

FRIENDS OF HULLETT

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING

25 May 2021 7:30 PM

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Scott Austin, Amber Frak, Trevor Latta, Al Murray

Meeting called to order: 7:30

Trevor introduced himself to the board before the meeting started.

Review April Minutes: Adopted as circulated.

Treasurer's Report: We are still carrying the surplus of about \$35,000 as in other years.

Ag contract monies are in now, and there are additional monies coming in soon. Contracts are identical with DU as has been other years.

We questioned our accountant has been questioned with our concerns and this has been looked at. All okay with our accountants now. There will be a fee associated with them examining the history of our financial storage. We have not been spending very much so far this year.

Marsh Report:

-Conestoga pheasant hunt is cancelled this year. We may be a little busier because of this.

-Membership keeps growing. Our student employee has been working out quite well.

- Blue Trail Bridge – What about a culvert installed there? The water flow is moving nicely and erosion is not serious. We will look at it to see what we should do there. Maybe some culverts installed there to preserve the bridge. It is soft so gravel may not be the best thing to put in there. The bridge has been made safer with warning signs posted. We will have another look at this to see what should be done. We could ask the horse riders if they will help us with this project to make it safer and make the bridge last longer. It is a 60-foot span. Wade explained how this situation is dealt with at another similar location. Something like a corduroy road is an idea. Is the water ponding at all? Staff will report back for the next meeting.

- Memorial fund donation – the question is that some donors want a name on the tree their donation money went towards. Money donated always goes towards new plantings in this area. What is the criteria regarding names put on the plaque? Discussion on what people's names are put on the plaque. Maybe we could plant trees according to people's requests with the money those individuals donated. There could be problems as we discussed involving the work done regarding the donation for planted trees. We do not need plaques on donated trees.

- Trappers – we received a report on the beaver trappers. The problem is that we need more beavers taken. We are not dealing sufficiently with the problem they create. There are other trappers that would help us deal with the beaver problem. We need to talk about how we can remove more beavers. We need to open up to more trapping. It is our decision as to how many trappers we support in the marsh. Some discussion on past trapping questions in the past. Al Murray can facilitate getting some additional trappers into the marsh to help.

- We had only one applicant for temporary maintenance supervisor. She is willing to start Monday. \$15 per hour is what we will be paying. There is no shortage of work to have for her for 10 weeks. Motion to allocate \$1500 to keep Julia for two additional weeks. Motion by Wade, to pay her \$16 an hour, seconded by Jimmy, unanimous, approved.

- Gypsy Moth spraying – discussion regarding the private property that borders our property that will be sprayed concerning the drifting of insecticide onto our trees.
- Road work – Burns Line. Did we get another quote for that work? No, but Scott will get one this week.
- Jimmy asks what is killing the coniferous trees in one of the areas of the Marsh? It is the Japanese beetle doing the damage. We will have a look at those trees to see if that is what is causing it.

OMNRF

- Al Murray opens by saying nothing is wrong. He thanked us for our hard work and said we are doing a great job. There is no recommendations to change anything. We were brought up to speed regarding things at the OMNRF as it concerns us. They have talked to DU about water levels. Maybe set up a meeting with their biologist regarding water levels. Jeff to set something up in the near future regarding a meeting to discuss our water levels. Some discussion on water levels. We will send some current water levels to get some advice on what that says and it would be nice to make a plan as to what we should be doing. It would be nice if our opinions and observations would have some value in their planning. There has been some poor planning resulting in damage to dykes. Some discussion on this poor planning. We need to plan earlier in the year than it has been in the past.
- Announcement about 25 new conservation officers hired. We wonder if we will get any of these in our area. We maybe could get one or two.
- Scott – the excavators will probably do some work this week on Burns Line.
- Web Site and newsletter will be going out about the first week of June.
- If anyone wants anything in the newsletter, let Scott know
- User guide – have some ideas to make it better for the user. We're trying to make things easier. If anyone knows anybody who would want an ad in the user guide, let us know.

- Pheasant challenge – tickets going out.

New Business:

- Vandriels presently doing the Burns Line work – will they clean out those beaver dams near the bridge. Scott could talk to them and we could pay for those ourselves. There is money in the A Zone budget for this.

- No AGM this year. Chris and Mike are running again this year. Trevor will be on board with no objections from the board members.

- Wade curious about capital spending? Anything we need? We should address that.

-Scott says most of our equipment is in shape. Cannot see purchasing anything big at this time, as we are spending quite a bit on road repair.

- Mat – spoke on funding – Scott will look at applying for that work on Burn's Line.

- Property purchase – it is a possibility. No straight answer given from the bank. Discussed some of the bank's questions on a loan. The information is in his letter shared with us. If we want to continue, we can discuss that. Taxes: we would be responsible for our taxes, and not blanket it under the situation we have with the MNRF. The municipality will not want to lose these taxes.

- Jim asked if we purchase this land, who would actually own the land: MNRF or Hullett? Some discussion on this subject as the township would worry about losing taxes. Scott discussed the history of this parcel of land. There are other parcels of land that may come up in the future. We would need a sizable amount of money to actually purchase the property.

Meeting adjourned 9:23

Next meeting 29 June 2021.