

FRIENDS OF HULLETT
MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Virtual Meeting

30th November 2021 7:30 PM

Present: Duane Inkpen, Matt Shetler, Mike Cardinal, Chris Ambrose, Jim Bayne and Trevor Latta

Absent: Ryan Bayne, Wade Beaudoin, Steven Zingaro

Guests: Scott Austin, Amber Frak

Meeting called to order: 7:35 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 survey responses from Youth waterfowl hunt

Treasurer's Report

- Chris Ambrose was able to provide the monthly financial report.
- Ag contract funds deposited and will allow cash flow for the balance of the 2021 season.
- Chris contacted bank regarding GIC's and awaiting feedback
- Provided updated budget for 2022 to be reviewed later within the meeting agenda
- Outstanding \$23,000 funding to be received from September funding. Scott and Amber to review and revisit and confirm when funds are received.
- DU funds of approximately \$30,000 to be received in December and prior to year-end.

Marsh Report

1. Baiting

- Conditions are too wet to bait anymore, big thanks to Trevor and his sons and Jason and Jimmy Bayne for helping this year!

2. Spring Auction/Dinner Venue

- Scott spoke with Derek Jefferson and the clubhouse manager Darrin on Nov 10 regarding a possible booking of the clubhouse.
- COVID 19 protocols that would need to be in place are Contact Tracing, Vaccine Certificates to enter venue and reduced capacity on # of seats along with spacing of tables
- We seat 85 guests in past years and 10 volunteers
- Darrin said we would have to reduce seating to 50 people max including volunteers
- At this point and with the uncertainty of the new Omicron variant I suggest we hold back for another year and continue to pursue the proven INSTAGRAM auction.
- BoD discussed and agreed to place the 2022 Spring Auction/Dinner Venue on hold for the 2022 year and continue with the on-line auction venue.

3. GHD Donation

- Ryan Baynes company GHD (social committee) has made a \$500 donation to FOH to be allocated to Zone A budget

4. 2021 Memberships

- We have 244 memberships processed in 2021 with 59 being new 1st time members
- We currently have 351 "paid up" members
- 2021-member donation revenue is **\$9580 as of Oct 25, 2021**
- Past year end figures – **2017** \$5365, **2018** \$5450, **2019** \$ 6165, **2020** \$9520

- **We have set another record this year!**

5. Pheasant Releases

- All 1000 birds have been released for the 2022 season with the final release on Nov 25 and wet and soggy
- Big thanks to Duane Inkpen and Darren Stevenson for helping staff this year
- Discussion was to review the final numbers of release and income for the pheasant program and establish proposed changes for the 2022 season.

6. Pheasant Challenge

- **Current sales are \$6520**
- Clinton Sporting Goods has turned in \$1200 so far
- Mike Leitch has turned in \$900 so far
- **I predict setting another record for sales this year as we can sell until Dec 31**
- A maximum of 800 tickets can be sold as defined in our lotto licence

7. Pheasant Release Program

- Current cash donations allocated directly to the 2022 release are \$2790

8. Habitat Mowing

- Mowing is done for 2021, with Scott using up OT (44 hours were carried from 2020 due to Alex leaving FOH) and wet conditions a few target fields were not cut

9. Accessible Hunting Blinds

- A fellow in an electric wheelchair booked the blinds for Nov 18 and 19
- He used to hunt the Rondeau Park blind until it was destroyed by high waters
- Drew Pegrum gave the hunters special permission to hunt from the dike.

10. Potential High School Co-op Student

- Lucas Prezcatore our youngest 2021 summer student has expressed interest in working a co-op at FOH starting in February every other week until the end of June 2022.
- St Anne's in Clinton contacted FoH staff regarding this request.
- We have told them we will take Lucas (Bonus!) and await further communications

11. Homestead Access

- The chain and blocks have done their job limiting access and have not been tampered with to date.

12. Blue Trail Bridge

- Scott Dale Carpentry visited the site to quote a price to rebuild the bridge in sections that will be transported to the site
- Please see attached quote from Scott that is under our \$10 K budget according to funding.
 - BoD agreed that the proposed quote and described deck aligns with the objective and within budget.
- Please note that Scott's quote is re-using the existing hydro poles that are currently in place.
 - Discussion to replace these existing poles as they are already compromised and will not withstand an additional 10 years.
 - Proposal was to place support in the middle of the bridge to limit the bridge from sagging in the centre.
 - Duane updated the status of hydro poles at Steve Flynn's, to date he has not seen them to access the integrity of the poles.
- We would still have money to hire someone else to remove the old poles and install other ones.
 - Mike mentioned to leave the old poles in place to help secure additional support to the new poles.

- Scott actioned he will take the lead to review and research access for 2 new poles.
- Work is to be completed by June 2022.

13. Sanctuary Line

- The road has been closed frequently this year with extensive water when the river floods its banks.

