

Minutes of the Virtual TLA “Annual General Meeting” 2022

The 91st TLA AGM was held via Zoom webinar on Tuesday, October 18, 2022. The minutes will also be posted on the TLA website at: <https://tla-temagami.ca/tla-business/board-meeting-minutes>.

EXPLANATION OF WEBINAR FEATURES:

Michelle Lewin, the Communications Coordinator for the Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations (FOCA), provided a technical overview at the beginning of the meeting.

GREETINGS AND REMARKS:

President Paul Tamburro welcomed TLA members and FOCA staff to the meeting. He provided opening remarks regarding TLA goals and the municipal “Official Plan”, as well as a First Nation acknowledgement.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Paul introduced current Board Members (most of whom were in attendance): Nicole Brooker, Rob Corcoran, Greg Goodman, Diane Green, Carol Lowery, Terry Males, Alec Morley, and Tarik Muzaffar. He then highlighted new Board members, Nicole Brooker and Alec Morley, with an overview of their respective backgrounds, and introduced Diane Green as his co-host.

QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER:

76 voting members (and others) were in attendance, and 14 voting members were represented by proxies. After quorum was confirmed, Paul called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

MOTIONS:

- A motion to approve the “Agenda for the 91st TLA Annual General Meeting (October 18, 2022)” was moved by Nicole Brooker, seconded by Tom Whyte, and carried at 7:40 p.m. (98% approval).
- A motion to approve the “Minutes of the TLA Virtual Annual General Meeting 2021” (in the AGM invitation and posted on the TLA website) was moved by Terry Males, seconded by Tim Richardson, and carried at 7:42 p.m. (90% approval). There was no business arising from these minutes.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 1: Greg Goodman presented the 2021 financial statement with an overview of the TLA’s income and expenses. Copies are available upon request. He noted that revenue and expenses had increased (compared to 2020). The motion “to adopt the Resolution respecting approval of the 2021 TLA Financial Statement” was made by Claudia Tamburro, seconded by Brad Sablosky, and carried at 7:46 p.m. (100% approval).

Resolution 2: The motion “ to adopt the Resolution respecting approval of actions of the Directors and Officers since commencement of the 2021 TLA Annual General Meeting” was made by Peter Healy, seconded by Jeffrey Simmons, and carried at 7:48 p.m. (88% approval).

RECOGNITION OF TLA MEMBERS:

Paul thanked Brit Hyde for serving six years on the Board of Directors (2016 to 2022) – including two years as TLA President. Brit remains an active TLA member, as he continues to Chair the “Planning and Municipal Affairs Committee”. Paul also recognized and thanked Margaret Langfitt for her five years of service on the Board of Directors (2017 to 2022).

Paul then congratulated Allan Eustis and Kelly Romans Bancroft for being selected as the 2021 “Members-of-the-Year”. They co-founded the TLA Member Community Facebook page (currently, with 1,100 members), and were thanked for their significant time and effort in monitoring the page and keeping it up to date. Allan and Kelly will receive complimentary, one-year memberships.

Paul spoke of the unfortunate loss of these TLA members/supporters since the 2021 AGM: Doreen Lak, Skip Connett, Thomas Evans, Jay Myers, Nancy MacInnes Davis, Kristine Lee, Allyne Portmann, Douglas Trumbull, and Bob Louks. All are fondly remembered.

REVIEW OF THE TLA VISION (2020-2022):

The Board previously adopted the “TLA Vision 2020-2022” (still a work in progress), which has been shared with the membership at all virtual AGMs and on the TLA website. He provided the following updates regarding this vision:

- *#1 – Invigorating Stewardship:* Diane Green is Chair of the “Natural Resources and Environment Committee”, and has spearheaded the sharing of information re: control of invasive species, maintained contact with the Municipality and the MNRF regarding this issue, and proposed a boat-washing station at the new rest stop near Marten River (for the removal of invasive species on watercraft that might threaten Lake Temagami). These are currently our best examples of stewardship.
- *#2 – Bridge Building:* All groups listed in the vision have been contacted and engaged by Paul and other Board members during the past year.

It was revealed that ambulance service to the Municipality may be changing. Through the municipal relationships it has developed, the TLA will strive to ensure that we have adequate, reliable, and timely service when required, as this is fundamental and should be provided to seasonal residents.

Individual TLA members and the Board have done a great job of engaging in Municipal affairs – so much so, that Councillor Leudke indicated that the only people he hears from are members of the Temagami Lakes Association. We must continue to make our voices heard.

