

**FRIENDS OF HULLETT**  
**MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Friends OF Hullett – Dashwood Community Centre**  
**October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7:30 PM**

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

**Absent:** N/A

**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.
- Scott prepared for the BOD to review the Asset values and replacement forecast.
- There was an open discussion regarding the renewal of the farm rental contract timing and rates.
- There is one GIC that matures on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, it will be reinvested into \$20,000 3 year, \$20,000 2 year, \$15,000 1 year GIC's at the highest rate available.

**Marsh Report**

**1. School Group Tour**

- On Wednesday Oct. 18 staff hosted the grade 7/8 class from Huron Christian School in Clinton as a teaching had been reaching out over the summer
- Wonderful group of 24 kids, 3 parents and a teacher from this private school
- The school bus met us at the Sugar Bush for a 3 hour hike doing owl boxes, trail pruning, wetland education and tree identification.

**2. User Guide Financials**

- 2023 Guide 20 pages.... \$5426 minus estimated HST Input Tax Credit (ITC) = \$4989 FOH cost
- 2023 revenue = \$5775 (\$2200 funding & \$3575 advertising income) = \$.16 profit per guide
  
- 2022 Guide 16 pages.... \$5106 minus est. ITC = \$4695 FOH cost
- 2022 revenue = \$4250 (\$2000 funding & \$2250 advertising) = \$.09 cost per guide
  
- It is interesting to note that material costs decreased per page from 2022 to 2023 by about 10% and Emily's aggressive advertising campaign helped 2023 final numbers.

**3. Buckthorn Spray Update**

- The spray will commence in November with the initial investment of \$3000, an update will be provided at this time to further pursue additional spraying should the current funds not be sufficient to complete the project.

**4. Baiting**

- Ben has been baiting about 2 days per week, with very few ducks around and the corn is rotting in the water.
- We will have to donate all the corn in the wagon before winter sets in and access to bait sites is getting tricky as wet conditions set in.

**5. Luther Marsh Dog Club**

- A small group of 10-12 dogs booked a little event in the hay fields off Sanctuary Line on Oct. 1 and made a \$60 cash donation in our office drop-box located at the office gate.

**6. Accessible Hunting Blinds**

- Ben inspected both blinds and closed # 2 for safety reasons.
- #1 has been booked for 3 hunts so far in in 2023 (zero in 2022)

**7. Accessible View Stand Roof (40677 Summerhill Rd.)**

- The new shingles will not get done in 2023 due to workload. Perhaps working at heights safety training should be done by staff over the winter.

## 8. 2023 Memberships

- 222 memberships processed so far in 2023 that include 44 new 1<sup>st</sup> time members (18 from dinner)
- Income as of Oct. 20 is \$8067
- We have 2 recurring monthly PayPal memberships...one is \$5/month and the other is \$50/month from a generous member...\$600 a year!
- Moving forward we anticipate reduced revenue growth over past years due to current economic conditions.

## 9. Pheasant Challenge

- Sales are 617 tickets sold as of Oct. 20 with Mike Leitch has sold 150 tickets of this total and Clinton Sporting Goods 110

## 10. General Donations

- \$2094 year to date.

## 11. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hat Sales

- Hat sales are at 103 for an income of \$2563.
- Ben has created a great platform on PayPal for buyers to select from the 4 styles.
- Customers are picking hats up on office porch as per communications between staff and buyers.

## 12. 2024 Summer Student Hourly Wages

- Ontario minimum wage increased by 6.8% on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, from \$15.50/hr. to \$16.55/hr.
- In 2023 we paid Emily and Denver \$17.50/hr. and Luke \$16.50/hr.
- We were funded \$15.50/hr. for all 3 positions.
- What would the BOD like to pay students in 2024?
- Canada Summer Job Applications will go in Dec. 2023

## 13. Snowmobile Club Sign Request

- New trail map sign proposal with advertising opportunities. Basically, will the BOD allow the sign and if so, would it be permanent or removable?
- **ACTION** - It was discussed with the BOD and decided not to pursue and support a temporary or permanent sign. Scott to follow up with the snowmobile club to provide them our feedback.

## 14. Pheasant Release

- Royal Game Birds supplied the first 400 birds and they have been paid \$5700 (\$14.25 per bird)
- As of Oct 19 600, birds have been released with Uplands currently supplying us.
- There have been challenges with one supplier to attain birds, it was discussed to attain additional birds from Royal Game Birds as needed for the balance of the season.

## 15. Outdoor Educator

- Staff have been in contact with Denise Szczuka who has started a new business taking youth outdoors and teaching.
- Denise is a former ABCA employee and will be using the Hullett PWA for her classes, her first event at the main view stand on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>.

## 16. Forestry Tree Planting

- Project was approved by Huron Clean Water Project (HCWP) which covers 50% of the cost.
- Project is ineligible for the Federal "2 billion Trees" Program due to provincial land ownership.
- Total cost would be ~\$7400 with HCWP covering half of that (~\$3700)
- Plan is to go with 1850 trees with 8' spacing between trees and 10' spacing between rows.
- A meeting with our new MVCA contact will be set up in the coming weeks to determine if additional site prep is required.

## 17. Mowing Update

- Staff are in "Mow-Mode" when weather and time permit. In certain situations, both tractors are working together.

## 18. Capstone Grassland Habitat Restoration (located north of parking 41108 Hydro Line Rd.)

- Project is complete and initial contract was 14 hours at \$225 per hour (\$3150)
- This grassland was in extremely poor shape, and it took 22 hours to complete.
- Mike Cardinal performed 7 hours of the work.
- Scott contacted the DUC grassland department and negotiated an invoice for 18 hours at \$4050 that will be paid any day now.
- Mike Williams was very understanding and trusting of our assessment of the project and told Scott to add on the remaining 4 hours (\$900) to the contract next year.

- They understand that it will require mowing again in 2024 to regain control and Mike would agree with that.

#### **19. Greening Pool**

- DUC removed 2 boards lowering the pool by 11 inches agreeing with FOH. No other changes will be made this year based on their bio observations.

#### **20. Woodie Pool**

- The screw gate has been opened for the winter.

#### **21. Phragmites Spraying**

- Ben will provide update.

#### **22. Opening Day Duck Shack**

- The evening hunt has been so dead the last 2 years that we should discuss options for changing this process for next year.
- Duane may chime in on this.

#### **23. Beavers**

- We have a major blockage once again on the McGregor municipal drain flowing into Bridge Rd.
- Jeff King (drainage inspector) has contacted trappers to remove the beaver.
- Scott has given the OK for excavator work on FOH property that will be paid for by the municipality.

#### **24. Snowmobile Sale**

- Staff will have an update at the meeting regarding the sale.

#### **MNR/DU**

- No updates

#### **New Business**

- No updates

Meeting adjourned @ 9:32 pm.