

## FRIENDS OF HULLETT

### MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

#### Virtual Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 7:30 PM

**Present:** Duane Inkpen, Mat Shetler, Ryan Bayne, Mike Cardinal, Steven Zingaro and Trevor Latta

**Absent:** Wade Beaudoin, Chris Ambrose, Jim Bayne

**Guests:** Scott Austin, Amber Frak

**Meeting called to order:** 7:47 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 Ambrose was unable to provide the monthly financial report.
- Current available cash is limited however there is a \$90K GIC available for financial fund access to help with immediate access for cashflow if needed.
- PayPal notified FOH and requested confirmation of current account details as there are new regulation changes. Proposal for Chris and Scott to review the request and confirm FOH PayPal account details.

#### **Marsh Report**

- FOH User Guide Production
  - \$4070 in revenue has been generated including the \$1700 from Central Huron Donation Fund and has been confirmed
  - Ad revenue is up \$210 over 2020
  - Production cost should be cheaper than 2020 with the 20% reduction in HUG size
  - HUG guides were delivered to all parking lots prior to the waterfowl opener.
  - PDF version will be available on website and affiliated tip sheet documents uploaded by Sept 23
- 2021 Memberships
  - We have 183 memberships processed so far in 2021 with 47 being new 1<sup>st</sup> time members
  - We currently have 329 "paid up" members
  - 2021 membership donation revenue is \$7700 as of Sept 22, 2022
- Virtual Instagram Auction - Current revenue is \$4075 with 2 items put up for sale since our last meeting
- Blue Trail Bridge
  - Staff have been too busy to do any work on this project since our last meeting.
  - Both Jim Bayne and Mat Shetler have inspected the site
  - Discussion to proceed with attaining prices to repair and access projected costs for a final decision.
- Trail Cameras & Video Surveillance
  - Amber reviewed costs for surveillance @ \$169/month the cell camera and plan are a way to ensure a reliable source of security camera footage.
  - Discussion of using a trail camera with a memory card to reduce the additional cost however there were comments on the reliability and quality of the images attained along with the regular upkeep to manage and download images.
  - Reflective "NOTICE" surveillance signs were received at a total cost of \$614.00, all 7 signs are posted at key locations throughout the marsh access points and parking lots.
- Zone A Courtesy Cut - A low cut single pass was made to popular travelled routes for hikers and hunters on Sept 20 as in past years and completed in under 4 hours.
- Habitat Mowing - Some small areas have been cut with plans to cut many more once waterfowl opening day is completed.

- Waterfowl Opening Day
  - Signs have been made that remind hunters no entry before 5 am. These signs will be posted on ropes installed by Amber and Scott the evening of Friday Sept 24 around 9 pm
  - Drew Pegrum will be available to escort out rule breakers if needed from Zone A parking lots
  - Duane and Ryan have offered to each open a parking lot
  - Ed Allen will not be there as his duck camper roof blew off 2 days ago when he took it out of storage. It should be simple to find the “right Zone A hunter” on Friday to take over Ed’s task
  - Staff will be taking down the no entry signs at office to allow the public in so that we can assist them outside or on the office porch
  - Duane will be patrolling Zone B selling pheasant challenge tickets and FOH memberships
  - Amber/Scott will patrol when Duane is not out with one staff member staying at office
- Waterfowl Baiting - has started when time and weather permitting.
- Phragmites Spraying
  - Amber and ABCA have completed the spraying for 2021
  - It seems we are slowly winning the battle with only 3 days this year compared to 5 or 6 last year
  - It is very rewarding to see the progress with many sites completely gone over the last few years
- NAVHDA Guelph Dog Club - It appears that the trial went off without any issues, FOH are anticipating a donation from the club.
- Turtle Nest Boxes - Amber has started to bring in a few turtle boxes with the goal to have them all in by Thanksgiving weekend.
- Water Measurements 2-3 more measurements will be required to complete the DUC contract.
- Accessible Hunt Blinds - A dedicated volunteer (YWC parent) has given both blinds a good overhaul including a new tin roof on # 1
- Pheasant Program
  - Pheasant Challenge
    - Current sales are \$2825
    - Clinton Sporting Goods has turned in \$400 to date
  - Pheasant Release Program
    - Current cash donations directly to the 2022 release are \$2520
    - Tim MacDonald donated \$1000 as he did in 2021
  - Pheasant Release
    - The first 200 pheasants will be released a day later than planned due to recent weather
- Additional Parking Barriers - Concrete blocks will be installed for parking at Burns Line for non-hunters as kayakers are now parking on the dyke at the yellow gate.
- Trappers & Beaver Dams
  - The Conservation dam and house has been rebuilt after the excavator removal.
  - There is also a large dam in the channel north of the Pintail Pool that drains water off Summerhill Rd. and Bill Roy’s “hill” property
  - Concrete dam area has a blockage to the inflow of Whistler Pool
  - Doug Vincent will not be renewing his Hullett trapping licence, FOH are currently trying to verify Doug’s status with MNRF.
  - Matt Duncan will be making sets at the 3 high priority dams mentioned above
  - The Oakes have indicated that they will be trapping after taking 2020 season off.
  - Everett Smith next door has agreed to help with the nuisance beaver.
- New Snowmobile - No further action has been taken on research to date however will have an update and details at October meeting
- Owl Boxes - About half off the boxes have been checked so far thanks to Mat Shetler and his kids on Sept 19 taking this workload off staff.
- Youth Waterfowl Clinic
  - Event was a huge success without any issues.
  - Duck harvest was 3 BWT, 1 Wood Duck, 2 GWT and an unrecovered Snipe.
  - Great volunteer efforts from Jim Bayne, Dean Waite, Chris Ambrose, Dayton Porter, Mike Moynihan, and Greg Urquhart to name a few.
  - Amber has sent out a GOOGLE form to participants to gather feedback after the event.

- Washroom Re-Opened - Both washrooms have been reopened. Summerhill privy is being assessed by a local locksmith and may require a new industrial handle to be installed and donated but it is functional as of now.
- OPP Update – Currently waiting to hear back regarding Burns Line damage to boat launch area.

#### **Ducks Unlimited**

- Logging paperwork pertaining to licensing and meeting with Nick Courtney looking at landings access. Process is continuing and will proceed in the winter of 2022.
- Potential contractors will be viewing barn and silo for removal, Ministry will select the company to proceed with the demolition in the fall/winter of 2022.
- Additional funds available within contracts, Scott and Amber will ensure billing in a timely fashion.

#### **Friends of Hullett Website/User guide**

- Amber updated the website and homepage with user guide, agricultural map, geocaching page, water level chart, hiking & hunting tip sheets with clickable URL's
- Fall Newsletter successfully delivered with positive feedback on the look and content.

#### **New Business**

- FOH additional land purchase
  - There was further discussion and review from last months meeting.
  - Mike Cardinal mentioned investing into a facility that provides accommodations for staff.
  - Steven Z mentioned we should pursue however we can't afford open market values.
  - Trevor Latta mentioned a land purchase would provide a longer term and consistent revenue source for FOH and that they would need to designate this as a focus for FOH to prioritize and attain funds.
  - Matt summarized we will not adjust budgets to attain a land acquisition however we will continue to look for opportunities in the future to attain land.

Meeting adjourned 8:48pm.

**In Camera Meeting** - COVID-19 Policy