14. Virtual Instagram Auction

- Current revenue is \$4290 and have had a steady flow of small items to keep it going.

15. Water Measurements

- Another set of measurements were completed by Amber the second week of November

16. Duck Boxes

- Amber has maintained and collected data form a few select boxes in B-Zone this fall

17. Guided Whitetail Hunt

- The successful bidder paid \$825 (**allocated to YW Clinic**) for the hunt and Ryan, Trevor and Chris went all out to make sure the November 21 hunt was a success!

18. PayPal Updates

- Mat Shelter's name has been removed from the account and Chris Ambrose has been added, Chris has passwords and access to the account
- Amber and Chris are working out the final updates for information requested from PayPal
- There has not been a disruption of \$\$ flowing out of our PP account into our bank account

19. Large Beaver Dam Removed

- A very troublesome dam was removed from the ditch flowing from Bill Roy's land into hunt stake # 20 just north on the Pintail Pool Dyke
- Water was threatening Summerhill Rd. and Bill was contacting the municipality
- Scott phoned Craig at DUC and was easily granted the OK to contact Merners with DUC footing the bill provided Scott managed the communications
- Amber pre-scouted access on Nov 19 and then took the operator in with excavator on Nov 24
- This dam was actively trapped by Matt Duncan for weeks before removal
- Matt has assured Scott he will follow up a dam rebuild and trap any stragglers

20. Trappers

- It seems that Doug Vincent has changed his mind and will be renewing his Hullett trapping licence according to MNRF
- Staff efforts to work with MNRF to get a new registered trapper in have been wasted now

21. Overflow Parking Lot Damage

- A late-night corn harvest on November 24 destroyed the parking lot. Trevor observed this arriving at 4:30 am on November 25 for a duck hunt
- Steve Flynn called Scott the next morning explaining that they attempted repairs, but the gravel was like pea soup and he was apologetic
- The west side was horrible, and a warning sign was posted by Amber on the 25 after the pheasant release
- Steve assured Scott he will repair the parking lot in the spring with new gravel

22. 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, this would be a 2023 machine.

- Scott would like the BOD to consider ordering a new machine for next winter
- A new Tundra with a 600 ACE eco 4-stroke engine would cost approx. \$12K, 2 stroke version would be around \$10K.
- Discussion of trading in one of the machines and or keeping all 3 machines and what were the uses for a snowmobile (Nesting tubes, trail grooming and owl boxes installations).
- Mat proposed a strategy that we would order one for 2022 and have 3 snowmobiles for the next 2-3 years and sell the older machines and purchase a new one in 2024.
- Decision was to defer the decision and discuss in the new year.

23. Youth Pheasant Hunt

- Mike Leitch ran the hunt without any issues at all at 50% capacity
- No FOH staff were present at the event as plans were made beforehand and Mike also sold tickets and memberships for FOH
- A \$250 donation was made from the YPH to FOH

24. Gravel Donation

- With a little jab/reminder to the new Central Huron Roads manager 4 loads of gravel were delivered free of charge to the office in November as per Huron Donation Fund FOH request.

25. FOH Guide Participation

- As in the past few years, we have renewed our advertisement in the Central Huron Community Guide - **Experience our Nature 2022.**

26. Timber Harvest

- Duane and Amber will advise on progress of Timber project
- Timer tender is out to 22 potential buyers and waiting for Dec 9th feedback for potential interest.

27. North Huron Groomers Snowmobile Club Meeting

- Scott met with representative Lawrence Bergsma on November 26 for an hour in the workshop to discuss safety issues, wet spots, route adjustments and a liability agreement
- The club donated work gloves to FOH
- Education of trail users was discussed to minimize riders leaving the marked trail
- The liability agreement **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** can be signed for a 1-to-5-year agreement
- **I have not seen a signed agreement since I started with FOH in 2013**
- If we did sign for 5 years, we can opt out with 60 days written **notice (see # 9 in attached PDF)**
- Duane proposed that we move to an annual agreement to allow for a discussion of use and awareness and or trail abuse with the snowmobile club and to be addressed on an annual basis.

28. Proposal to review fees

- Membership fee review, Pheasant challenge tickets, Beehive fees, advertising etc.
- Discussion of additional costs with the FoH decal provided with the membership purchase and managing the execution of the decal, mailing is an increased cost.
- Proposals to increase the cost in 2022 to \$35 and provide a digital option for the membership renewal to "click" the box to receive a FoH decal and or a tax receipt.
 - Jim Baynes motioned to implement for the 2022 season
 - Mike Cardinal second the motion.
- Pheasant challenge tickets will remain at the current price of \$10/ticket.
- Scott to contact beehive keeper to inquire about 2022 fees.

29. Ducks Unlimited

- No news to report

New Business

- Yard preparation for winter and discussion of locking up parking lots as winter freeze settles in will be assessed daily and completed.

Meeting adjourned 8:56pm.