

FRIENDS OF HULLETT
MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friends OF Hullett – Virtual Meeting

February 27^h, 2024 @ 7:30 PM

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

Absent: Chris Ambrose

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 approved.

Treasurer's Report

- Chris Ambrose provided an overview of financial reports prior to the meeting for review.

Marsh Report

1. Burn Pile at Office

- Ben has successfully applied for 2 separate burn permits. The new fire chief came out for an inspection to approve the burns.

2. Funding Applications 2024

- Central Huron Donation Fund
 - Submitted Feb.19th requesting \$2200 for the HUG production and \$500 towards a new iPad for fieldwork.
- OFAH Conservation Fund
 - Submitted Feb 22nd requesting \$10,000 to rebuild the accessible hunting blinds.

3. Charity Dinner and Auction- Saturday April 20

- Tickets are still available for sale.
- Scott will be canvassing Goderich merchants Feb 23 and 24
- Ben will canvass Seaforth and Clinton merchants soon.
- Excalibur Insurance in Clinton has donated towards the event.
- Ben has purchased and secured 3 guns from Clinton Sporting Goods
- We are quite a bit behind this year on auction items...let us get at its folks!

4. 2024 BOD Meeting Schedule

- All Dashwood meetings are the last Tuesday of the above months at 7:30 pm
- Contract has been signed, submitted, and approved for the Dashwood Community Center for March, April, June, July, August, October, and November.
- May Meeting will be the AGM on Sunday May 26 starting with an 8 am breakfast at Kate's Station.
- September meeting will occur at Hullett office once the CWS announces waterfowl hunting season.

5. Water Protection Steering Committee (WPSC)

- The meeting theme is "The changing ecology of Huron County."
- Ben and Scott will be attending and presenting at their next meeting On Friday March 8 at the White Carnation in Holmesville from 9am to noon with a lunch to follow.

6. AGM Guest Speaker

- Scott and Ben will present their acquired WPSC meeting knowledge on our changing ecology at the HPWA.

7. Pesticide Safety Course

- Ben has completed the course and is now certified to apply pesticides safely.

8. 2024 Memberships

- 93 memberships have been processed in 2024 with 9 "new first-time members."
- 41 of these memberships are from the annual charity dinner.
- Membership revenue is \$2603.36 as of Feb 23/24

9. Lotto Report

- Report has been submitted.

10. FOH Anniversary Hats

- 117 hats have been sold, 283 are still for sale.

11. Waterfowl Nesting Structure Winter Work

- With winter ice conditions being unsafe the nesting project is behind schedule. Ben has been collaborating with volunteers and will report on progress.

12. Tractor Repairs

- A new John Deere steering hydraulic line has been installed and the Kubota requires a minor electrical repair for a PTO switch.

13. 2024 FOH Income Tax

- Janice has prepared the annual tax box and USB file; it was dropped off at Takalo on Feb 15
- T5 interest income statements were dropped off Feb. 22

14. Pheasant Suppliers

- Ben has placed the 2024 release orders as per BOD direction and working with Steve Dalrymple

15. Vanessa Palmer Award

- Encouragement letter was circulated to 7 local high schools, social media and put on FOH web site in January.

16. Annual FOH/MNRF/DUC Operations Meeting

- Meeting date is Wednesday April 10 in late morning. Amber Frak has been hired by DUC and will be with Nick Krete

17. 2024 Buck and Gun Show

- FOH will set up a display at the Seaforth Arena on Saturday April 13, Jesse Rodwell will be volunteering with Ben.

18. Waterfowl Opener User Guide Wording Change/Check Station Hours

- Let us decide how we will proceed with the opener check station this year.
- **ACTION** – Trevor to lead the review & edits to the 2024 Rules & Regulations regarding opening day.

19. 2024 Summer Students

- We have been gathering resumes of potential staff for 2024.
- Emily volunteered with Ben on Feb. 19 and has expressed her interest in the Event Coordinator position for 2024.

20. Pheasant Challenge/Lotto Application

- Scott will begin the application process soon.

21. Forestry Planning/Knowledge Opportunity

- Ben and Scott went to John Haak's farm located at Summerhill Rd on Feb 23 to pick up donated wood shavings.
- John took us on a tour of his forest and tree plantings that he has done over the last 25 years! It was wonderful experience, and his knowledge of forestry practices was incredible.

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".

Newsletter

- The next addition will deploy early May, updates with Vanessa Palmer Award, New applications for BOD, Charity Auction, fall pheasant release update, photo contest winners, waterfowl opening day updates and announcement to attend the 2024 AGM meeting.

MNR/DU

- MNR
 - The BOD has reviewed and finalized the correspondence as requested by the MNR.
 - **ACTION** – Duane to forward the final communication to the MNR.
- Ducks Unlimited
 - Operation meeting has been confirmed for April 10th – Nick Krete and Amber Frak will be attending.
 - Topics will include - Pintail pool and insights of longer term planning that will help with capital investment planning.

New Business

- **Performance Indicators**
 - Matt presented the 2024 employee performance indicators to the BOD. It was decided that the BOD will review and finalize the 2024 list for the March 26th meeting.
- **Forestry Report**
 - Matt provided a review of the report and met with Scott & Ben to understand the scope of the actions. They provided feedback that it will be good to proceed.
 - The forest assessment is recommended to be completed professionally i.e., Forestry Technician.
 - The BOD approved Matt to proceed with an investment of \$6000 to attain a forestry specialist from Maitland Valley to access and provide a detailed report outlining forestry plans.
- **Ag Contract**
 - Duane will be meeting with the current Ag contract holder March 1st to discuss updates to the Ag contract.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:20 pm.