

FRIENDS OF HULLETT
MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friends OF Hullett – ZOOM Meeting

January 31st, 2023, 7:30 PM

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

Absent: Wade Beaudoin

Guests: Scott Austin, Ben Elliott

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM

- Minutes from the previous Friends of Hullett Board of Directors October meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Chris Ambrose provided treasure's update.
 - Cashed out \$36k GIC for purchase of tractor
 - Currently preparing year end close and preparation for submission of 2022 income tax
 - Set up a reserve for the tractor – 2023 Income of \$92K minus tractor cost of approx. \$60K will leave net income of \$32K. Discussion was to review opportunities for projects or expenses where the \$32K would be potentially used.
 - 2023 Budget
 - Prepared 2023 budget (using a blend of 6-year expenses, maintained expenses and increased expenses like fuel, pheasant costs, wages etc.)
 - Proposal was discussed and confirmed to have the accounting firm implement and prepare a draft version of the "Compilation Statement" for the 2022 tax season in preparation for the 2024 legislated timeline.

Marsh Report

1. Winter Newsletter

- We will have the winter newsletter out to the membership by the 2nd week of February.

2. Funding Applications 2023

- Central Huron Donation Fund – request for \$2200 for Hullett User Guide and loads of gravel submitted
- OFAH Conservation Fund – request for \$10,000 towards new habitat tractor submitted
- Trillium Foundation – request for \$75,000 for pavilion/pergola on concrete pad in progress – wildcard last minute attempt will be submitted by Feb 1st deadline
- **ACTION** – Ben to update the BOD terms and forward to the BOD for their files.

3. Charity Dinner and Auction- Saturday April 27

- 100 % complete sell out as of Jan. 21, 2023, with most tickets paid for and over \$10K deposited in account.
- Seating plans have started to match appropriate guests
- We have a table of 8 available for BOD workers and volunteers
- Ben and his GF Mackenzie will be at the table of 8
- Steve Dalrymple has paid for a set as a guest with 8 others therefore he is off duty!
- This leaves 8 BOD as possible workers; please confirm your attendance via email before our January 31 meeting so that a committee can be formed for communications
- **ACTION** - BOD could secure a few auctions items ASAP, it would be terrific for planning and organizing
- Please refer to the EXCEL dinner sheet for items secured, financials and attendee information

4. Pheasant Challenge Draw

- A record 1093 tickets were sold refer to Jan 21 email for income details by payment type
- Recommendation of having the Pheasant Challenge draw again in 2023?

5. High School Co-op Students

- We have secured a student starting with us February, they will come every day for a half day in the mornings.

6. Duck Shack Trailer Commercial Safety

- This inspection was long overdue, completed in mid- January for a cost \$367 by Central Huron Automotive in Clinton

7. FOH Truck Commercial Safety

- Completed in mid –January at Central Huron Automotive in Clinton with a cost of \$645 (included a brake service and new door hinge)

8. 2023 Memberships

- Good support so far in the New Year with 28 memberships processed to date that includes 2 new 1st time members
- Income is over \$1900 and does not include “dinner memberships”

9. Lotto Report

- Report is due mid-February with some difficulty processing with the new requirements

10. Owl Boxes

- A few boxes have been done

11. Tax Receipts

- 279 charitable tax receipts were issued in 2022
- Scott will break down the “in kind” and cash donations for Chris before tax time

12. Road Closures

- Both Front and Burns have been chained off at the pond and bridge respectively. We have had a few issues at Front Road and a trail camera is in place

13. Winter Nesting Structure Work

- Ice conditions are currently poor, a few duck boxes have been done via truck and UTV allowing Ben to gain experience.

