herb Linder Annex
303 Beaconsfield Blvd.,
Beaconsfield, Quebec**

Present: Maria Gagliardi, Al Gardner, Nora Graham, Rick Jones, Warren Mayhew, Larry McKinnon, Roger Nader, Derrick Pounds, Marcel Roux, John Whatmore, Charles Bourgeois

1. Welcome

The President, Al Gardner, welcomed everyone to the BCA's February meeting.

He informed the members that Doug Hawes's wife had recently died.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The following items were added under "New Business": Fieldstones at Beaconsfield Station, Rezoning Proposal, Home Break-ins and New SPVM Commandant.

Upon a motion duly made by John Whatmore and seconded by Roger Nader, it was moved to approve the agenda of the February 18, 2015 BCA meeting as amended.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the January 14, 2014 Meeting

Upon a motion duly made by Larry McKinnon and seconded by Marcel Roux, it was moved to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2014 BCA meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes of the December 10, 2014 Meeting

Since all items arising from the previous meeting were to be covered below, no discussion took place.

5. Treasurer's Report

Warren Mayhew presented a report covering the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. His report is attached to the minutes.

6. Presentation regarding Canada Post's Proposal concerning Home Mail Delivery

Al Gardner went through the PowerPoint document that he presented before *la Commission*

sur le développement social et la diversité montréalaise. He discussed the Commission's six conclusions (Recommandations) which urge the city to take a strong stand against Post Canada's Five Point plan and join forces with others in making its voice heard. He informed the members that he had met with Beaconsfield's mayor and director general to discuss what steps the city could take in dealing with the issue.

7. Common Front with Other Citizens Associations regarding the Canada Post Plan

Al Gardner informed the members that a representative of TMR's citizens association had contacted him regarding the possibility of joining forces with other similar groups in putting pressure on Canada Post and elected municipal officials on this issue. No decision was taken regarding what the BCA's role, if any should be in such a joint effort.

8. Follow-up with Geoff Kelley

Al Gardner stated that he had followed up with Geoff Kelley's office and that he was assured that Mr. Kelley would award a \$500 grant to the BCA. He further asked the members for their opinion regarding the possibility of extending an invitation to Mr. Kelley to assist at a BCA meeting. Larry McKinnon mentioned that past meetings with Mr. Kelley had only been with the Executive Committee and that given a choice he would likely prefer working with a small group. The members present agreed that a meeting with the Executive Committee would be advisable.

9. Follow-up regarding the City Budget

Al Gardner read the letter that he had sent to the major and council regarding the budget consultation, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He indicated that he had also forwarded Rick Jones' analysis mentioning that some of the recipients had responded favourably to Rick's work.

Al Gardner mentioned that Rick Jones had worked on the budget and produced a report that was discussed at an Executive Committee meeting on January 9, 2015 and would be presented to the members under Item 8 on the agenda.

10. Coffee with a Cop

Al Gardner reminded the members that this event would take place at McDonald's on February 25 at 9:00 AM.

11. Federal Election

Al Gardner proposed a BCA sponsored candidates night during the upcoming federal election. While some members indicated that it would be an excellent opportunity to raise funds and increase the association's membership, others felt that such an event would stretch the BCA's resources too far and that it's focus should be strictly on municipal elections.

It was decided to revisit the issue at the March meeting.

12. New Business

12.1. Fieldstones at Beaconsfield Station

Nora Graham described her accident caused the slippery surface of the fieldstones at the Beaconsfield Station. She mentioned that she had sent a registered letter to the AMT president, holding him responsible for her accident and costs incurred. She indicated that she would raise the issue at the February city council meeting.

12.2. Rezoning Proposal

Maria Gagliardi, whose house borders on the property in question (i.e., 493 Beaconsfield Boulevard), pointed to some of the problems associated with this plan. She indicated that she intended to raise these with the city at the upcoming city council meeting.

12.3. Home Break-ins

Al Gardner reported that there had been a rash of break-ins throughout the area including Beaconsfield. He urged everyone to call the police if they saw anything suspicious in the neighbourhood.

12.4. New SPVM Commandant

Al Gardner mentioned that he had met with the outgoing Commandant, Richard Thouin, as well as with his replacement, Sébastien De Montigny.

13. Next Meeting

The next BCA meeting will be held at the Herb Linder Annex on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 7:30 PM.

14. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made by John Whatmore and seconded by Warren Mayhew, it was moved to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

Al Gardner, President

Charles Bourgeois, Secretary

Dear Mayor Bourelle and City Councillors:

At our January meeting, BCA members commented on the 2015 budget consultation process. The purpose of this letter is to share their comments with you in the hopes of making it a more effective tool for reaching out to the tax paying public.

Over the years, the BCA has dedicated a considerable amount of attention to the municipal budget. The sharp tax hike in 2006 spurred many residents to come together to express their concern and propose solutions. Along the way, the association has continued to analyse and compare tax rates of neighbouring cities and present briefs to the city administration recommending possible approaches. In spite of the burden imposed by the Agglomeration tax, it is encouraging to note that Beaconsfield's tax rate has remained steady over the past several years and our members recognize the progress that the city has made in this regard.

As you know, the municipal budget is the single item that has the greatest impact on the lives of Beaconsfield's residents. It not only establishes the property tax rate, it also determines what services will be rendered to the population and what projects will be undertaken during the fiscal year. No other issue even comes close to it in terms of importance and impact.

For that reason, the BCA recommends that the city conduct a consultation that would not only provide information to the public, but allow residents to express their opinions concerning the city's priorities. Many formulas have been tested in the past; not all have been successful. The BCA recommends that a town hall type session be held preferably in September during which city officials would outline the main objectives and projects for the coming year. Since precise numbers would not be available at that time, the presentation and discussion would focus on major priorities, capital outlays and objectives affecting services to the residents.

The December presentation of the 2015 budget was first-rate. The BCA's two major comments regarding that session are that it was brief and, more importantly, little time was left for dialogue. Any input at that time would have been too late to impact the budget. Given the current tone and climate of city meetings, the BCA believes that it would be entirely possible to conduct a civil and constructive meeting that in the end would benefit everyone concerned.

As with other matters that have concerned the city recently, association members would be more than willing to cooperate with the administration toward making a consultation of this type a success.

Sincerely yours,

Al Gardner, President

Beaconsfield Citizens Association
Financial 2014

Bank balance @ January 1, 2014.		\$	1,849.14	
Income - Donations:				
Sylvie Savard	\$	10.00		
Anonymous	\$	<u>20.00</u>	\$	30.00
Less:				
Bank charges: Jan - Dec 2014			\$	65.00
Cheques:				
#35 - Montreal Printing 25/6	\$	554.64		
#36 - Gardner, Al 23/6	\$	300.11		
#37 - Montreal Printing 15/8	\$	<u>200.76</u>	\$	1,055.51
Bank balance @ December 31, 2014.			\$	<u>758.63</u>