**FRIENDS OF HULLETT**

**MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Friends OF Hullett – Virtual Meeting**

**January 30th, 2024 @ 7:30 PM**

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

**Absent:** Ryan Bayne, Barb Orchard, Ben Elliott

**Guests:** Scott Austin

**Meeting called to order:** 7:35 PM

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

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Chris Ambrose provided an overview of financial reports:
  + 2023 had a final net income of approx. $2500.
  + 2023/2024 Variance budget was prepared and reviewed along with cashflow and general ledger.
  + A 2025 projected income budget was prepared for review to help maintain financial outlook and capital assets.
  + Preparing for 2023 year end for income tax submission and HST refund has been filed.
  + Markets have provided downward pressure therefore the recent GIC that is performing poorly has been moved to an interest bearing GIC.

**Marsh Report**

1. **Winter Newsletter**

* Circulated to membership on January 20th, 2024.

**2. Funding Applications 2024**

* Central Huron Donation Fund – New online format option available for 2024 with an April 2nd, 2024, deadline. <https://www.centralhuron.ca/en/business-and-development/donation-fund.aspx>
* OFAH Conservation Fund – request for $10,000 to rebuild the accessible hunting blinds will be submitted by Ben very soon as he is almost done; the deadline is Feb 29th, 2024. <https://www.ofah.org/conservationfunding/>
* BOD feel free to provide ideas.

**3. Charity Dinner and Auction- Saturday April 20**

* Pineridge BBQ has been secured for the meal with a 25% deposit paid. Devin Tabor of Bon Vivant wished us the best of success when I let him know!
* Richard Lobb has been secured as our auctioneer.
* Only 4 unreserved seats remain unsold, 39 seats have been paid for
* BOD dinner committee consists of Duane, Mark, Trevor, and Barb
* Ben’s partner Mackenzie and their best friends Jesse and Lindsay will be volunteering.

**4. Pheasant Challenge Draw**

* A record 1097 tickets were sold in 2023, we would recommend having the challenge again in 2024.
* **ACTION** – SCOTT. The BOD agreed to move forward with the Pheasant Challenge Draw for 2024.

**5. AGM Food and Guest Speaker**

* How about Subway Sub catered lunch platters for 2024? We can add on our own bowls of chips, deserts, and drinks.
* I have tried to secure Sheldon Paul from the Huron Stewardship Council to speak on Huron county reptiles and amphibians to no avail with multiple unanswered emails.
* Perhaps Doug Vincent could do a trapping presentation? Any ideas or contacts from the Board?

**6. 2024 Spring Dyke Mowing**

* Mowing will occur 2 weeks early before the AGM to avoid turtle nesting conflicts that occurred in 2024 from MNRF reports.
* **ACTION** – SCOTT to review the guidelines and timing of access for mowing.

**7. FOH Truck Commercial Safety**

* Completed in mid –January at Central Huron Automotive in Clinton. Cost was $1289 and included a new emergency brake and rear shocks.

**8. 2023 Membership Total**

* 272 memberships were processed in 2023.
* Year-end totals – 2018 $5450, 2019 $ 6165, 2020 $9520, 2021 $11106, 2022 $12940, 2023 was $10865.
* It is important to note the economy in 2023 as well as the return of the dinner and Auction that reduced membership donation allocations (line 4026)

**9. Lotto Report**

* Report is due mid-February; Scott will complete report before deadline.

**10. Owl Boxes**

* All boxes have been done.

**11. Tax Receipts**

* 266 charitable tax receipts were issued in 2023. Ben has supplied Chris with the “in kind” and cash donations for our tax return.

**12. Road Closures**

* Both Front and Burns have been chained off at the pond and bridge respectively. Conservation and Sanctuary are signed “Road Closed.”

**13. Trail Cam Theft**

* A security trail cam was stolen from Sanctuary bridge while monitoring the repeated chain cutting.

**14. Agriculture Land Use Payments**

* The first Ag payment was deposited in January 2024.

**15. Vanessa Palmer Award**

* Encouragement letter was circulated to 7 local high schools, social media and put on FOH web site in January with no current applicants.

**16. FOH Advertising**

* We have advertised once again in the annual Central Huron Community Guide – “Experience our Nature 2024.”
* Cost was $160 for a full page ad and supports the publication of this worthwhile guide, it is a full page opposite the Huron Fish and Game page.

**17. Forestry Planting and Planning**

* Refer to Ben’s January 18/24 email.

**18. Annual FOH/MNRF/DUC Operations Meeting**

* Meeting date yet to be established.
* Early April is target optimal with Nick Krete. Amber Frak has been hired by DUC and supporting Nick.

**19. 2024 Pheasant Release**

* Discussion to release 1000 birds for 2024 season was decided based on the 2023 program. It was then discussed and confirmed FOH move forward with 2 preferred suppliers versus 3 suppliers in 2023.
* **ACTION** – Ben to contact 2 suppliers and notify them of our requirements for the 2024 season.

**20. 2024 Buck and Gun Show**

* FOH will set up a display as in past years at the Seaforth Arena on Saturday April 13th, 2024.

**21. User Guide Wording Change**

* Please put some thought into ZONE A Opening Day changes and the wording required for the February BOD meeting.
* **ACTION** – Agenda item moved to February 27th meeting.

**22. 2023 Photo Contest**

* With some email and social media pokes we have some good photos coming in for the 2024 User Guide.

**23. Lotto Trust Account Balance**

* We have over $7000 after $2400 in spending at Clinton Sporting Goods in January for the 2024 Pheasant Challenge gun and 12 dozen decoys for the Youth Waterfowl Clinic
* Balance is quite high, and funds will need to be allocated in 2024 on property maintenance.

**24. OFAH Club Insurance Policy**

* Please refer to January 25 email.

**25. New Laptop**

* MicroAge IT technician will be at Scott’s home office January 26 to set things up from the old laptop and review our online storage service with MicroAge.
* We will also be discussing setting up a much needed “Shared Drive” for FOH staff documents…this could be a game changer on staff productivity.

**26. Stats Can Monthly Payroll Reports**

* Scott has had to complete a mandatory monthly report each of the last 6 months.

**27. Administrative Support**

* Janice was very excited and grateful to receive the Christmas gift and Card from the BOD!!

**Forestry Plan**

* Matt provided an overview of the proposed solutions with estimated costs to implement actions for the forestry plan.
* For review
  + Fully access the logged areas and continuous forest, GPS areas to plant and suggest species and or management.
  + GPS unique trees in the logged areas and continuous forest, visit with RFP for silviculture advice.
* Discussion was to review the opportunity to engage summer employment (Canada Summer Jobs) to execute the tasks within the forestry plan.

**Employee Training**

* **ACTION** – Pesticide Applicator Course - Trevor to review and prepare costs to present to the BOD on Feb 27th meeting.

**FOH User Guide**

* Changes to the HUG will need to be captured for updates to stake 5, prairie grass field etc. including verbiage on “Opening Day”.

**MNR/DU**

* MNR – no updates
* Ducks Unlimited
  + **ACTION** – Scott to confirm meeting time and date with Nick to meet in early April.
    - Review water levels in Pintail pool
    - DU to provide a 2-5 activity year plan allowing FOH insights to plan for capital investments.

**New Business**

* **ACTION –** Ben to provide details and update the BOD with the forestry replanting as there are discrepancies with the types of trees to be planted.
* **ACTION** – Duane to meet with Steve Flynn to confirm next steps and decisions on prairie grass field.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:20 pm.