

FRIENDS OF HULLETT
MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Friends OF Hullett – Dashwood Community Centre
March 26th, 2024 @ 7:30 PM

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

Absent: Duane Inkpen, 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. FOH Liability and Property Insurance

- Invoice has been paid for \$5275.80 and we are still awaiting the policy to arrive.

2. Funding Applications 2024

- Mat and Ben are working on a Huron County SLED grant Supporting Local Economic Development
- Ben received a funding tip from the Huron County Warden **Glen McNeil** that we will be putting on our radar <https://sunsetcommunityfoundation.ca/>, if the BOD has any ideas or strategies, please feel free to pass them along to staff.

3. Charity Dinner and Auction- Saturday April 20

- 4 tickets are still available for sale and have sold 1 ticket (March 21) since Feb. 22nd.
- Dinner spread sheet will be circulated to all before our Tuesday meeting.

4. Dyke-top Mowing

- Duane has brought up the topic on the annual mowing program regarding the turtle nesting complaints received by MNRF.
- My regular mowing routine is a top-cut the first week of June followed by a top and side slope cut in early August and a courtesy top-cut for the waterfowl hunters in late September.
- I intend to mow the dyke-tops in mid-May to avoid turtle conflict however I am a bit confused after reviewing the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan – see link <http://www.hulletmarsh.com/hwpa>
- Can the BOD please provide guidance for the 2024 dike top mowing schedule.
- **ACTION** – Scott to prioritize mowing the dike tops prior to any other mowing.

5. Water Protection Steering Committee (WPSC)

- This was a fantastic meeting and the FOH presentation was well received.

6. AGM Guest Speaker (Staff will speak this year)

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

7. HUG Regulations Wording Change/Additions

- In addition to the new wording for Zone A opening day hunt procedure I would like to add “Campfires of any kind are not permitted in the HPWA” to page 7 of the current User Guide.
- **ACTION** - Scott to update HUG to include verbiage “Campfires of any kind are not permitted in the HPWA”.

8. 2024 Memberships

- 115 memberships have been processed in 2024 with 13 “new first-time members” with 54 of these memberships are from the annual fundraiser dinner. Current membership revenue is \$3611 as of March 21/24.

9. 2024 Lotto Licence

- Was submitted on March 11 and are currently awaiting approval from the municipality.

10. FOH Anniversary Hats

- 117 hats have been sold, 283 are still for sale and no sales in 2024 yet.

11. 2024 Pheasant Challenge

- Once we receive a lotto licence number the new tickets will be created and printed.
- PayPal sales platform on web site will need a make-over and then sales can begin.

12. Burns Line Trailer Donation

- We received a beat-up large camper trailer in the parking lot over the weekend of March 16; the trailer was gutted, and the shell exterior was all floppy. Ben reported to OPP, and they said they could not remove it but then it magically disappeared.
- Other than this no major vandalism has been reported.

13. Ben New Laptop

- As per scheduled replacement Ben has a new laptop from MicroAge, Invoice has not been received yet.

14. Hard-drive Data Corruption

- Ben has followed advice from the BOD and the hard drive is properly backed up.

15. Vanessa Palmer Award

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

16. Annual FOH/MNRF/DUC Operations Meeting

- Meeting date is Wednesday April 10 at 11 am; FOH contracts should be out soon.
- Woodie pool screw-gate will be closed on April 1 as per Nick's advice.

17. 2024 Buck and Gun Show

- FOH will set up a display as in past years at the Seaforth Arena on Saturday April 13
- Jesse Rodwell will be volunteering with Ben.
- FOH hats will be offered for sale and youth recruited for the Youth Waterfowl Clinic.

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

- Please provide wording to staff as per February BOD meeting discussions.
- Check in station proposal
 - Currently there are no check in station times within the posted opening day regulations listed above:
 - Option 1 – establish and post the new times within the regulations.
 - Option 2 – leave unposted within the opening day rules but each year announce and or sign the closure time of the check in station as it provides versatility without rewriting the rules on an annual basis. It would be required to communicate at the draw meeting that once you leave the parking spot related to the hunting stake it is now a first come first serve basis.
 - Upon registration
 - Currently users need to leave a piece of identification and pick up on return of their hunt.
 - Proposal - replace the current piece of identification with an information card for the hunter to complete once they select their hunting stake. The information would include – Hunter's name, cell phone and email address – it is important to have this step completed for the following reasons:
 - Physically helps with the draw as other hunters can identify which blinds are still open.
 - Provides a reference for opening day for staff, conservation officer along with safety.
 - Opportunity for FOH to contact the hunter to collect harvest data for those that stayed at the stake for the evening hunt.
- **ACTION** – Opening day procedures will require communication regarding the scheduled time and the addition of the stake cue cards requesting the hunters name, cell number and email addresses.

19. Zone A Navigation Assessment

- We have 9 volunteers willing to help since the March 20 email.

20. GIS Layer Update

- Ben has been unable to complete this **performance indicator** by the March 26 deadline due to the corruption of GIS hard drive.

21. Annual Kubota Service

- Process has begun early this year with the large lawn tractor currently at Hyde Brothers in Hensall
- The 2 UTV's will be trailered down there as well for annual maintenance.

22. 100 People Who Care Huron County

- I have accepted an invitation to present to the group on the evening of April 4 at the Huron County Museum in Goderich
- At the very least I will create interest and exposure for FOH and the HPWA

23. 2024 CS Jobs Staffing

- Ben has been very proactive gathering potential candidates for the last few months with very few worthwhile applicants.
- Emily is very interested in returning to FOH this year and the application for her funding is for 16 weeks.
- Scott asked the BOD to approve \$5000 outside of unknown CS Jobs funding to employ Emily for 16 weeks.
 - She will be vital in leading events, volunteer coordination, HUG production, summer student supervision, field work etc.
 - When Emily heard that I was semi-retiring she told Ben that she would totally want to work for FOH full time in a position such as Ben's current job once she graduates with a potential start date would be April 22nd.
 - **ACTION**
 - Mike Cardinal made the motion to spend the \$5000 to support the continued investment for summer employment at FOH, Steve Dalrymple second the motion.
- We do have one applicant for the Grounds Maintenance Worker position - **William Van Loo**.

MNR/DU

- MNR
 - There have been 4 Ag contract package requests for information to be sent out to potential candidates.
- Ducks Unlimited
 - Operations meeting will be held on April 10th, 2024.
 - **ACTION** – Scott to prepare an agenda for the meeting and forward to DU in advance of the meeting.

Web Site/HUG/Newsletter

- HUG deadline – Discussion was to move the deadline up to ensure that the print run falls well ahead of the waterfowl opener.
- Spring newsletter timing is for end of April beginning of May.

Pheasant Challenge/ Youth Waterfowl

- No Updates

New Business

- N/A

Meeting adjourned @ 8:37 pm.