



**KASZUBY COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday July 16, 2023 at 11:45 am
Chapel, Kaszuby, Ontario**

1.0 Call to order:

Meeting called to order by President Sophia Sudnikowicz at 11:55 a.m.

1.1 Welcome

Sophia welcomed members and several new members attending for the first time (see attendance list attached).

Copies of 2022 AGM minutes - as posted on the website- were made available.

Also, thanks expressed to Peter A. Bruck for effective signage for the KCA 2023 AGM; to Hania Sokolska, Basia Mirecka and Hania Fedorowicz for updating the "KCA Dos and Don'ts of Good Cottaging", displayed at the meeting and available online; to Roman Jagła for longtime help with e-mailing to members, a function he is now giving up.

1.2 Establishment of Quorum

Quorum (25%) was established with 30 KCA members present at the meeting.

1.3 Rules of Order

The rules of order for the AGM were stated: when a member wishes to speak, raise an issue, make or second a motion, they raise their hand and state their full name for recording in the AGM minutes. Only one person speaks at a time.

2.0 Additions to and Approval of Agenda

Two additions were made to the agenda:

10.6 KCA outdoor public bulletin board at the Chapel

10.7 Franciscan Centre "Outdoor altar project"

Motion to approve the 2023 AGM Agenda was made by Sudnikowicz, seconded by Peter A. Bruck. **Carried.**

3.0 Sustainability of KCA – Executive Requirements

Sophia Sudnikowicz recaps present situation: there are only two members in the executive.

KCA is lucky to have Richard Naranowicz, a CPA, as treasurer.

After membership data base was lost, Richard sent out the AGM notice manually to 90 names, name by name. 5-6 were returned, members should update their email addresses on the attendance sheet. Other functions on the executive are vacant.

3.1 Vice-president

Catherine Filejski volunteers to be vice-president.

3.2 President



Sophia's term ended two years ago. She appeals for volunteers.

3.3 Communications Director (2023 Vacancy)

Peter A. Bruck offers to help with communications and to do member mailouts using Mailchimp.

Voting:

Basia Mirecka **moved**, seconded by Florence Dombroskie, to approve **Catherine Filejski as Vice-President**. Majority vote in favour, no votes cast against, 1 abstention. Carried.

Mark Wolnik **moved**, seconded by Mark Milan, that **Peter A. Bruck** be approved as **Communications Director**. Majority in favour, no objections, 1 abstention. **Carried**.

Job descriptions for remaining posts will be prepared & posted on the KCA website.

4.0 Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes

Peter A. Bruck **moved**, seconded by Hania Fedorowicz that **minutes of KCA AGM on July 17, 2022** as mailed out in advance of the meeting be accepted. Majority in favour, none against, 1 abstention. **Carried**.

5.0 Business arising from Minutes

5.1 FOCA (Lake Parnters Program) Lake testing – Proposal to KCA Lake Stewards

Lake testing had been put on hold because of the pandemic and has now resumed. Sophia proposes that the KCA lake stewards do respective lake testing (Secci Disc testing and phosphorous sampling) and has prepared handouts for each lake steward.

FOCA provides the application & test kit free of charge; results are posted on the FOCA website for comparison in time and in place.

On larger lakes, testing is done at multiple locations. Stewards agree to do testing:

Mark Milan (Wadsworth Lake); Katherine Morin (Dam Lake); Catherine Filejski (Frank Lake); Jan Naranowicz (TBD Long Lake). Anna Koelsch completed Kuiack Lake testing.

5.2 KCA Membership in FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations)

Sophia Sudnikowicz outlines how FOCA strategic goals align with KCA goals:

*safety

*intergenerational transfer

*sustainability

*community development

Mark Wolnik recaps: KCA was a member for quite some time; the costs of membership were then redirected to local charities and membership was dropped.



Cost of membership in FOCA: \$125 + \$4 per **paid up** member.

Strong argument for membership in FOCA: FOCA offers automatic insurance for the board members of its member organizations (insurance is included in above fee structure).

Mark Milan **moves**, seconded by Witold Dziewaltowski, that **KCA join FOCA as of January 2024, and increase the KCA membership fee to \$30**. Majority in favour, none against, 2 abstentions. **Carried**.

5.3 Kosnaski Barn Refurbishment – Expense 2022

At last AGM it was agreed to pay \$100 for repainting the Kashubian motif on the Kosnaski Barn (Old Barry's Bay Road). 11 volunteers from the ZHP scouting organization took part. Materials cost \$268 (see financial report).

Sophia Sudnikowicz consulted with members of the board and an agreement was reached that KCA cover the entire cost.

5.4 Website Update

The website is a work in progress. Suggestions for improvements are welcome.

Thanks to John Ciosk for his work on the website so far and in future.

The new Communications Director is invited to work with John.

Other Cottage Associations are using our website to get in touch with us.

6.0 Private Roads Grant -Township of Madawaska Valley

6.1 Dombroskie Private Road Grant Update - administration of Dombroskie Road Grant

John Martin completes the application, past road grant money deposited from TMV by KCA is tagged in KCA accounting for Dombroskie road maintenance and appears separately in the KCA Treasurer's report (item 8.0).