- *#6 – Modernizing the TLA:* During the past two years: the Administrative Coordinator (Linda Bangay) overhauled and consolidated databases; membership for the TLA Facebook page increased; and, Paul created a TLA YouTube channel (initially, to share candidate information about the 2022 Municipal election). We have worked diligently to modernize, streamline, and make information more accessible, and to increase opportunities for networking between TLA members and beyond the membership.

TLA GOALS FOR 2022-2023:

Though we will continue to pursue the 2020-2022 goals, Paul outlined these goals for 2022-2023:

(i) Ensure that the new municipal Official Plan (OP) aligns with the TLA’s vision, including the principles agreed upon with amalgamation.

(ii) Develop and enhance our role as seasonal residents in Temagami municipal affairs.

The second goal can be achieved through the following actions:

- Take advantage of our rights as seasonal residents, particularly re: voting in Municipal elections.

- Contribute economically to the Municipality, especially through the support of like-minded businesses, and encourage new business development that is in keeping with our vision.
- Play an active role in the governance of the Municipality.

Such actions help to ensure that the first goal is met and supports the Municipality’s prosperity.

Through our strength in numbers and working together, the Municipality should recognize the rights and values of seasonal residents (on Lake Temagami and other area lakes), respect us, and see us as partners.

MUNICIPALITY OF TEMAGAMI OFFICIAL PLAN PROGRESS AND TIMELINE:

Brit Hyde (Chair of the “Planning and Municipal Affairs Committee”) provided an update on the new Official Plan (OP) for the Municipality of Temagami.

- *History of the New OP to Date:* MHBC Planning sought input in a public meeting on July 27, 2019 (mostly with non-TLA attendees) to discuss the vision, goals, and objectives of the OP. They presented what they wanted to accomplish, but without a timeline. COVID then disrupted the process.
- *Progress Report:* An Open House was held on May 25, 2021 and produced a document of the OP’s vision, goals, values, objectives, and issues, as well as a timeline. A Statutory Public Meeting was held on June 17, 2021 via Zoom (with good attendance by TLA members) to present the vision and goals document, and led to the development of a draft background report that was delivered to Council in August, 2021. Draft 1 of the OP was presented to Council on December 14, 2021. Because Council had significant reactions to this draft, MHBC suggested the creation of Draft 1.2 (which included Council input). Draft 1.2 was presented to Council on January 20, 2022, and MHBC asked for public comments by March 1, 2022. The TLA submitted comprehensive comments – including highlighting some errors (e.g., classification of mainland areas that might lead to mainland development). MHBC then submitted Draft 1.2 to Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) for a 90-day review and comment period. A TLA “Town Hall” was held on March 7, 2022 via Zoom, with good attendance by TLA members and some Municipal Councillors, and a constructive sharing of ideas. The “Town Hall” led to a second submission of comments by the TLA in April (approved by MHBC).

- *Status of Draft 1.2:* The draft is currently still at MMAH due to backlog of work resulting from the pandemic. The original timeline (i.e., second draft, Open House for comments on second draft, third draft, public meeting on third draft, and submission of the final plan to Council for adoption) has not been executed – therefore, further drafts, public meetings, etc. are still to be implemented. The newly-elected Council must now continue with development of the new OP (once the consultants receive input from MMAH), and an updated timeline will have to be established.
- *To Learn More:* See the link on the TLA website homepage (including the TLA’s suggested, revised vision statement), the OP section on the Municipal website, and the *Temagami Times* (e.g., a comprehensive article in the Summer 2022 edition).
- *What TLA Members Can Do:* Watch for updates, read the current Draft 1.2 of the OP, participate in the TLA’s next “Town Hall”, attend and share your thoughts at Statutory Public Meetings, and share ideas with elected Municipal representatives. Ideally, the TLA will remain the most engaged group in the Municipality regarding the new OP.

SCIENTIFIC-GUIDANCE POLICY:

Paul provided an overview of the newly-developed “Scientific-Guidance Policy” for the TLA that will assist with objectivity in decision making (e.g., water-quality testing, environmental concerns):

The TLA will strive to use applicable scientific research in an unbiased manner from academically-qualified individuals, institutions, and government agencies to guide its decisions, actions, and policies. When necessary, qualified experts may be retained.

Scientific research is especially important when considering the impact of human activity on the ecological health of the Lake Temagami and Cross Lake water systems.

