

FRIENDS OF HULLETT

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - HELD AT EXETER TOWN HALL 29 November 2016 7:30 PM

Present: Mike Cardinal, Dale Ann McKichan, Bill Dineen, Ryan Bayne, Danica Rush, Duane Inkpen, Wade Beaudoin, Jim Bayne, Mat Shetler.

Guests: Scott Austin, Lorraine Norminton (MNR)

Meeting called to order by Duane at 7:31 PM

Review Minutes: October minutes accepted as circulated

Treasurer's Report:

- Money has been received from Flynn for grassland mowing.
- Capstone has also paid for their grassland maintenance.
- There has been a big jump in membership recently which is very good for FOH.
- Scott says we have \$105,000 in bank now though there are payables which have to come out. It is estimated that we are about \$22,000 ahead right now going into the New Year.
- The budget is always a month behind so it does not necessarily reflect where we are.
- As it stands now, the extra surplus can be put towards next year's budget.
- There is nothing big right now to pay off.
- We had budgeted \$4,000 for vehicle repairs and paid out around \$10,000.
- Taking wages out of the report, there is nothing we need to adjust.
- Insurance - Jim raises the issue that our insurance through the Federation may not completely protect us, though it is felt the Federation is a good organization to belong to. Our insurance costs as of now are \$700 under budget.
- We shall leave this issue of insurance provider till the January meeting.
- Motion by Mike, Seconded by Dale Ann - to accept financial report. All in favour.
- There is an old 5 year (capital assets) equipment depreciation schedule that we should update it and keep it up to date. Scott should be involved in this. This will determine our carry over to next year. After Christmas Wade to sit down with Scott to do this.

Spaghetti Supper, Dale Ann reported that they raised \$1916.00. On top of that

\$50 was donated, and two new memberships were gained. The Mayor and councilors attended the supper. 187 volunteer hours went into this. Over 60 sponsors supported this. Dale Ann also said that it is a big job and they cannot guarantee it will be done again next year unless we get enough volunteers. The press was there and interviewed Dale Ann. One topic that was discussed was the vandalism that goes on in the marsh. This was part of the newspaper article.

Marsh Report:

- Accident on Conservation Road - We have to pay for the police report before we can pursue compensation for damages. Scott to pursue this. He will talk to our insurance company about getting this to proceed.
- Good job on the record numbers that took part in the Peasant Hunt.
- Some dyke areas need dredging. Dredging to begin tomorrow, 30 November.
- FOH Memberships - Excellent job on the membership increase. 83 new members joined this year, of which 25 came from the Albion Supper. Donations have been in the \$25 - \$100 range.
- Regarding the email reminders for renewals, it is thought that this could irritate some people, so we will add an "unsubscribe" option to emails.
- Scott will shorten his week to get built up OT hours reduced.
- New 40 Acre Grassland; We have been paid for everything regarding the grasslands mowing. They need to get a few more acres cut but it's heavy brush in places. They may get someone in with heavier brush cutters to clear this. We have some overgrown spots so maybe we could ask who does this cutting and if they could do some of this for us. We need to know what that will cost before going ahead.
In the spring they will do native plant seeding using seed pucks. Scott and Sarah observed a good population of bobolink in this grassland.
- Main Viewing Stand, has been 5/16th cable and turnbuckle braced at the NW end as well as had the X-bracing in the ceiling re-screwed. All seems very solid now.
- Interpretive Office Remediation - The mold cleanup is complete pending inspection in preparation for the removal of the building in the spring.
- MNRF has supplied and delivered new fuel tanks for installation after the demolition.
- Sarah Hubbert left on the 24th of November, and has been replaced by Alaina Vandervoort of Elmwood. She has taken over the funding application for our

phragmite removal.

- Phragmite funding - MNRF has contributed \$1000 towards mapping this invasive plant for 2016 and DUC has committed \$2000 to its removal in 2017.
- Canada Summer Jobs Funding is available for us again next season. The students we had for this worked out very well and we hope to get them back.
- The backhoe we had has been sold for \$300, but the grader will be kept in case we need it in the future.
- B-Zone - Scott and Jeff Krete (DUC) inspected all B-Zone water structures and a few structures are to be replaced. Jeff is applying for funding to accomplish this.
- Gun tickets..... Pheasant Challenge Draw - There is a lot of interest in hunters to buy tickets on a gun. Maybe we should add a gun to the pheasant challenge raffle on top of the generator. We could get the gun from Clinton Sporting Goods in Clinton as he sold a lot of pheasant challenge tickets this year and the gun could be on display in his gun shop in Clinton so we don't have storage issues. - Suggested that we try it for one year and see what it does for us.
- Albion Whitetail Guided Duck Hunts - Due to the low water this year, it was impossible to fulfill the hunting expectations for this event. It is suggested that we no longer auction off white tail hunts....or do it at the opener weekend. To look at the options another year.

Lorraine:

- The Invasive Species Centre is doing things on the phragmite problem on the 7th Dec. This will be on line and talks about what was done at Long Point and Rondeau Bay. It was successful with the use of helicopters spraying over water. Go on the Invasive Species Centre web site to find this. (Bill D will send a separate email to all regarding accessing this "MNRF Phragmites Emergency Herbicide Use Project-Rondeau Park & Long Point Crown Marsh").
- Jeff reports that the Interpreter centre work is in progress and the taking down of the building is pushed forward to 2017.
- Water control structures at whistler....(Dyke Work) - what to replace, etc mentioned.

Scott added at the end: Regarding website and newsletter next mailing will be before the ending of January. The 10th of January will be the deadline if you want anything in the mailing.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjourned:

No further business, adjourned 9:19 PM

In Camera followed