

## FRIENDS OF HULLETT

### MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

#### Virtual Meeting

26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 7:30 PM

**Present:** Duane Inkpen, Matt Shetler, Ryan Bayne, Jim Bayne, Chris Ambrose and Trevor Latta

**Absent:** Wade Beaudoin, Mike Cardinal, Steven Zingaro

**Guests:** Scott Austin, Amber Frak

**Meeting called to order:** 7:34 PM

- Minutes from the previous Friends of Hullett Board of Directors meeting were reviewed and approved with some minor spelling and grammar updates.
  - Matt requested updates on the following 2 issues:
    - Summerhill facilities seemed to be locked or doorknob issues, still a donation of an updated doorknob to be provided
    - Surveillance cameras have not been pursued, however Scott indicated he will implement 1-2 surveillance cameras at select locations.

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

- Chris Ambrose was able to provide the monthly financial report.
- Currently have a loss until a deposit early in November from an ag check
- Question of overdraft protection – we do not have OD protection however potential to reverse postings
- Discussion of potential to cash in a GIC to help provide cash flow for the upcoming month.
- Updated a projected net income, averaging of donations and weighted expenses to projected net income will be 3-5K for 2021.
- Current GIC's are earning 1% (inflation rates are 4.5%) as GICS become redeemable proposal is to shift to market based GICs to help maintain balance investment and opportunity for upside earning on interest.
- Board approved as GIC's come to maturity to move them over to market based GIC's, proposal is to keep 40% as cashable GICS and 60% market based GIC's
- Chris will follow up with the bank to initiate the upcoming GIC's to move them to market based GIC's.
- PayPal account update – Amber will reach out to PayPal and change account name to our new treasure Chris Ambrose.
- Chris proposed to complete preliminary budget talks before year end, Chris will redistribute expense forms for BoD to submit expenses.

#### **Marsh Report**

- **Baiting**
  - Conditions are too wet to bait the south area at office anymore this season
  - We have plenty of corn left
  - Amber and Trevor have done all the baiting this season
- **Office Grass Cutting**
  - Don Jefferson of Clinton completed his last office grass cut on Oct 20 with a total hours for the season of 38 hours.
  - Don has cut our grass for over 6 years now; he is now 82 years old
  - Scott proposed to get Don a \$50 gift certificate for take-out at China Palace in Clinton with BOD approval as a thank you for the years of dedication.

- Chris Ambrose motioned for the board to provide a \$50 gift certificate for China Palace in Clinton and Ryan Bayne second, motioned passed
- **Dog Club Donation**
  - The Grand River Club **NAVHDA** purchased \$200 of PC tickets and made a \$500 donation to FOH
- **Pheasant Releases**
  - 600 of the 1000 birds have been released to date. Next release is after the controlled shotgun hunt
- **Pheasant Challenge**
  - **Current sales are \$4830**, \$3750 this time last year so good start
  - Clinton Sporting Goods has turned in \$700 so far
  - Mike Leitch has turned in \$600 so far
- **Pheasant Release Program**
  - Current cash donations directly to the 2022 release are \$2520
- **2021 Memberships**
  - We have 224 memberships processed in 2021 with 57 being new 1<sup>st</sup> time members
  - We currently have 346 “paid up” members
  - 2021 membership donation revenue is **\$8775 as of Oct 25, 2021**
  - Past year end figures – **2017** \$5365, **2018** \$5450, **2019** \$ 6165, **2020** \$9520
- **Habitat Mowing**
  - Scott has not reached his goals for 2021 yet
  - Hopefully if time and weather permits, we will have more acres cut
  - Mike Cardinal put in a solid day on Sept around the Green wing Pool
  - Scott plans to habitat in Zone A during the last few days of the November deer gun hunt before moving back to Zone B
- **Accessible Hunting Blinds** - No bookings so far in 2021
- **2021 Hug Revenue/Costs**
  - The 2021 HUG produced income of about \$485, therefore it only cost us staff time
  - Advertisement revenue was \$2490 up from \$2180 in 2020
  - We also received \$1800 from the Central Huron donation fund
  - Total cost was about \$3800 after HST rebate
- **Homestead Access**
  - Amber purchased chain and locked up access to the blocks at the creek on Oct 22 as we had planned, the chain and access will come off after the winter. Conservation Officer Drew Pegram was notified.
  - Both the beekeeper and Flynn have access and have been provide with keys
- **Blue Trail Bridge**
  - Both Jim Bayne, Mat Shetler and Mike Cardinal have inspected the site
  - Mike will report to the BOD his Sept 30 site visit recommendations
    - Amber reached out to a bridge prefab company and received a quote for a 60 x 5” wide - \$80K without installation
    - Timbers need to be removed - proposal was to use Hydro poles as a base and rebuild the crossing (Duane will follow up with Steve Flynn regarding the hydro poles)
    - Consideration to review/re-route a trail proposal for next months meeting as an alternative to building the bridge.