ECONOMIC-DEVELOPMENT POLICY:

Paul provided an overview of the newly-developed “Economic-Development Policy” for the TLA that will be used as guide regarding the support of economic initiatives (e.g., short-term rentals, floating accommodations) in the Municipality:

The TLA will apply the following principles to a business or project to determine its suitability for Association endorsement.

1. Economic and business development should be complementary to the “semi-wilderness” character” of Lake Temagami, as set out in the Municipality of Temagami’s Official Plan (<https://tla-temagami.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Municipality-of-Temagami-Official-Plan-Draft-1.2-January-7-2022.pdf>).

2. The TLA will promote environmentally-responsible activity through its support of economic and business practices that provide net neutral or positive environmental impacts on the Lake Temagami and Cross Lake ecosystems.

3. The TLA will use the “ONE Temagami” guidelines (<https://tla-temagami.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ONE-Temagami.pdf>) when considering our position with respect to commercial activity and other forms of economic development involving Lake Temagami and Cross Lake.

QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION AND BOARD-LED DISCUSSION:

Q. Ann Navaro (Island 1186): Was the TLA at all involved in the planning for the fish-habitat project in the NE Arm? Were any environmental reviews done to determine the wisdom of and need for the project? What about any unintended consequences and environmental impacts? Are any additional projects planned that would change the natural lake bottom?

A. Two walleye/pickrel spawning shoals that are not as productive as they were in the past (i.e., at Skull Narrows in the NE Arm, and Aston Creek – where it empties into Whitefish Bay) were identified on Lake Temagami. Net Lake (near the Town) is another recognized location. Rehabilitating of these spawning sites has occurred by adding gravel and cobblestones to existing shoals, and installing turbidity barriers to decrease siltation of the sites. These initiatives occurred as part of a government-mandated compensation plan to offset environmental degradation from a tailings pond for a mine near Matachewan. The TLA was not consulted or informed that this was occurring, but it’s hoped that a future meeting with the MNRF will help to ensure that going forward, they let us know about these types of projects and solicit our input.

Q. Claire Rannie (Island 813): What is the status of the loon study? The last several years, members have been asked to report sightings of loon babies. I was wondering, because for first time in years, we have had babies in our bay.

A. Diane and Linda indicated that the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey (CLLS) through Bird Studies Canada (www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/canadian-lakes-loon-survey) could likely address the topic, as can recent articles in the *Temagami Times*. Terry Rees of FOCA provided a link to the 40-year CLLS report: <https://birdscanada.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CLLS-40-yr-report-FINAL-EN.pdf>. Diane said that she will get back to Claire with further information.

Q. Peter Young (Island 672): Great meet! Has anyone had luck getting high-speed internet connectivity with Leepfrog? We see the transmission tower is now erected and are on the wait list.

A. Christopher Brooks (Island 27): Yes, I have it in the Northeast Arm, just across from Finlayson Park. They offer a seasonal break (“from November 1 to April 30, for \$20 per month”).

A. Keewaydin Temagami (Island 1147): Starlink worked great at Keewaydin.

A. Brandy Stewart (Island 587): We are at 587 (near Island Bay). We started [Starlink] this year. It works very well, but we needed to adjust it to get enough signal.

A. Anne Kittredge White (Island 1158): Starlink is working great at 1158.

A. Paul provided an update through recent communication with the Leepfrog representative. His island is about 5.5 km from the transmission tower, but is not in a direct line-of-sight due to Temagami Island, and he was not able to get service this year. As of a couple of days before the AGM, there are approximately 15 cottagers on the Lake that have Leepfrog service. The tower was raised, so Leepfrog is optimistic that Paul would now receive service, as topography seems to be the biggest obstacle. They anticipate being able to offer service to much of the Lake, and have provided a written statement to share with members.

Brit added that Starlink works well at the north end of the Lake (in Whitefish Bay). It is reliable and is not too difficult to set up. Paul said that Board member, Alec Morley, echoed this sentiment.

Q. Jim Norton (Island 1066): Brit – can you give us a quick review of the problems you mentioned with the draft OP? Thanks for all your work on this!

