

FRIENDS OF HULLETT
MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friends OF Hullett – 41378 Hydro Line Road

May 26th, 2024 @ 9:10 AM

Present: Duane Inkpen, Matt Shetler, Mike Cardinal, Ryan Bayne, Chris Ambrose, Barb Orchard, and Trevor Latta

Absent: Steve Dalrymple and Mark Penhale

Guests: Scott Austin, Ben Elliott, Emily Dearing

Meeting called to order: 9:15 AM

- 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.
- A 2025 projected budget was provided for initial review to the BOD with a projected surplus of \$110K.
- **ACTION** – A reminder of the adjustment that is required on the AG contract cheques to refund \$1000 for the AG contract bid and \$2000 to compensate for the deposit.

Marsh Report

1. Central Huron Donation Fund

- Our Feb 2024 application was partially successful to secure funding.
- We received \$2500 via direct deposit on May 16th.
- We asked for \$2200 for HUG production and \$500 towards a new iPad and have allocated \$2100 towards the HUG and \$400 towards a new iPad.

2. Forestry Planting

- ABCA completed the planting of 1850 seedlings between May 6 and May 23
- Please see PDF invoice for species details and costs.

3. TCC Fibre

- We are close folks...no update since April BOD meeting.
- Route across lawn has been marked and neighboring properties have had trenching done.

4. