

FRIENDS OF HULLETT

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - HELD AT EXETER TOWN HALL 26 July 2016 7:30 PM

Present: Mike Cardinal (Acted as Chairman), Dale Ann McKichan, Bill Dineen, Danica Rush, Wade Beaudoin, Jim Bayne, Mat Shetler.

Guests: Sarah Hubbert, Scott Austin, Deane Waite MNRF, Melanie Kotulak MNRF, Drew Pegrum MNRF,

Absent: Duane Inkpen, Ryan Bayne

Meeting called to order by Mike 7:38

Review Minutes: Motion to accept June minutes. All in favour.

Treasurer's Report: No discussion.

New Business:

- Discussion signage around baited area. Deane began and spoke of the two vintages of signs now there; one says baited area no hunting, on the right is the old MNR sign -- which effectively calls it a waterfowl area, do not enter. The signs can be misinterpreted and lead to misunderstandings or disguised misunderstandings by those using the unclear message to enter this "no entry" zone.

The signage should give the message that it is a baited area and not to enter, for instance; " Baited Area, No Entry ". Problems in the past at Rondeau has been people just walking through these areas and disturbing the birds. The main goal is to keep people out of the area. The idea is to mesh the requirements are from two different jurisdictions to make the rule clear. And, to be able to deal with someone who is in the baited area. The trappers could go in as we have the right to carry out management duties. Another clear sign could read: " Baited Area, Do Not Enter " or " Waterfowl Sanctuary, Do Not Enter ".

The attached property owners may prefer a similar sign with some slightly different language.

Do Not Enter should be at the top of any sign posted.

Maybe 20 signs needed. Make the add on sign at top.

Motion by Jim Bayne seconded by Dale Ann that the cost be max \$15 per sign up to 40 signs.

There will be signage to guide people around the prohibited area.

- Beaver problem - Our three trappers were present.

We are all here to voice our opinion of the trapping issue. Trapper concern is there is a not real definition of a nuisance beaver. We need to make sure we know what the nuisance beavers are. Passed to Deane for comment.

Deane - Nuisance wildlife - (legislation). There is no clear definition. It addresses damage caused to private property. There are certain ways we can kill these animals. We can kill as many of as necessary to prevent the damage.

Currently all we have is the beaver issue. The trappers can trap according to what the Hullett management deems necessary. How is it set up for municipal drainage problems? How is that done? : They get so much per beaver. How to define when and why eliminating beavers for the municipality takes place - - - when the flooding of farmer's fields occur, then those are targeted. It's all done verbally with the trappers and it falls under the Municipal Drainage Act.

The trappers prefer doing the trapping in the fall to protect the beaver families. They caught two snappers this summer and this would not happen during the fall, only summer.

Deane asks that if they trap heavily in the fall - does that impact the control in the summer?

Often spring is when the babies leave and they then find a new area, so that is when they begin damming our waterways. Most of the beavers trapped are not older ones, mostly young ones. The BOD's response is that DUC orders us to deal with all the beaver dams.

The trappers hate trapping beavers in the summer as it is such a waste.

Our conservation officer speaks on this saying that as long as there are water problems, there are nuisance beavers on the site.

Hullett has costs involved in repairing beaver damage.

We look for an annual report from the trappers to see what their beaver numbers are that have been trapped but these reports are slow coming.

It was asked if the trapping is profitable. The response was that they enjoy it

even if they don't do well. .

It was suggested that the trappers attend one meeting per year to discuss the trapping status.

Marsh Report

Mike decided to only discuss questions about the report, rather than go through each item as we all have read the report beforehand.

Items were discussed randomly, so are not ordered by number, but rather by when comments were put forward.

- 7. McGregor Drain. Jeff King says dam and beaver removal is difficult. We will install a barrier or ditch to remedy the problem.

- 16. User Guide - Sarah will send the new one to the printer with the changes she has made. Changes of colour between A and B zone are one notable change. Other changes in colours and other clarifications are also part of this to make it an easier and clearer site map for users.

- Dog Trials - Wording needs clarification so they know where they can train their dogs as the user guide says there are times they cannot do this. We need clarification on these rules as it is confusing.

- 10. Phragmite issue - It is not that bad yet but if we wait, it will be much worse later. We can't use herbicide, if there is any standing water. The water needs to be drawn down. Discussed "wicking" and then pulling it out. Wade suggest an Argo to deal with this in the water if we can find a machine to use. Diane to look into this.

- 6. 60 acre Grassland-Northland Project. Wade says - We're not sure of the habitat establishment of that plot. Regarding native grasslands; Areas where I have been able to naturally control the plant life, it has worked very well for two years. We go in and get it cut to allow the grass to grow. The grass will choke out what you don't want (thistle). Scott says how do we address the thistles - to keep the land as native grass habitat. We need to determine whether thistle is harming anything? If the birds are there, then it may be okay (bobolink).

- 3. Becky Adam's last event before her contract was up was the Fund raiser - Dale Ann questioned why Becky did not do anything to engage the interest of family or kids during the trail hike that she attended since she was our event co-ordinator - Maybe an interpretive event or something.

- 2. Hydro / Wildlife Line prairie grass. Don Knott is abandoning the harvest. We have no contract with Steve... it is a separate entity. What to do.

Did we have an agreement with Don...no, just a handshake and it was so much per ton... He's just going to cut and gale it. Wade suggested that we get an written agreement with Don. Mat had thought we had an agreement for this. Don is letting this field go. Scott to work on finding someone else to take this field on.

- Ed Allen sent a letter attached to some maps of the marsh. He states that some hunting stakes are in each other's way and need to be moved.

New Business

- Federation of Anglers and Hunters discussion regarding membership and our membership cards were handed out. DUC to do some donations, etc for the Young Hunter Programme. DUC is sending out a mail package to each kid regarding how to mentor etc.

- BBQ fund raiser brought in \$225.00

- Wade cleared couple of new beaver clogs in the marsh.

- MNRF - Diane spoke of a proposed agreement with a power company on a grassland within our property. We are not interested. The agreement purposed is a no go. They proposed between them and DUC. So, DUC has an agreement with the MNRF - if MNR agrees. The legal agreement Capstone was by three different companies, and it was very long. It cannot just be given to one company as anyone should be able to have an opportunity so it should be made available to others publicly. (grass land plantings.)

We will try it this way with DUC being the manager.

If MNRF does not want to continue with an agreement, MNRF only has to give one years notice.

- Interpretive centre....short discussion on whether it was going to refurbished or to tear it down. It appears that it could go either way. Diane will do a follow up.

- Jim - we had a plasticized Friends of Hullett sign but it is gone. It is decided that we should replace it. Scott to price a new one.

- Rock for DUC plaque....Duane knows where there is a rock in the mash that may work. Plaque is around 18 X 32 size.

Motion to adjourn by Wade, seconded by Dale Ann. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 PM.

30 August for next meeting.

September meeting bumped to 20th.

BOD Terms:

Election Results 2016

- Replacement for Dan Kilby - Danica Rush 2 year
- Mat Shetler - 3 year
- Duane Inkpen - 3 year
- Mike Cardinal - 3 year

For election 2017

- Jim Bayne - 3 year
- Ryan Bayne - 3 year
- Wade Beaudoin - 3 year

For election 2018

- Danica Rush - 3 year
- Bill Dineen - 3 year
- Dale Ann McKichan - 3 year