

## **FRIENDS OF HULLETT**

### **MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - ZOOM**

**28 July 2020 7:30 PM**

**Present:** Bill Dineen, Ryan Bayne, Wade Beaudoin, Jim Bayne, Mat Shetler, Chris Ambrose

**Absent:** Duane Inkpen, Steven Zingaro, Mike Cardinal

**Guests:** Scott Austin, Alex Morrow, Lorraine Moir, Cassie Eveland

**Meeting called to order:** 7:30

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

The report has been summarized by email. We are slightly down in income, but this is offset by the new Ag Contract and a few other items mentioned. There is nothing exceptional that has caused problems. Insurance expenses appeared a little high. We had some credits from 2018 and applied them last year. That could be why it seems higher.

Scott

**Opening day** - There are two paths we could travel down:

1. Just not have a draw this year and that would save a lot of complications.
2. If a draw, we need staff and we will have to be prepared with a good plan on how to do it.

Should we just cancel it? Several ideas voiced on what we could do. It could help with the second shoot because we would be better organized. Scott suggests two draws only.

Board was going back and forth about all possible ideas. If we had two draws, it would be a good way to get a record of what was harvested, however it was discussed if this is even important because we have never done anything with this data.

There were many discussions about how to complete the draw with no contact to the public. Possibly, hunters would get two copies of the report so we will not need the generator and photo copier. **It is important that we do not make rules that are already allowed by law.**

The trailer needs to be there with the peg board. The site should be monitored by staff in case someone does not do things as they should be doing.

What about distancing of vehicles in the parking lot? We need to have someone ensure the COVID social distancing is being followed. Suggested that staff have their area separated from the general area. As well as a no-go area for hunters, so non-staff people are isolated from staff. Can we provide a simple set of procedures on a board for the hunters to do their own? It will be complicated. A group of BOD members will be meeting after our meeting to discuss all options and decide on a viable plan.

**User guide** - Page 12 in User Guide is designated to Duck opener. Cassie has created a new beginning that tells hunters to check the website/social medias before duck opener to better understand what is happening. This way, the board is not rushed into a decision and all factors can be made and are not rushed. Original concepts of duck opener will stay, just adding new lines that tells people to go the website to confirm details before duck opener.

**Pheasant Hunting** - Friday Sept. 25 is pheasant opening day, the day before duck opener. We must have back up plans for both opening days. What if pheasant hunters want pheasant challenge tickets and come to the parking lot for them? Or to the office? We need to keep staff safe. Staff will come up with a plan for distribution of tickets in a way that makes them feel as safe as possible.

Memberships will also create another distancing problem. This must be thought out to keep it safe. There is the problem of accepting cash that could be a problem. There are many options on how people can pay for memberships so staff will not be accepting

cash for the foreseeable future. Users can write and mail cheques, pay over the phone, pay online using e-transfer or PayPal.

**Opening Days** – All of these decisions must be made before September opening day. Discussion on what they are doing in Rondeau and Long Point. Considering putting a barrier up for staff, with staff working in shifts with no personal contact for Saturday only. Everything is to be disinfected for shift rotation. BOD (Wade possibly) will do Friday by himself. Suggested that vehicles be in spot number 1 and a barrier between there and the trailer.

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**Ducks Unlimited** (Fred Manning) have told FOH staff that they are planning major repairs to the Bluewing Dyke this year. Fred has contracted out VanDriel's to do the work. Fred will be on site the entire time to ensure it is done properly and to FOH/DUC standards. No other updates on this.

**Radios** are in Stratford now for inspection and repairs since the power surge.

## **MNR**

**Foraging update** - foraging aspect checked into recently and that MNRF has the files that need to be updated and investigated. Lorraine has contacted the necessary people are they are looking into it.

**Forestry Update** – permitting has been a slow process

**Update on Barn and Silo** – Still not sure if/when the old interpretive centre will be torn down. Staff have asked that they leave the cement pad as it is useful to us, but not sure what this will look like but should not be a problem. MNR know about the drainage issue and they will come back to talk to us about drainage solutions.

**Mike Williams of DUC contracted out mowing** – The 2019 mowing was not completed. An unknown company was contracted to do the 2020 mowing in various parts of Hullett and have now become “too busy” and not fulfilled the contract for those specific grassland restoration sites. Moving forward DUC is looking into contracting FOH to do this mowing in 2021

**New business:**

Scott asks for two weeks more work for Julia. There is a lot of work for her and she has been doing an unbelievable job so far this year and well deserves it and will be coming back multiple times to help volunteer in the future as well.

Motion by Jim seconder Christopher, all in favour.

**List of assets** – 6ft mower has a \$31,000 replacement value, however we only paid \$9,700 for it used. Matt suggested it does not seem realistic to spend that much on a grass cutter for around the office and sometimes parking barriers. Discussion about the high price of a new mower continued and all agreed we should have realistic values put on equipment value. That will be changed to what we paid for it. As well, this sheet should be updated to include new investments and then sent to our insurance company to show assets and keep the list updated.

**Adjourned 8:46 PM**