7.0 Lake Steward Reports

7.1 Long Lake (not available - Jan Naranowicz absent)

7.2 Wadsworth Lake – Mark Milan

Mark Milan presents a written report for 2022. Summary: the lake is healthy, relatively safe wildlife is present, although changes are observed (for instance, there are no monarch butterflies this year).

Sophia thanks Mark and promises to post his report on the KCA website.

Discussion: Brenda Dombroskie describes changes in the water, smelly vegetation washing up on her shore, oversize boats driving too fast churn up the bottom of the lake in shallow spots; Hania Fedorowicz describes presence of Eurasian Milfoil (kills native species, draws oxygen from the water leading to possible stench); Witold Dziewaltowski asks how to limit/regulate boats and to approach the Township for help; Jim Murphy calls for the formation of a boating committee.



7.3 Kuiack Lake: Sophia Sudnikowicz on behalf of Anna Koelsch

Kuiack Lake has no phragmites (invasive species). Phosphorus and Secci disc testing was done. Sophia can provide information on how cottage owners on Kuiack Lake reached a consensus to keep Kuiack Lake motor-boat free (private agreement, sometimes using peer pressure).

7.4 Dam Lake – Katherine Morin

Renters with big boats driving very fast, jet skiers are a menace, even killing baby loons (loons nest on an island opposite Katherine's cottage). A recent incident where someone bathing was almost hit by a boat shows the disregard of some boaters, especially those from outside the area. The boat launch was recently enlarged, as access to the lakes is considered a "common good". However, the size and speed of boats need to be adjusted to lake conditions, Dam Lake is a small lake.

7.5 Frank Lake: No Representative

No update

Discussion continued on boating issues, especially lack of regard for nature, as well as the ignoring of speed limits (KCA put up signs several years ago in several places) and other public notices for watercraft. Various mitigating strategies were discussed. The tenor: can people lacking common sense be educated?

The presence and consequences of invasive species was also addressed.

Sophia will ask the OPP for extra water patrols. Transgressions can be reported to the OPP or to the Township by-law officer.

Two committees were formed:

Witold Dziewaltowski, Mark Piergies, Peter A. Bruck volunteer to form the Boating Committee.

Catherine Filejski, Katherine Morin and Mark Milan volunteer to form the Invasive Species Committee.

Unanimous agreement that both committees are to meet, research and report back next year with action recommendations.

8.0 Treasurer's report

On behalf of the KCA Treasurer, Richard Naranowicz, Sophia reported that as of July 2023, there was a credit balance of just over \$4,000.00, in addition to funds tagged for Dombroskie Road maintenance.

Bożena Balut **moved**, seconded by Witold Dziewaltowski, to **approve the budget** as presented. **Carried** unanimously.



9.0 2023 Community donations:

After discussion and in view of other planned expenditures (see 5.2), a recommendation was made by Sophia to donate \$250 to the Barry's Bay Hospital and \$250 to the Barry's Bay Public Library.

Moved by Peter A. Bruck, seconded by Mark Milan that KCA make the donations as proposed: to donate \$250 to the Barry's Bay Hospital and \$250 to the Barry's Bay Public Library.

Majority in favour, none against, 1 abstention. **Carried**

10.0 Other business

10.1 Invasive Species – Phragmites in TMV

Sophia was invited by two other Cottage associations last year to participate in the phragmite clean-up along the highway near Grumbling Grannies. A nice foto and explanation of the action appeared in the Valley Gazette. 100 bags of plant material were gathered up for destruction (sun-heat drying). A round of applause for Sophia.

Pamphlets on phragmites are available for the lake stewards.

10.2 Moving firewood

A new invasive beetle species travels on firewood coming from infected trees. Firewood from outside the area should not be brought to this township. MNR can issue up to a \$50,000 fine. Another example of the consequence of moving firewood: the emerald ash borer that had destroyed ash trees in recent years.

10.3 Shoreline Preservation

A comprehensive new bylaw will be in place in TMV by the end of 2023. Hastings Highlands Township is already getting tough on shoreline changes. Sophia will

MNFR Tip Line for Violations to Natural Resources: Most water bodies in Ontario are crown land managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNFR) and they have rules for such things as dredging, destruction of beaver dams, shoreline changes, etc. Complaints should be addressed by calling the MNFR Tip Line: 1-877-847-7667.

10.4 Clean Drain and Dry Boat Law

Effective as of Jan. 1, 2023. Members should be aware of it.

10.5 Other business (*Additions to agenda*)

10.6 KCA outdoor public bulletin board at the Chapel

Sophia saved the structure from falling over last fall, secured it provisionally for winter. Repairs are needed, possibly costing up to \$500. Costs to be covered from membership funding.

Peter A. Bruck volunteers to repair it solidly by August 8, with thanks from all present. KCA will reimburse costs for materials.



10.7 Franciscan Centre “Outdoor altar project”

Hania Fedorowicz showed foto rendition provided by Marian Grys of the proposed new chapel-like construction that is to replace the existing heritage altar with the large canvas painting of the Czarna Madonna of Kaszuby.