Q. Russell Tuckerman (Island 1005): Update us on “Schedule A” re: mapping errors please, Brit.

A. Brit summarized key issues in the Summer 2022 issue of the *Temagami Times* (page 4), and the TLA’s lengthy submission to the planner is available to read on the website at: <https://tla-temagami.ca/tla-business/temagami-official-plan>. Draft OP problems include mainland definitions, additional support for Tenets, discussion of setbacks, prohibition of development of the skyline reserve, lot severance, discussion of the development process, and whether or not Crown-land islands should be released for development. The list of issues was long, and there were many language problems (planner talk) that we felt were important to correct and improve. Brit urged everyone to check the TLA and Municipality websites (or to contact him directly) for additional information.

A. Paul said that the unintended consequence for the Municipality of Temagami, when deciding to embark on developing the new OP, is that the TLA “Planning and Municipal Affairs” Committee members (in particular, Brit Hyde) and the TLA Planner (Tony Usher) know more than most Councillors about the plan. It’s been reviewed by the TLA in granular detail and with broad strokes. Membership fees contribute to these initiatives (e.g., hiring a planner), and money is very well spent. Paul also has a good working relationship with each of the current Councillors. The TLA has disclosed what we think is most important in the new OP, and that we are willing to collaborate with the Council in it’s development.

At present, no new, Crown-land lot-creation may occur on Lake Temagami or any other naturally-reproducing, lake-trout lake in Ontario (provincial policy); but, this could change, and Crown land could be released. Thus, we need to be prepared by ensuring that the principles of the Tenets are included in the new OP. If new, Crown-land lot-creation is permitted in the future, a committee (including TLA members) should determine where this will occur on islands. Paul added that “no mainland development” does not refer to areas that may be part of negotiations for settling the TFN/TAA land claim. This could include mainland settlement, and is out of the control of the Municipality and the TLA.

A. Brit reiterated that if the aforementioned provincial policy changes, and new Crown-land lots on islands are released, the TLA wants to ensure that there is wording in the new OP regarding creation of a review committee composed of various interests from around the Lake, and that the release of lots is done on a gradual and intentional basis (to prevent a “land rush”).

Comment: David Shardelow (Island 1127): Please continue to develop good and deep relationships with the Councillors. Thank you for all of your work, especially on the OP.

Q. David Shardelow: Do decisions related to TFN “trump” lake-trout legislation?

A. Diane indicated that this is a complicated question and wasn’t sure that we could answer this.

Q. Ann Gardner (Island 765): Please provide information about how the TLA feels about the floating resort.

Comment: Christopher Brooks: They have plans for two more on their website.

Comment: Jim Norton: Please oppose the geodesic dome. It is out of character for the Lake.

A. Paul said that Jim is not alone in this opinion, and that he’s heard from TLA and non-TLA members that we should take a stand on this issue. Paul said that no conclusion has yet been made at the Board level. He questioned whether the TLA should say “No” to any new development on Lake Temagami, or whether we should instead become a partner re: appropriate development on the Lake (as per the TLA’s new “Economic-Development Policy”). This is still to be decided.

The geodesic dome is near the owner’s cottage and includes solar panels and an incinerating toilet. The owner indicated that they are careful with grey water. It can be argued that this is ecotourism, but is it environmentally appropriate? The section on the owner’s website about how to build your own floating domes is (in Paul’s opinion) against the zoning by-laws and setback regulations that other property owners abide by – so, this type of activity would clearly not be supported by the TLA.

Comment: Lorie Jocius (Island 150): Before there are any snap decisions about the domes, the TLA should do some research as you indicated you would do at the beginning of this meeting. I spent an afternoon there and checked it top to bottom ... and I know that these eco-domes are a lot more

environmentally friendly than ugly, brown boathouses [houseboats] that ruin the campsites and throw all kinds of things into our lakes. The domes are not “resorts”, and it is inappropriate to think that there will ever be a “village” of domes on the Lake. Let’s deal with facts and not assumptions – and be more open to new ideas that bring economic opportunities to the Lake.

Q. Nancy Shepard Kovaleff (Island 1175): I have always assumed seasonal residents who are not Canadian citizens are not allowed to vote. Please clarify.

Q. Lila Cleminshaw (Island 1107 and 1113): Can you please clarify voting rights in the Municipality? Can property owners who are not Canadian citizens vote?

A. Paul said that if you are a property owner or tenant (or a spouse of property owner or tenant) and a Canadian citizen, you can vote in Ontario municipal elections. Otherwise, you cannot vote.

Q. Claire Rannie (Island 813): Can you talk more about the changes to the ambulance services? Do “changes” mean cuts in service?

