

## **Minutes of the Virtual TLA “Annual General Meeting” 2020**

The TLA AGM was held via Zoom webinar on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. The minutes will also be posted on the TLA website at: <https://tla-temagami.org>.

**Explanation of Webinar Features:** Terry Rees, Executive Director of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations (FOCA), provided a technical overview at the beginning of the meeting (e.g., explained that participants are muted, how to send questions through the “Chat” feature, etc.).

**Greetings and Remarks:** President Paul Tamburro welcomed TLA members and FOCA staff. He provided some opening remarks to participants and general comments about the meeting.

**Introduction of Board of Directors:** Paul introduced the current Board Members – all of whom were in attendance: Rob Corcoran, Allan Eustis, Greg Goodman, Brit Hyde, Margaret Langfitt, Terry Males, and Tarik Muzaffar.

**Quorum and Call to Order:** Approximately 105 TLA voting (and other) members were in attendance. Voting members were also represented by 12 proxies. Having confirmed that quorum was achieved, Paul called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

### **Motions:**

- A motion to approve the “Agenda for the 89<sup>th</sup> TLA Annual General Meeting” (October 27, 2020) was moved by Janet McCarthy, seconded by Owen Funnell, and carried at 7:43 p.m.
- A motion to adopt the “Minutes of the TLA Annual General Meeting 2019” (also published in the Fall 2019 edition of the *Temagami Times*) was moved by Peter Whyte, seconded by Michael Bloomfield, and carried at 7:44 p.m. There was no business arising from these minutes.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 1:** Greg Goodman presented the 2019 financial statement with a brief overview of the TLA’s income and expenses. The motion for “the Resolution respecting approval of the 2019 TLA financial statement” was made by Pete Calverley, seconded by Steven Wrightson, and carried at 7:50 p.m.

## **Recognition of TLA Members:**

Paul thanked Brit Hyde for serving as President of the TLA Board of Directors from 2018 to 2020. He also thanked Peter Whyte for serving six years on the Board (2014 to 2020). Both offered significant time, effort, and expertise to our Association.

Paul then congratulated Amelia Lavery for being selected 2019 “Member of the Year”. She volunteered a tremendous amount of time to ensure the smooth operation of the TLA HQ last summer.

Paul lamented the passing of former TLA President and current Board member, Chip Kittredge. He also noted the loss of other TLA members since the 2019 AGM: Bruce Hodgins (former TLA President and Board member); Cello Bernardo (co-owner and Director of Camp Wabikon); Gloria S. Allen (long-time TLA member); Vince Hovanec (former TLA President and Board member); Grace Russell Tuckerman (Camp Wabun founding family member); Robert T. Sorley (long-time TLA member); and, J. Boyd Matchett (former TLA Board member). All will be greatly missed.

**Resolution 2:** The motion for “the Resolution respecting approval of actions of the Directors and Officers since commencement of the 2019 TLA Annual General Meeting” was made by Stephen Pope, seconded by Nicole Brooker, and carried at 7:58 p.m.

## **TLA Vision (2020-2022):**

Paul Tamburro noted the following:

- Change is inevitable in Temagami within the next year or so. TLA members should participate in this change, along with other stakeholders who care deeply about the Temagami area.
- Reasons for change include the fact that the Town of Temagami is struggling economically and demographically (“brain drain” – the local population is aging). The Municipal Council members are trying their best to address these problems, but are unabashedly “pro-development”. This is reflected in activities that are currently taking place, such as amendments to the current “Official Plan” (OP). Development of a “Strategic Plan” and new OP may also affect future development on Lake Temagami.

