

FRIENDS OF HULLETT

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Zoom Meeting

26 January 2021 7:30 PM

Present: Mike Cardinal, Bill Dineen, Ryan Bayne, Duane Inkpen, Jim Bayne, Mat Shetler, Chris Ambrose, Steven Zingaro, Wade Beaudoin,

Absent:

Guests: Scott Austin, Amber Frak

Meeting called to order: 7:30

Review December Minutes: Adopted with some wording changes.

Treasurer's report

The report was presented to show the last three years in order to show where we are. We have a healthy surplus for the year. We cut back on some things. We've been carrying the A Zone planned future expenses. We may move it over to the A Zone liability, or to general funds? What we've done in the past, is to put it into the A Zone liability. We will do that, so will move it to A Zone liability. Will send this to Janice. This will be the December statement.

Scott spoke about the insurance money and asked where to put it. This money may be best allocated to repairs as they happen. Some discussion on money allocations. This insurance money is not really income. Maybe we need to just set the insurance money in its own place rather than put it into existing allocations. It will be left to Ryan and Scott, to sort this for tax purposes. We should be caught up on our director's expenses.

Marsh Report:

Between Alex and Scott's efforts, we have an all time high for our membership. Thanks to Scott and Alex's good work on this.

Vandalism – We took the vehicle licence and some pictures to the police and they knew who this one was. They have dealt with this person before and we assume they have handled it in the best way.

Community effort is quite strong. New Marsh Signs are ordered. They've put up some homemade signs for now to bridge the gap because of the stealing of some of our signs. This is also happening to some other wildlife areas. We need to be visible and stay on social media. We do have some spare signs to be put up when we can.

Vanessa Palmer Award – is a go and we will put the word out to promote this.

Scott talked about some volunteers that we will probably have this season.

Scott had a good talk with Drew Pegrum CO. - they've had a lot of vandalism everywhere this season. In those discussions some thoughts were discussed to deal with these problems. Drew asked us to consider installing a gate or blocks with chains on the west side of the Homestead entrance bridge to protect winter deer from disturbance and poachers for the winter months. What about closing A-zone as it's a good wintering area? Maybe put a gate or chain with a padlock. We think that there aren't that many people that go back in there in the winter. It can be difficult to get things locked as people are in there very regularly. Scott thinks we should have some gates installed. Homestead road – we don't own the land. Bridge Line is owned by others. We could gate those roads if we are allowed to. Can we legally put gates there? Do we talk to the landowner, or municipality? Will that affect the farmers? Talking to the farmer that uses Bridge Road should be okay but we should give this farmer a key. Maybe two blocks and a locked chain. Motion to do this Matt. Seconded by Jim - One road – homestead access. All in favour. We should lock it the first day after the end of the duck season.

Why has the question come up regarding closing off areas?

There has been a lot of poaching that has gone on, as well as other illegal hunting.

Lively discussion on the reason for this request. Maybe temporary closing off of some areas. This is not something that should be under our control. Blocks and chain may be the way to go. Blocks cost \$100 each.

Snowmobile abuse is really bad this year. Snowmobile tracks everywhere in the marsh more than ever before. Scott emailed our CO about this. Also an email sent to the local snowmobile association. They're going to post something about this, this evening.

Discussion regarding a proposal by Mr Gibson. He wants to do some work for us, mulching. He will possibly rent or lease for now. He's passionate about woodlot maintenance. He has a company that does transplanting and also sells trees. He's known Nick Courtney for a lifetime. He's eager to help us out. We may have to spend a little money with him. He wants to buy a mulching machine. He's close and would be economical to use if he gets a machine (no floating costs it in). This is an opportunity for us to get some more trees planted on site. We will do some surveying to look at what our possibilities are. There will be money that will have to be spent if this goes ahead with us.

Gypsy moth presence – in all the owl boxes. Scott's never seen as many of these before. We will relay this to Al Murray. We should let the ministry know, regarding the spraying for these on neighbouring properties.

MNRF – talked to Al Murray today. Duane reported that the Ministry is looking at taking down the barn. So we may get some barn swallow nesting boxes as they will be displaced when the barn is gone. The cement pad will be left. Maybe we should knock down last year's nests. Could Scott include Al Murray for our board meetings. He will be our liaison as he's taking Lorraine's position.

No word on the logging project.

Website user guide – Amber has sent a few things to the web site. Newsletter is started. Newsletter is all of ours, so if anyone wants to contribute they should let us know.

Pheasant challenge – the winners – one will get her picture taken for the newsletter.

Matt – we have all this grass land we need to figure out how to maintain it. Some surveys have been done a few times. We've only mowed it. Are we managing them well enough? Proposing that staff to go out there and record their observations to create a baseline. Talked about mowing and whether that's the best thing to do. We don't know if what we are doing is helping. We planted the

original one to add to the habitat. We need to look at that. We need an assessment to start with.

Matt – possibility of land purchase – gravel pit question. OMNRF does not have the money to purchase land. It would be good for us to bring it back to how it was originally. We could do that and manage it. It's a possibility. It could be difficult to purchase without help from the government. We are interested, in principle. If we bought that land, how would we keep it separate from the MNRF. If we accepted help from members, what would that mean? Or others may want to purchase the land through us. It is mentioned that maybe the government does not want more land being purchased. It could be that it would become Crown Land. We could use it as an income property?

AGM is probably going to be on line.

New Business:

Burns line – the Handicap Viewing Stand still needs a roof on it. Shingles are on site. Corn barn wasn't repaired properly and it is now leaking again.

Scott talked about Burns Line; we need some quotes to rebuild Burns Line down to the boat launch. Do we remove the trees if necessary? We need to look at it.

Duane proposes that we spend money to get at the mulching and mowing. Each year there are more and more weeds. Seed money needed to start the process. Maybe plant some trees. It would take more than \$5,000. The area is about 15 acres total. First estimate is \$200 an hour and can do three acres in an hour. Not sure how we will do it as the trees are too close for any machine to drive through. New trees could possibly be free. Duane put in a Motion for \$5,000 to get started – Jim seconds it. All in favour. Passed. Estimates will happen before we do anything.

Amber – is working out great. Lot of skills. She's happy in the trailer. She's working out well. As long as the office remains closed, she could manage the office. If she needs to, she can temporarily stay in the trailer. She could bring a trailer in and park it on site. Some discussion on where Amber stays.

No further business brought forward, meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM