

FRIENDS OF HULLETT
MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Friends OF Hullett – Dashwood Community Centre
July 25th, 2023, 7:30 PM

Present: Matt Shetler, Mike Cardinal, Steve Dalrymple, Chris Ambrose, Mark Penhale, Barb Orchard, Ryan Bayne, and Trevor Latta

Absent: Duane Inkpen, Dave Denys

Guests: Scott Austin, Ben Elliott

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM

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

Treasurer's Report

- Chris Ambrose provided an overview of financial reports:
 - There is an issue with PayPal - Chris is continuing to work through to correct the issues.
 - Files HST refund from Jan – June with an approx. refund of \$8000
 - **ACTION** - It was suggested that next meeting Chris will take some time to provide an overview of the financials to provide further insights for BOD.

Marsh Report

1. OFAH Tractor Funding

- Final report has been submitted and awaiting the final \$2500 payment.

2. Gravel Supply

- Received 4 loads of gravel from the municipality on July 19, 2023.

3. New Phragmites Chemical

- Trevor mentioned a possible donation of the new "Habitat Aqua" chemical safe for water application.
- According to ABCA there is quite a costly permitting process involved.
- ABCA applied it last year at Port Franks and will apply again at Port Franks this year as well as Hay Swamp
- Perhaps we should continue to collaborate with ABCA and possibly plan for a 2024 application?
 - **ACTION** - It was discussed that for the 2024 season FOH will continue to collaborate with ABCA for their phragmites control program.

4. Guided Hike at Hullett

- Emily will be taking the Bayfield River Valley Trail Association for a guided hike on Saturday July 22, 2023.

5. Pheasant Pen Removal (Northeast Flight Pen)

- Major work by all 5 staff occurred the week of July 17 with one brooder house in the burn pile, 90% of wire removed, 10 walnut trees removed, and most posts are out.
- Very challenging and slow process to get the lower wire out of the ground – to be completed before Sept 1.
- Some wire will be sold for scrap, most wood will be burned, and shingles and mesh disposed of
 - As the project ends the plan is to fill holes and clean up and restore the area to grass.

6. DUC Contract Invoicing

- DUC has paid us the \$2080 for the June mowing.

7. Forestry Planning Updates

- Please refer to Ben's email at 11:19 am on July 5 and Mat's July 21 email for information and documents to prepare for meeting.
- After meeting – in filling was not needed and that natural filling is working well. Some invasive buckthorn needs to be removed at a cost of \$1000.
 - **ACTION** – Steve made the motion to proceed with \$3000 for 3 days of spraying, Chris second the motion. BOD passed and approved to control the buckthorn.

- **ACTION** – Chris made a motion to spend \$1000, Mike second the motion to have an ecologist from the Maitland Conservation authority come in to assess a couple of trial areas. This will provide a complete list of plant species within those areas to allow the BOD to properly understand next steps.

8. 2023 Memberships

- 157 memberships processed to date including 31 new 1st time members (18 from dinner)
- Membership income as of July 21 is \$5190.
- We have 2 recurring monthly PayPal memberships from 2 generous members...\$600 a year!

9. Pheasant Challenge

- Slow start with only 156 tickets sold as of July 21

10. User Guide Updates

- Emily is organizing this year's production of the Hullett User Guide (HUG)
- To date 95% of final graphics from advertisers are in with 20 paid in full and revenue of \$3195 as of July 21
- A special 25-year anniversary cover is being planned.

11. TCC Fiber Internet

- Work has begun and the conduit has been bored under the road at the office gate.

12. 25th Anniversary Hat Sales

- Hat sales are at 45. Ben has created a great platform on PayPal for buyers to select from the 4 styles.

13. PayPal Issues

- We are still locked out of the account as of July 21, it seems to be a security issue and Chris is attempting to solve the issue.
- Revenue locked in the account is \$1320 (\$510 memberships, \$220 hats, \$590 PC tickets)

14. First Aid Training

- All 3 summer students received their 1st aid and CPR on July 25 with the lead that Steve Dalrymple provided, and Emily has everyone registered.

15. Fire Extinguisher Training

- Ben provided the quote to complete training of \$319.00 + tax, date to be confirmed.

16. Concrete Parking Barriers

- With BOD approval staff would like to replace both Front Road parking lots with concrete blocks the same as the north 2 parking lots on Wildlife Line
- We have not heard back from Hensall Co-op regarding the funding, with the many other projects this summer, maybe we should wait until 2024?
- **ACTION** – Scott & Ben please provide an update and next steps on August 29th meeting.

17. FOH Vehicle Insurance

- We are still waiting for quotes; our policy is due Aug 13 for renewal.

18. OFAH Club Membership

- Cards and decals were provided at the meeting to BOD.

19. Lotto Account Disbursements

- Scott has started to spend some of the \$5K balance in the account on property maintenance items such as the new PRIVATE LAND signs, weed wacker harnesses, yellow paint, wasp spray etc. as per lotto licence use of the funds.

20. RBC Changes at Clinton Branch and Mobile APP

- Due to low "foot traffic" our home branch is now only open Mondays, Wednesday's and Friday's, Exeter and Goderich RBC are still open 5 days per week.
- Scott does many deposits in Goderich with its longer hours (open until 5) however for convenience the RBC banking app has been loaded onto the FOH iPad to allow mobile photo cheque deposits...this is a big-time saver versus travelling to the bank and lining up when you only have one cheque to deposit.

21. Youth Waterfowl Clinic

- Planning, promotion, swag ordering, donation requests will begin soon.
- **ACTION** – Scott & Ben to provide BOD update and request for volunteer support on Aug 29th meeting.

22. Fall Newsletter

- Staff will circulate the newsletter before the major hunting seasons begins.

23. Goose Relocation Donation

- We have received the \$1500 donation from Abell Pest Control and a tax receipt has been provided, to date there has been 118 geese relocated at the end of Burns Line.

24. Staff Work Shirts

- Ben found 10 packs of high visibility orange Gildan T-shirts on Amazon for \$6 a shirt, the staff approved we ordered another 10! All staff wear them daily (Emily had to get her own for size reasons!)

24. FOH Truck

- A new clutch fan was installed for \$700 in the truck to help solve the idle/over-heating issues with some improvement was achieved.

25. Phragmites Spraying

- Spray dates and funding have been completed.

26. Baiting Permit Attestations

- Please review July 21 email and provide review and feedback at the BOD meeting.
- **ACTION** - After discussion it was confirmed the FOH will proceed with completing the permit for the 2024 season.

27. Otters - have been spotted and identified within the FOH marsh!

MNR/DU

- Tall grass field - Options included:
 - Mowing lines through the field
 - Plant a hay grass mixture the fall of 2023.
- **ACTION – Duane** - It was decided to talk to Steve Flynn and attain feedback on what his thoughts are to proceed with the 12 ac focusing on a grass species.

New Business

- **Waterfowl Opener – ACTION** - the request was for Ben & Scott to organize a list of tasks that need to be completed by volunteers. **ACTION** - BOD please review your schedules and come prepared to provide your time to execute tasks prior to the opener.
- Steve requested if NAVDA could proceed to cut designated areas for dog training in the coming months like last years process. It was approved for Steve to proceed.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:00 pm.