- When the Council members commissioned development of the new OP, they voted specifically to include the “Tenets for Temagami” for consideration. As a condition of amalgamation (i.e., when forming the Municipality of Temagami in 1998), the Town, the TLA, and LaTemPRA (Lake Temagami Permanent Residents’ Association) agreed that the Tenets would be an integral part of this. Biff Lowery and others worked hard to ensure these were included in the initial plan. We expect Council to honour the Tenets in the new OP (which is delayed by the pandemic, but should be completed next year).
- The Municipal Council is currently seeking bids for the implementation of a “capacity study” of Lake Temagami (funded by ratepayers) to see how much additional development it can withstand. It should be noted that the Lake Temagami neighbourhood provides ~ 60% of the tax revenues for the entire Municipality (and the pipeline provides ~ 20% of tax revenues). 95% of residents on Lake Temagami are seasonal, and 75% of the residences in the Municipality are seasonal. This should be kept in mind when the Council is deliberating their pro-development stance going forward.
- Another key issue is the unsettled First Nation land claim (which has been ongoing for nearly 50 years). Temagami First Nation (TFN) and the Teme-Augama Anishnabai (TAA) have recently elected new (female) chiefs, and their principal mandates are to unite the two groups with the intent to arrive at a settlement to the claim (which could include a portion of the Temagami shoreline and open up mining initiatives that are occurring west of the Lake).
- Other factors affecting the Lake are more global in nature (e.g., the pandemic, climate change, impact of invasive species).
- Thus, as change is inevitable in the next couple of years, we should ask what can be done to ensure that we are the best possible stewards of Lake Temagami (so that future generations will continue to visit the area and share this wonderful experience). Change may be anxiety-producing, but is an opportunity to make Temagami better. Accordingly, the Board has adopted the following plan for the next two years (“TLA Vision 2020-2022”):

1. invigorate stewardship of Lake Temagami: water quality, zoning by-laws, septic systems, invasive species, campsites, portages
  2. bridge building with community partners: Municipality of Temagami; TFN; TAA; LaTempRA; AYCTL (Association of Youth Camps on Temagami Lakes); FoT (Friends of Temagami); CALA (Cassels and Adjoining Lakes Association); MNRF (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry)
  3. activism with complimentary partners (e.g., First Nations, FoT, youth camps, CALA)
  4. engage our membership in municipal affairs
  5. future pandemic and other disaster planning for seasonal residents
  6. modernize the TLA (e.g., improve digital databases, enhance member networking opportunities, provide other value-added services, move from current building, eventual transition to virtual TLA HQ)
  7. membership drive
  8. TLA leadership will be Committee driven / Board directed
- The TLA Board members intend to provide continuity in this process, and Paul urged members to hold them accountable. He also mentioned that he would be communicating regularly – starting with his “President’s Letter” in the Fall 2020 issue of the *Temagami Times*. Paul indicated that TLA member engagement through participation in the six re-structured TLA committees would be required, as well. In addition, there is one open seat on the Board.
  - Paul and Tarik made a presentation at a recent Municipal Council meeting and stated that the TLA wants to work with Council members (while retaining its values). They emphasized that we want the Town to survive and don’t want to say “No” to everything – but wish to be treated, and listened to, as valued partners. The TLA will continue to engage with the Town and have an open mind.
  - Paul also spoke with Chief Leanna Farr from the TAA about how our two groups and the TFN can work together regarding invasive species, water quality, access-point issues, etc. He also hopes to provide a recognition statement from the TLA in the near future.
  - Paul thinks that the TLA can engage in more activism.

- The TLA Facebook page now has 600+ members, and people are encouraged to visit it at:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/211206275926832](https://www.facebook.com/groups/211206275926832).
- Members of the TLA represent only half of the seasonal-resident property owners on Lake Temagami. AGM participants are encouraged to talk with their neighbours about our Association, emphasize what we are doing, and urge them to join and support us (i.e., “strength in numbers”).
- The goals of the TLA Board are to: cooperate, share our talent, work together for the best possible Temagami for ourselves and future generations, and see ourselves as “ONE Temagami” (coined by Board Member, Tarik Muzaffar).

### **Question-and-Answer Session:**

Paul explained that the 2020 question-and-answer format would address the four questions that were submitted in advance by TLA members. Others could ask questions through the “Chat” option. Unanswered questions will be researched, with answers provided at a later date.

**Q.** What in particular about the new “Official Plan” makes this an interesting time or possible crossroads? (question provided by a member to Margaret Langfitt)

**A.** Paul indicated that he hoped what he said in the previous discussion addressed this appropriately.

**Q.** What steps can the TLA take to re-connect to lake users from the Southwestern Arm and other parts of the lake that have their own cottage organizations? What is the common ground? (from Daniel Buckles, Island 899)

**A.** Paul said that he hoped that the items laid out in the action plan will speak for themselves. He knows that there are concerns about inappropriate access in Baie Jeanne, and indicated that it was a TLA issue because it was a violation of the Tenets. He asked members in the SW Arm to reach out if there is anything else to discuss. He encouraged TLA members in all areas to think of “one” Lake Temagami. If, and when, further development occurs, we need to treat this as an impact on a single lake (i.e., and consider what is best for Temagami as a whole, not what is best for only one area).

