

**FRIENDS OF HULLETT**

**MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Virtual Meeting**

**31st AUGUST 2021 7:30PM**

**Present:** Mat Shetler, Ryan Bayne, Chris Ambrose, and Steven Zingaro

**Absent:** Duane Inkpen, Mike Cardinal, Jim Bayne, Wade Beaudoin and Trevor Latta

**Guests:** Scott Austin, Amber Frak

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

- Minutes from the previous Friends of Hullett – Board of Directors meeting were reviewed and approved with some minor spelling and grammar updates.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Chris provided us with an update of financials
- Lower net income, but kind of expected year over year
- Pretty light month for income, pretty routine month for expenses

**Land Purchase:**

- Chris has a land purchase analysis of 3 different scenarios- 50acres (\$500k), 100acres (\$1mil) and 150acres (\$1.5mil)
- Chris' thoughts: At the end of the day he wouldn't really recommend it. Too tight income wise, ag land is crazy overpriced right now, lots of legal work and doesn't really necessarily align with Hullett's mission. Lots of money over time
- Ryan thoughts: numbers speak for themselves, unless we have an additional source of funding to offset some of the costs.
- Is there a magic top end number for us to carry a year to year cost? Maybe like a quarter million, but the chances of something coming up for that is unlikely
- Who bought the 20 acre piece of land east of the office? Someone bought it but Flynn is farming it- put up private land signs
- Gravel pit would be ideal if we could ever get our hands on it for a good price
- Look for funding, see what help is out there for buying land. Land trusts? NCC?
- Open market buying is not likely- maybe try direct/private sale?

**Marsh Report led by Scott Austin**

- 3. Waterfowl Opening Day
  - Due to no draw again this year a Hullett member has expressed concern about the first come first serve and the transition from overflow parking lot to interior parking lots at 5am
  - Would it be feasible to have staff out there closing off parking lots the night before and opening them up at 5am to ensure people are not jumping the line?

- Ryan: Last year wasn't that bad, a few people jumped the line but people moved and there were no major conflicts. Would be nice to block off the spots if possible.
- Volunteers or board members participating in opening day could help with opening gates at 5am.
- Clear parking lots and lock them the night before.
- People could still drive around the gates/cables in some place but its due diligence
- Sounds doable, Scott will figure out the logistics and will reach out to the board when a plan is made.
- Marsh is in good shape and pretty much ready for opening day. Privys will be open for opening day, trails and dykes are mowed and hunt stake markers have been placed.
- Kate has got all the HUG materials to the printer, hopefully will be done by opening day. Kate has also been working on the Fall Newsletter
- 22. New Snowmobile
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> machine could be useful so that 2 machines can always be running and to have an extra for volunteers to come out and help staff
  - Pull start is hard for some and hard after a long day.
  - Skidoo Tundra 4stroke eco engine option about \$12000, no eco engine is about \$10000. 600cc engines (we currently run 400cc)
  - Why keep the pull start machine if we can't start it? Could sell or trade in?
  - However having 3 machines could be handy
  - Mat would like to see more options outlines before making a decision
  - Discussion for future with more board members
- 26. Washrooms
  - Will be reopened for opening day
  - Cameras? Many members suggest we use cameras to catch vandalism
  - Is it worth monitoring? How can we check them? Check them all the time or just when there is vandalism? Standard cameras or the cell service cameras?
  - Vandalism keeps going up and we spend a lot of money to up keep this property so it could be a worthy investment
  - Mat: internet/cell cameras are the way to go, pictures get uploaded to the cloud rather than a physical card. Maitland uses cell cameras and it's effective and not too costly. Mat will look into camera pricing options and email options
  - Chris: Fake cameras? Signs saying "Video Surveillance" to deter people, could be a good cost effective preventative measure
  - Scott: Will contact Artech and price out sign options
- New Burns Line parking lot
  - Already been destroyed by burnouts and donuts twice. Photo of vehicles and people's names were taken. Cops were out to handle the situation
- Blue Trail Bridge
  - Jimmy came out and took a look and made a sketch of the bridge- will send out a scan of the sketch to the board.
  - His idea was to cut the timbers in the middle section and let them drop a bit and put culvert and the use timber to hold stone
  - Are the timbers in good enough condition?

- Haven't explored the option of re-routing the trail yet
- Mulch
  - At corner of Summerhill and Wildlife Line
  - Bayfield Tree Service doing job north of Kinburn and Scott gave permission to dump there
  - Duane has been wanting mulch for the tree project
- Canoe Launches
  - Bluebill launch was removed a few years ago
  - Do we need them? Are they worth repairing or should they be pulled out as they degrade?
  - Not super useful when water is low
  - Pull them out as they degrade so it's not a safety hazard
  - Not a super high priority. Perhaps we could find funding for it but otherwise not dedicating a ton of money towards
- Fire Extinguishers are inspected and up to date
- Regulation date changes for horse and water access
  - Horses: "Horse access is not permitted in Zone A from Oct 1 – May 1" changing dates to Oct 1-April 30.
  - Water: "Pond access is not permitted in Zone A between May 15 and August 1" changing dates to May 15-July 31
  - Date changes are only 1 day and it could make it easier for users to remember and understand.
  - End of the month is the last day, first of the month is the first day just makes a little more sense.

#### **MNR and DU**

- Tree salvage is moving ahead. MNR is currently mapping out landing areas
  - Dates: Potentially happening in October, would make more sense weather wise and with hunting in B Zone to do in winter.
- Trapping
  - Doug Vincent has stepped down, Everett Smith from next door to the office is hopefully going to take over. MNR has been contacted and it is in the works. Everett is signed on as a nuisance trapper for now.

#### **New Business**

- Steven has moved and won't be able to make it to in person meetings from here on out.
- Continue to do use zoom for meetings. Hybrid in person/zoom meetings to accommodate for those that cannot make it in person.

**Next meeting September 23, 2021- meet at the office.**

**Meeting adjourned: 8:34pm**

Minutes submitted by Amber Frak