Summary critique of KCA members: no committee was struck, and no competition was organized. The present Franciscan custodian, Fr. Jan appears to have picked a single person, Stefan Gdyczynski, to design a completely new structure. No budget for the project has been published, no fundraising goal announced, amounting to a lack of transparency and an ad hoc way of proceeding.

Approx. \$ 86,000 are claimed to have been raised to date, as printed in the appeal letter available at the chapel and listed on the Franciscan Center website below. Another design by the same person was rejected this year by the scouting center Bucze, as being vastly overpriced.

Many KCA members remember how the Franciscan Centre was created 70 years ago in keeping with scouting and pioneer traditions in the area. The outdoor wooden altar was created to augment the little indoor chapel, in a style matching the pine forest in which it stands. KCA members from 6+ surrounding lakes attend Holy Mass here regularly in summer.

The taking down of the heritage altar and putting up of the proposed design, looking like something from a suburban park, is considered shocking and totally out of line. Members comment that ironically, although the Franciscans are celebrating 70 years since the founding of their Centre in Kaszuby, they seem not to be in touch with the heritage of the place and its meaning to local residents.

For reference:

1. Website of the Franciscans in Kaszuby on the reconstruction of the existing outdoor altar: <https://www.franciszkanie.org/kustodia/kaszuby/remont.html>
2. An interview 17.07.23 with Fr. Jan Łempicki by *Goniec TV* “Stara Katedra pod Sosnami do wyburzenia” (The old Cathedral under the Pines to be demolished) - <https://www.goniec.net/2023/07/16/stara-katedra-pod-sosnami-do-wyburzenia/>

Mark Wolnik **moved**, seconded by Brenda Dombroskie and Hania Fedorowicz, that **KCA voice total objection to the proposed design** by Stefan Gdyczyński, because it does not reflect the history and culture of the Kaszuby area, nor the natural environment in which the Franciscan Center is located.

Carried unanimously.

The KCA position on the “altar” project should be made known to the architect, Steve Gdyczyński, to Fr. Jan and to the Franciscans, to the Bishop of Pembroke and others. devoted to the Kaszuby area and its heritage.

Marian Grys left information at the beginning of the meeting that a committee is being formed to advise on the design, a first meeting to be held around July 19 at the Chapel.



Basia Mirecka **moves**, seconded by Ted Bialy, that **3 members at large of the KCA, Andy Ruckemann, Mark Wolnik and Hania Fedorowicz, represent KCA views.** They should take part in that meeting or meet the committee being formed and Fr. Jan at another time. **Carried unanimously.**

Hania Fedorowicz **moves**, seconded by Mark Wolnik, that **KCA supports the maintaining and needed repair of the existing structure with its beloved Madonna** and that it is to be retained. Majority in favour, none against, 1 abstention. **Carried.**

11.0 2024 AGM place & timing

Discussion ensued about holding the next AGM at the “Stodola” (booking through p. Aurelia at “the priest’s barracks,” formerly administered by p. Danusia Olshewski). Brenda Dombroskie suggested that any expenditures for the AGM be combined with a membership drive (less than 50% of owners in the catchment area belong to KCA), for instance at BAYDAY. As many members are not present in May, discussion reverted to making a better information campaign next year in the spirit of community building, to attract new members, by offering a barbecue in connection with the AGM.

Brenda Dombroskie **moved**, seconded by Hania Fedorowicz and Mark Wolnik, that the **2024 AGM be held at the “Stodola” together with a barbecue** (and potluck?) after the formal meeting is over. **Carried unanimously.**

Witold Dziewaltowski **moved**, seconded by Bożena Balut, that the date of next AGM be **Sunday August 11, 2024 after Mass** and be booked at the “Stodola”. Arrangements to be confirmed. **Carried unanimously.**

Mark Wolnik called for a moment of silence in memory of KCA members who passed away in the last year, specifically Andrzej Zdanowicz and David Afelski.

12.0 Adjournment:

Witold Dziewaltowski **moved**, seconded by Ted Bialy to **adjourn the meeting.**
Carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

2 2023 KCA AGM Attendance List (as completed by attending members)

1. Sophia Sudnikowicz
2. Peter A. Bruck
3. Mark Milan
4. Maryna Straszak-Suri



5. Bea and Mark Wolnik
6. Asia & Witold Dziewaltowski
7. Kaz & Susan Adamowski
8. Barabara and Marek Mirecki
9. Marek Piergies
10. Rita Coulas
11. Florence Dombroskie
12. Brenda & Benny Dombroskie
13. Marian Gryś
14. Christine & Jim Murphy
15. Bożena Balut
16. Christine & Ted Biały
17. Jan Czerwinski
18. Andrzej Manitius
19. Catherine Filejski
20. Andrew Ruckemann
21. Peter Zdanowicz
22. Cecilia Thurner
23. Katherine Morin
24. Hania Fedorowicz
25. Ed Herbacz
26. Izabella Czartoryski
27. Maciejczak

Minutes recorded by Hania Fedorowicz.