**Q.** What is the TLA doing to re-connect and cooperate with the two organizations representing first nations in Temagami? What is the common ground? (from Daniel Buckles, Island 899)

**A.** There has not been a strong relationship between the First Nations and TLA executive in the past couple of years that Paul has been on the Board. We are trying to re-ignite this relationship. Paul has reached out to TAA Chief, Leanna Farr, and will be reaching out to TFN Chief, Shelley Moore-Frappier. The three groups have many issues in common, as we all care about the Lake and water quality, and can work together on some issues (e.g., investigating increased copper levels near Bear Island; addressing invasive species through education and controls at access points). The TLA and First Nations also have some differing interests, so increased communication will be essential going forward. Paul suggested to Chief Farr that there be a moderated discussion with TLA Board members and First Nation officials via Zoom or Facebook. We should also educate our membership about other areas of concern to First Nations people (e.g., land claim, history of residential schools).

**Q.** What is the TLA position on glyphosate? (from Anni Crofut, Island 356)

**A.** Terry said that the science is inconclusive about the possible dangers of glyphosate, but that it is banned in some regions and its use is being reduced in some agriculture contexts. He believes that using this herbicide isn't desirable as it destroys vegetation and affects organisms that rely on this vegetation (e.g., insects). Paul indicated that foresters feel that there are some advantages to its use, as it is the best chemical way to mimic forest fires. He prefers not to see glyphosate used in forests. He also encouraged people to join the FoT, as this group has a strong interest in protecting our forests (e.g., via sustainable logging and related practices). The Municipality is proposing that the Temagami Management Unit be governed by a community Board instead of the MNRF. If you agree, voice your support, and indicate if you would like to sit on this Board. We could also have an expert panel discussion in the new year on the pros and cons of glyphosate.

**Comment:** Jack L. Goodman indicated that he could provide information on the situation in Baie Jeanne (which is under a 20-year stewardship between the TLA, MNRF, and a West Nipissing fishing group).

**Comment:** Rob said that a key consideration re: the many fires in Western Canada is the impact of monoculture from herbicide-managed forests. A mix of coniferous and deciduous growth is more resistant to fires, and “tree farms” pose a higher risk of significant impact from forest fires.

**Comment:** Marty Martelle indicated that most of these fires have not occurred in “managed” forests, but in natural forested areas. Herbicide isn’t driving the fires. Climate change is the major driver of this issue.

**Comment:** Paul said that the Temagami area no longer has first-rate timber (e.g., maple, oak) to harvest. His understanding is that white, red, and jack pine are a second-rate sources. The bulk of the remaining trees (e.g., spruce, large, birch) are used for pulpwood and are not easy to access. The Temagami area is not prime timber territory, and foresters indicate that the area has been mismanaged in the past.

**Comment:** Michelle Lewin from FOCA said that the Summer 2020 *Lake Stewards* newsletter has an article about forestry and what lake associations should know.

**Q.** Can Temagami be modelled as a retirement community – similar to Elliot Lake? (Arnis Bredovskis, Island 1071)

**A.** Rob Corcoran said that retirement residences near the Shell are relevant from a development/growth perspective. With the increase of medical services, this approach supports a “soft” use of the area and provides a great spot for folks to retire (including those from the Lake community). This brings in supporting industry and businesses, as well. There may also be interest by some people in the province to move north because of the pandemic, and the Town can leverage this to provide a “win-win” situation.

**Comment:** Because seasonal residents provide a significant portion of the tax base for the Municipality, they create a powerful force, and there is no reason to give in to unwanted development on the Lake shoreline. Don’t presume that the Tenets will be incorporated in a new plan. (Rick Moore, Island 981)

**Comment:** Sara Richardson said it’s great that the TLA is reaching out and building relationships, and encouraged people to refer to “Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada” link: [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca).

**Comment:** Brit Hyde said that many initiatives [of the current TLA Vision] look familiar, but have atrophied and need invigoration – specifically items 2, 3, 5, and 6. He is happy to speak more about this.

**Q.** Is Temagami First Nation a member of the TLA? If not, why not? (John Eberhard, Island 472)

**A.** Paul Tamburro said that currently they are not. According to the TLA history book, in the past, First Nations appointed two TLA Board members with voting rights – but over time, they voluntarily chose not to continue, as they felt that they were token members and didn't contribute dues.

**Comment:** Dr. Don Christie and Rick Moore voiced their concerns about the use of herbicides.

**Q.** Are there any plans for mining in the area? (Arnis Bredovskis, Island 1071)

**A.** Paul said that there is plenty of interest, and that Rob could provide further details.

**Comment:** Peter Young indicated that he likes the idea of cooperation with the First Nations and local community and other cottager groups.