A. Carol Lowery replied that the Municipality of Temagami’s ambulance-service licence has been taken over by the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) in North Bay. There are not supposed to be changes, and the ambulance station should stay in Temagami. Questions remain, however, about whether or not they will they continue to go out onto the Lake or into fly-in areas. More information will be available when the takeover occurs (likely in January 2023).

Comment: Paul believes that the physical TLA Headquarters (HQ) is becoming archaic. Many members, however, think that that a physical presence on the Lake is necessary. The TLA’s five-year, land-use permit will expire at end of 2022, and we will likely sign another five-year lease. Paul hopes to clarify usage of the building and weigh that against the thousands of dollars in annual expenses that are incurred for operating it. Other options re: location of the HQ may be considered. For example, when the Access Road landing is remodelled, there may be space in a proposed multi-use building. Nothing will be done, though, without exploring the costs of remediation to the current property that would be required if we leave, and ensuring that TLA members are on board with any decisions made on this issue.

OTHERS QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE WEBINAR “CHAT” FEATURE:

Q. David Shardelow: Please confirm my interpretation of Brit Hyde's comments that the hold up in the OP is NOT due to the Municipality but MMAH.

A. Linda confirmed that the delay is due to a backlog at MMAH.

Q. David Shardelow: Please briefly define “net neutral or positive environmental impacts on the Lake”.

A. This questioned wasn't answered during the AGM, but Board members will provide a response.

Q. David Shardelow: I'm on Island #1127 in Obabika Inlet. My question is on input on the OP. Does the TLA Board recommend that member comments come to Linda Bangay or Board members first in order that we prioritize our desires and also, very importantly, don't “overwhelm” the Councillors?

A. This questioned was not answered during the AGM, but members are encouraged to send comments directly to Municipal Councillors (and “cc” the TLA with their communications).

Q. Libby Brough (Island 369): I can't see the chat that is ongoing, Will it be available after the meeting?

A. This questioned was not answered during the AGM, but chat notes will be available upon request.

Comment: Tarik Muzaffar, TLA First VP and Director: One main TLA goal (as an ongoing effort) is to help all people see and believe the attributes of the Lake and surrounding lands. It is what makes Temagami special. That “special” feature is what could drive appropriate and environmentally-sensitive economic development towards a more prosperous community. If people believe this deep down, maybe we wouldn't need to rely so heavily on OPs and by-laws.

Comment: David Shardelow: Thank you again to the Board for all your work.

Comment: Sean Murray (Island 820): Thank you for your service to our organization.

FINAL POLL:

Regarding the format of Temagami Lakes Association Annual General Meetings (AGMs) going forward, do you prefer:

(a) an in-person AGM (29% of responses);

(b) a virtual AGM via webinar (33% of responses); or,

(c) either option (37% of responses).

Comment: David Shardelow: Hybrid AGM is the way to go.

Comment: Marty Martelle (Island 817): Virtual AGM, but an in-person get-together in summer.

Comment: Paul indicated that there was a well-attended, TLA BBQ in the summer, and that we will definitely have another in-person event in 2023.

FOCA SLIDE PRESENTATION:

Terry Rees (FOCA Executive Director) provided a slide presentation. FOCA has existed for 60 years, and represents 525 associations (including 50,000 families). He reviewed its strategic priorities (e.g. promoting healthy lands, lakes, and rivers), and its activities and services for member organizations and individuals (e.g., liability insurance, legal Helpline, conferences and webinars, educational resources, “Cottage First” insurance, emergency response in remote areas, advocating for responsible government, municipal engagement, implementing the “Lake Partner Program”, invasive-species initiatives). Terry encouraged people to vote in the Municipal election on October 24th. He also highlighted: the Lake Partner Program (which has compiled provincial water-sampling data over time and space for the last 30+ years); invasive species initiatives; waterfront etiquette (e.g., quiet nights, proper garbage disposal); wake awareness; short-term rentals; rural roads; cottage-succession; the Lake Stewards newsletter; and, a virtual conference on November 19, 2022. He also revealed the annual economic impact of waterfront properties (e.g., 57,000 properties in NE Ontario have an overall household spending of \$2.7 billion).

WRAP-UP:

Paul reminded members that there are 1,000 seasonal properties, which account for over 75% of all properties in the Municipality of Temagami.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Paul thanked members for attending, and welcomed feedback about the AGM. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Allan Eustis, seconded by Claire Rannie, and passed at 9:02 p.m. (100% approval).