14. AGM – May 28th, 2023

- Any ideas for a guest speaker?
- 2023 marks our 25th year of incorporation.... perhaps an AGM theme?
- **ACTION** – Trevor to review some options for 25-year embroidered hats (blaze orange, Camo, other style)
- **ACTION** – Ben to reach out to Lisa Thompson regarding a presentation at the AGM – 25 Year Anniversary

15. Vanessa Palmer Award

- Encouragement letter was circulated to 7 local high schools, social media and put on FOH web site on January 13
- Currently no applicants to date.

16. FOH Advertising

- We have advertised once again in the annual Central Huron Community Guide – “Experience our Nature 2023”
- Cost was \$160 for a full-page ad and supports the publication of this worthwhile guide

17. Forestry Planting and Planning

- Ben has stated to think about the upcoming projects of land preparation and planting. He has attended a one-hour online seminar with the “50 million tree program”

18. Annual FOH/MNRF/DUC Operations Meeting

- FOH input has been sent to Jeff Krete of DUC, Our MNRF liaison David Denyes in Vineland, BOD executive and the new DUC staff who will be replacing Jeff and Dave
- Thanks to those BOD who contributed and fingers crossed that we have a better relationship moving forward with cell management and increase in potential contract dollars

19. 2023 Pheasant Release

- Recommendation to release 1000 birds for 2023 based on massive price increases and the final 200 bird release was too late in the year for the hunters to capitalize on it but the predators sure did
- Many hunters do not get out to the property later in the season after about Dec 1st
- Let’s decide the number of birds and supplier, maybe a split between both suppliers?
- **ACTION** – Steve to provide quote to BOD from Gerber’s Quote for 1000 pheasants

- **ACTION** – ALL BOD to review quotes and come prepared to February meeting to decide on who and how we will acquire pheasants for the 2023 season.

20. Pheasant Quote from Sarah at Uplands Pleanstry (they had disease issues in 2022)

- For a purchase of 1000 pheasants, we will be looking at the following pricing and conditions:
 - \$13.50/ bird plus a delivery fee* of \$150 + HST per trip (HST is only charge on the delivery fee, not the cost of the pheasants) *delivery fee is subject to change on increase due to diesel pricing
 - Deliveries will be made on mutually agreed upon dates taking weather into consideration
 - These birds will be spring 2023 hatch, fully mature, flight and weather conditioned. They may have shorter tails. If full tails are desired, the price increases to \$14.50/ bird.
 - A deposit of 20% is required to place the order by March 17th, 2023

21. User Guide 25th Anniversary Article?

- Mike Cardinal can maybe elaborate about FOH's progress over the last 25 years!

22. 2023 Photo Contest

- With some email and social media pokes we have some good photos coming in for the 2023 User Guide

23. MNRF Liaison Contact

- Scott confirmed that David Denyes is our new MNRF contact. Scott reached out to David to see if he will accept FOH Board applicants and waiting to hear a reply.
- Contact information:
 - David Denyes
 - Management Biologist
 - Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
 - Vineland Field Office
 - 4890 Victoria Avenue North
 - Vineland Station ON, L0R 2E0
 - Tel: (289) 241-6872
 - david.denyas@ontario.ca

OMNRF/DUC

- Jeff Krete will be retiring and Nick Krete will be taking over the new role and will be our lead contact.
- **ACTION** – Duane to book and target a date to meet at the FOH facility for a site visit the week of April 10th, 2023

New Business

- White Tail Swamp restoration was discussed. Comments of discussion were to wait until DUC completes the site visit in April to understand what they are proposing prior to committing any action within the White Tail swamp. Additional comments were that funding for White Tail projects in the 2023 season were limited and the potential to have it completed in 2023 will not happen.
- Water control vales by stake 3 & 4, DUC to investigate the water intake structure into the Mallard Pool
- Proposed to move stake 3, 4 & 5. **ACTION** – Scott/Ben to look at placing the proposed stakes to the new locations. It was noted that all changes to be captured in the Hullett User Guide coordinates and associated updates.
- Performance review indicators to be review in camera.

Meeting adjourned 9:02 pm.