**Q.** Are there updates/developments on better internet access in Temagami? (Peter C. Young, Island 672)

**A.** It's being actively discussed on a Municipal Council level, and Paul and Brit have been involved in several meetings. Brit said that the Municipality and TFN have approached the province and government agencies, and are working with a consultant re: providing better internet in the area (which is particularly important in Town to support businesses). In the longer term, satellite connectivity may help. Rob stated that a "mesh" network of solar-powered antennas around the Lake could be used to provide connections.

### **Board-Led Discussion:**

#### **1. Municipal Planning Overview:**

Tarik Muzaffar provided the following details about the TLA planning committee and recent Municipal planning activities:

- Commerce Management Group has been hired to create a "Strategic Plan" for the Municipality of Temagami, which will be an important guide to creating the new OP and updating by-laws.
- The existing OP was approved in 2013 and recognizes the importance of the Tenets (as have all previous OPs). Further details of the current Municipal "vision" are on the Town's website.
- The Municipal Council appears to have a significant economic-development focus, with a few strong members leading the agenda and priorities.



- The action and implementation plan for the Municipal vision recommends creating an Economic Development Corporation (EDC) with a Board that is separate from the Municipal Council. Some of the plan's themes include: providing planning and zoning guidelines; beautifying the Highway 11 corridor; exploring the use and sale of the former Sherman Mine property and assets; engaging in marketing (e.g., "Temagami Pride" campaign); collaboration across interest groups by the Municipal Council; considering economic drivers (e.g., tourism, forestry, mining); health and community services; and, leadership and vision.
- A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis was completed. Of interest to Lake residents are the following: large, affluent, seasonal population (strength); land-use restrictions (weakness); meaningful partnerships with the TFN and TLA (opportunity); change averse (threat); and, "narrow-focussed, interest groups" (threat). The last item may refer to Lake Temagami, which is actually the Municipality's greatest asset, not just a set of "interests".
- Tarik thinks that the EDC would be a very large and broad undertaking – perhaps too big to tackle, as it could be beyond the tax base and resources of the Municipality. The EDC is not responsible to the Council and taxpayers. There is also a question of who gets on the Board, their qualifications, and how they will function (e.g., Do they set the corporation goals and deliverables themselves? Do they feed into guidance to form changes to the OP and by-laws?). That is lot of power for an unelected group.
- First Nations consultation is mentioned, but not incorporated into the framework, policy, and guidance of the planning initiatives.
- There is no mention about consultation and collaboration with the TLA.
- Tarik's conclusions are: there is clear and strong emphasis on economic development from Council; all parties must prioritize care and concern for the health and beauty of Lake Temagami; the lack of content and considerations for the Lake itself in this massive body of work is concerning; and, the need for a strong [Lake] voice is even more important than ever.

- Two by-law amendments are currently before Council. The Town and TLA planners have discussed these amendments. The first pertains to “second dwellings” (structures having a kitchen and bathroom; but not including bunkies). For now, the Lake’s island and shoreline properties are “out of scope”.
- The second amendment focusses on home industry / home occupation, which provides for separate zoning to support this activity. The TLA stresses the importance of maintaining a 50-m setback from the Lake, and suggests that boathouses (which are specifically mentioned in the proposal) should be used for storage only – not for workshops.
- Nuisances to the neighbourhood (e.g., noise, boat traffic) and environmental safety (e.g., for the water, etc.) will follow the existing by-laws.

## 2. Natural Resources and Water-Quality Overview:

As there wasn’t enough time to complete this update, the Board will determine a format in which the topic can be discussed in more detail with TLA members in the near future.

### **FOCA Slide Presentation:**

Terry Rees provided a slide presentation to AGM participants which highlighted FOCA’s services for member organizations and some of its other activities (e.g., being a government advocate; promoting scientific programs to support policy work; implementing the “Lake Partner Program”; invasive-species initiatives).

### **Wrap-Up:**

A final poll was conducted to determine how meeting participants viewed the virtual format of the AGM. Results indicated: those who preferred an in-person AGM (19% of responses); those who preferred a virtual AGM (23% of responses); and, those who selected “either option” (58% of responses).

### **Motion to Adjourn:**

Paul thanked members for attending, and welcomed feedback about the AGM. Carol Lowery moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Steven Wrightson, and passed at 8:59 p.m.