- **Turtle Nest Boxes** - Amber has collected and stored all boxes
- **Virtual Instagram Auction**
  - Current revenue is \$4195
  - We have had a steady flow of small items to keep it going
  - The feature “Whitetail Swamp Duck Hunt” will be up for auction Oct 26 at 9am
- **Water Measurements** - Another set of measurements were completed by Amber on Oct. 1
- **Phragmites Funding** - Amber has submitted the funding application for reimbursement
- **Weird FB and Door Messaging**
  - No update from OPP regarding the situation after they visited the office to collect the evidence as we reported to BOD
  - The latest event is a bright yellow door placed at hunt stake # 22
- **Additional Parking Barriers** - 2 Concrete blocks were installed for parking at Burns Line for non-hunters
- **Trappers**
  - It seems that Doug Vincent is not renewing his Hullett trapping licence, we are currently trying to verify that with MNRF
  - Matt Duncan will be making sets at the 3 high priority dams mentioned in # 9 above
  - Apparently, the Oakes will be trapping after taking 2020 off
  - Everett Smith next door has agreed to help us with nuisance beaver.
  - Matt Duncan has promised a nuisance catch report for our Oct. 26 meeting (9 beavers have been trapped)
- **Webstarts Account** - Our domain registration and website has been renewed for 3 years at a cost of about \$400
- **New Snowmobile**
  - To order a new machine you must order and pay a deposit late Feb. early March in 2022 for a delivery in late fall of 2022 to secure a 2023 snowmobile machine
- **Youth Waterfowl Clinic** - Amber is collecting GOOGLE survey feed-back results and will be reminding participants to submit if they have not done so
- **Charity Dinner Revenue Facts to add to 2022 discussion**
  - 2018 dinner sales were 20,500 – 7,500 = \$13,500 profit
  - 2019 dinner sales were 18,000 – 8,000 = \$10,000 profit
  - Over 200 hours of staff time went into this event each year
- **OPP** - are laying Public Mischief charges regarding Burns Line damage.
- **Permanent Tree-stands**
  - **We are seeing more and more wooden stands. See email from user today.**
  - **This is MVCA Policy** >> “Temporary tree stands are permitted, but these stands/ladders shall not be attached to a tree by any method that penetrates the tree and must be removed when not in use. Stands will be removed that are not in compliance.”
  - **Should FOH adopt this policy? Should this be in the User Guide**
  - Discussion of previous verbiage to support awareness to not build tree stands and that prefixed tree stands are only allowed.
  - Media awareness using “Maitland Valley” verbiage to remove permanently fixed handmade tree stands.
  - Proposal to write up information into the 2023 User guide to create awareness and deter development of fixed deer stands.
- **Youth pheasant hunt**
  - Confirmed to proceed for November 13<sup>th</sup> and back up on the 14<sup>th</sup>. They have decided to cap at 15 kids and will be a go 7 kids in the afternoon 8 kids in the morning.
  - They are responsible for health and safety of the event and participants and recommend they record all participants for contact purposes.

- **MNR**
  - Duane confirmed licenses have come through with GWG burns lines prescriptions. Potential to attain a contractor

### **Ducks Unlimited**

- Scott needs to invoice DU for some work that has been completed i.e. (phragmites control completed)

### **New Business**

- Instagram posting of the “Whitetail Swamp” hunt is tracking well and up to \$600 for the guided hunt.
- Proposal to review fees
  - Membership fee review, Pheasant challenge tickets, Beehive fees, advertising etc.
  - Chris Ambrose will provide a break down of FoH fees for review at the next BoD meeting
  - Scott mentioned Pheasant challenge tickets should maintain the same price. FoH membership fees proposal to \$30
- Charity Dinner
  - Scott proposed to reach out to see if the venue is available for April of 2022 and proposed caterer. Scott noted that there was a (\$1000) credit with the previous caterer.
  - Tickets historically were in place for the Christmas time frame
- Instagram Auction – potentially has provided close to \$5000 in revenue.
- Future meeting locations to be reviewed for in person meetings. Ryan proposed a meeting schedule of in person and virtual meetings moving forward. There seemed to be a consensus to move towards this combined venue.

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm.