

FRIENDS OF HULLETT
MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friends OF Hullett – Virtual Meeting

November 28th, 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: 7:35 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:
 - Ag field rental check has been deposited.
 - Capital assets work sheet has been updated to reflect current values.
 - Current 2023 financial projections have the FOH meeting the approved budget with the yearend breaking even.

Marsh Report

1. 2024 Spring Charity Dinner and Auction

- Bluewater Golf Course has welcomed us back for the dinner.
- We should consider a different food provider for the dinner. <https://www.pineridgebbq.com>. This Hensall company has been around for a long time with a great reputation.
- **ACTION** – Scott to pursue discussions with Pine Ridge and previous caterer and receive 2 proposals for catering.

2. Phragmites Review 2023

- Final bill from ABCA was \$1862.58 including HST.
- DUC will pay us the \$1000 lump sum contribution, with HCWA agency will fund about \$900.
- This was the lightest spraying year since we began, more effort is required in 2024.

3. Pheasant Release

- 1000 birds have been released to date, the final 200 birds will be released in mid-December.
- Hunters are happy with the quality and quantity of the supplied birds.

4. Canada Summer Jobs

- Funding was submitted for 3 positions on November 24 by Ben.

5. Habitat Mowing

- As usual there are still many areas that are behind on mowing, we may get a bit more done in 2023.

6. Forestry Meeting With MVCA

- After the site visit it was confirmed that the area is prepped and ready for 2024 planting.

7. 2023 Memberships

- 230 memberships processed so far in 2022 that includes 36 new 1st time members.
- **Year-end totals – 2018 \$5450, 2019 \$ 6165, 2020 \$9520, 2021 \$11106, 2022 \$12940 2023 is currently at \$9424.**
- Current economic conditions will result in lower revenue than 2022 which was a record.

8. General Donations

- \$2709 so far in 2023 (line 4027)

9. Duck Boxes

- Ben has completed quite a few Zone B duck boxes with some volunteer help.

10. Kubota Tractor

- Ben completed the first oil change and mower was removed for the season.
- Snow will be blown with the J Deere
- PTO solenoid wire was ripped out the last day mowing shutting down the PTO operation. Ben is currently researching a repair.

11. Snowmobile Sale

- The sled was listed on Nov 22 for sale on Kijiji with a couple of inquires to date.
- <https://www.kijiji.ca/v-snowmobile/grand-bend/2007-ski-doo-tundra-300f/1678208387>

12. Direct Cash donation to Pheasant Release

- \$1013 to date

13. DUC Contracts

- Most work has been completed except for 12 hours for water structures and administration.
- The \$2500 dike gravel repair work was completed, and the money is in the bank. DUC has been good to work with this year with regards to contracts and invoicing

14. Pheasant Challenge Sales

- Over 790 tickets have been sold to date ahead of last year's pace.

15. OFAH Photo Tour

- The OFAH sent out a photographer for the YPH event and combined the opportunity for a dike tour with Ben seeing the funded excavation work and tractor pictures.

16. Youth Pheasant Hunt (YPH)

- Youth Pheasant Hunt was a tremendous success with the best weather in years and was well organized with minimal FOH staff time was needed. They left the workshop clean and tidy.
- At the event FOH revenue was \$120 in membership renewals, three tickets sold, 3 hats sold and a \$165 direct cash donation to the pheasant release.

17. Dinner Auction Hunts

- Both auction hunts sold for \$800 each at the dinner will take place on Nov. 25
- The birds have been purchased (\$500) and delivered.
- There were a few wild cards as usual but thanks to Steve Dalrymple volunteering his time and dogs the dog-less group will be well cared for.
- Hopefully, no public hunters cut off the groups.

18. FOH 25th Hat Sales

- To date 113 hats have been sold for revenue of \$2813.

19. Homestead Access

- The chain was installed on the blocks closing access for the winter after the bean harvest.

20. FOH Guide Participation

- As in the past few years, we have renewed our advertisement in the Central Huron Community Guide - **Experience our Nature 2023 at a cost is \$160.**

21. NAVHDA Donations via E Transfer

- \$500 general donation (line 4027) and \$400 pheasant program (line 4025-10)
- They also purchased ten pheasant challenge tickets.

22. Mallard Tubes/New Volunteer

- All tubes have been re-stuffed for the 2024 breeding season and will be placed into position late winter.
- Ben is leading the way with volunteer engagement and a new eager member.

23. Baiting

- Little bait has been placed this year due to wet access.
- We will; must spend some time giving the corn away.
- Is this something we should continue in future years? Is it worth the staff time involved?
- **ACTION** – The topic needs to be discussed with DUC at the next operation meeting to propose a reduced water level in the Pintail Pool on an annual basis therefore allowing access for baiting.

24. Future Board Meetings

- I suggest that we use ZOOM for the months of January, February and March 2023 given potential weather issues.
- Let us decide if we want to continue with Dashwood Hall and I will book 2024 meetings.

MNR/DU

- No updates

New Business

- Matt provided an overview of the HPWA Forestry Assessment that was completed at FOH.
 - A sampling process was completed at 2 locations to assess the species of trees, saplings, soil samples within those sections.
 - The report provided an overview outlining a lack of diversity with these 2 parcels locations.
 - Maple & Ash represent over 50%, dead standing trees 23-34%.
 - The ash that are present are dead and or in the process of dying.
 - There are many invasive species located in both plots including buckthorn.
 - Overall assessment there is not an abundance of new tree diversity or regeneration happening in either of these locations with maples. It was noted that this seems to be the trend in most woodlots within the surrounding area.
 - Recommendations
 - Table 4 of the report outlines a proposal to introduce diversity of new tree species.
 - Plant large stock trees where open area exist.
 - Plant native shrubs and ground species when competition from introduced species is under control.
 - **ACTION** – Matt proposed FOH to purchase 5 yellow birch trees at a total cost of \$150 and planted in 2024. This will allow the trees to then be accessed in 2025 for growth and development.
- **ACTION** - Ag Contract was discussed and reviewed as to the timelines to prepare for the February 2024 meeting. Mark, Ryan, and Duane will meet to prepare the information.
- **ACTION** – Duane to confirm with Steve in February 2024 meeting what his decision is regarding the grass land project? Since this is not part of the Ag contract the cost will be covered by FOH.
- **ACTION** – ALL BOD please review the past couple of years pheasant suppliers and come prepared to the Jan 30th, 2024, to decide and vote who we will support and supply the FOH for the 2024 season.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:18 pm.