

FRIENDS OF HULLETT
MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friends OF Hullett – ZOOM Meeting

February 28th, 2023, 7:30 PM

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

Guests: Scott Austin, Ben Elliott and David Denyes

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM

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

Treasurer's Report

- Chris Ambrose provided treasure's update.
 - Income is up due to the Ag contract, charity dinner funds.
 - 2022 taxes submitted to Takalo & Bert.
 - PST & HST return submitted – approximate value will be \$7500
 - Logging Funds
 - Discussion was to consider using funds from the reserve for the purchase of the tractor or do we use the logging funds to fund the purchase of the tractor. Consideration to place the logging funds to promote invasive species (buck thorn) to promote timber development, plant pollinator habitat etc.
 - **ACTION** – review potential project proposals, timelines, and associated costs

Marsh Report

1. Wildlife Habitat Canada Funding

- The fall 2022 application for an expansion/change of the Youth Waterfowl Clinic not approved.

2. Meeting Minutes Location

- In the title the location as "Friends of Hullett – Main Office" for October and November 2022...should be changed to Dashwood Community Center

3. Charity Dinner and Auction- Saturday April 22

- Committee was formed and had a ZOOM meeting on February 23rd @ 8:30am.
- Auctions for the Whitetail hunt and Pheasant hunts were discussed at BOD meeting
 - Pheasant Hunt
 - Are there board members to help prepare and develop to execute the planning of the pheasant hunt.
 - Steve Dalrymple will champion the organization and execution of the pheasant hunt and work with FOH staff
 - Proposal is a 15-bird hunt with potential to offer a second based on the engagement at the auction.
 - White Tail Waterfowl Hunt – decision was to hold off until later once the FOH understand fall water levels.
 - Opening Day
 - Not a catered event
 - Migration
 - Catered event
- Our new co-op student will be volunteering at the dinner to support high school community hours and we will appreciate the extra help.

4. DUC HPWA Grasslands

- Mike Williams from DUC is the coordinator for our 2-energy company habitat compensation projects and has been contacted by FOH staff.
- As a refresher the Northland project is located west of the main view stand off Summerhill Road and the Capstone project is located west of Sanctuary Line
- Scott was seeking any type of report from Mike however they are done with the grassland bird surveys after 5 years
- The Capstone project was mowed by DUC (Vandriels) in the fall of 2020 however they did not complete the required maintenance
- The Capstone plot is getting quite grown over with woody vegetation much to Mike's surprise and will be conducting a site visit this spring/summer to look at FOH staff findings

- **ACTION** – Scott to meet with DU in the spring of 2023 to review the uncut area.

5. High School Co-op Student

- A grade 12 CHSS student has started with FOH as of February 21

6. Student Volunteer

- We have a grade 12 student who approached FOH one year ago seeking a co-op placement in the fall of 2022; unfortunately, he moved from Goderich to Exeter and was unable to secure a vehicle to get to the marsh. He wants to go to Fleming College and volunteer for FOH this spring as he has afternoons off.
- It was discussed for the student to apply to the Vanessa Palmer Award.

7. TCC Fiber Coming!

- Site inspection took place Feb 23rd with the opportunity to have fiber (installation is free) as soon as the fall of 2023. This update will provide FOH savings from their current monthly subscription.

8. 2023 Memberships

- 94 memberships (59 from dinner) processed so far in 2023 that includes 7 new 1st time members (4 from dinner) with current income of \$2604.

9. Lotto Report

- Has been filed, however the municipality is short staffed, so the process is slow.

10. Owl Boxes

- All boxes but 2 have been done (need a big ladder and access)

11. Income Tax Box

- Delivered to Takalo and Burt on Feb 16th, 2023.

12. Road Closures

- Both Front and Burns have been chained off at the pond and bridge, respectively. We have had 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 to train Ben

14. AGM – 25 Year Anniversary

- Any ideas for a guest speaker?
- Matt proposed “Breeding Birds” as a presenter for the AGM. **ACTION** - Matt will follow up and inquire if there is an interest to present at the AGM
- **ACTION** – Duane will reach out to DU (Nick) to see if there is an interest in presenting at the AGM.

15. Vanessa Palmer Award

- One applicant to date.

16. New FOH Tractor

- Tractor to be delivered as early as March 7th, 2023.

17. Dashwood Hall BOD Meetings

- Hall has been booked for March, April, June, July, August, October, and November 2023
- Last Tuesday of October is Halloween...should we change the date?
 - **ACTION** - Move the October 31st meeting to November 1st, 2023.

18. Annual FOH/MNRF/DUC Operations Meeting

- Duane is working to confirm a date of April 14th, 2023, for the operations meeting.

19. 2023 Pheasant Release

- 2023 Pheasant Suppliers
 - Steve Dalrymple provided a proposal to take our yearly commitments (1200) and share the business between all 3 suppliers allocating 400 birds per supplier.
 - Requirement is 1200 for the season and 30 for the 2 potential FOH pheasant hunts.
 - Chis Ambrose proposed to proceed with 3 suppliers at 400 birds per supplier, Wade Beaudin second the motion. Motion approved and passed.
 - **ACTION** – Steve Dalrymple will champion and secure with suppliers FOH 2023 commitments.

20. Ice Conditions

- Very poor winter for the nesting structure work
- Staff have been carefully chipping away via walking with waders and ladders in shallow areas
- February 24th and 25th will be good days to get some more done with tubes stashed at access areas around the property this week ready for action
- 34 duck boxes have been done and 6 Mallard Tubes installed

21. Insurance Policies

- Ben will be getting 2 outside quotes for our vehicle insurance policies before the Aug 13/23 renewal with Todd Wheeler from McKillop Mutual
- Our FOH content policy with OFAH BrokerLink was renewed and paid for via EMT this past weekend. This policy will increase in price with the addition of the new tractor
- The OFAH BrokerLink policy is now 2 different policies with the FOH liability separate and we are still awaiting its arrival via email and both policies expire on Feb 28/23.

22. Funding Consultants

- Ben took part in a one-hour online meeting last week and will report his findings to the BOD at the February meeting.
- **ACTION** – Ben to forward the information to the BOD for review.

23. Auction Items Request

- Door prizes are required to ensure a fun quality event...these should be easy to canvass
- If each BOD gathered 1 or 2 items, it would be fantastic.
- Please inform staff with details, value, and donor contact ASAP after you get the item so thank you letters, and tax receipts can be before event

OMNRF/DUC

- Dave Denyes did not have any updates to share with the FOH, there were no questions from the BOD.

Website/User Guide/Newsletter

- **ACTION** – Scott/Ben begin preparation of spring Newsletter, Mike to begin developing an article celebrating the 25-year anniversary.

Charity Dinner

- **ACTION** - BOD need to canvas for donations for the charity dinner.

New Business

- Matt presented the finalized 2023 performance indicators – no objections and are approved.
- Trevor presented the 25th Anniversary hats for the BOD to finalize decisions prior to ordering.

Meeting adjourned 9:38 pm.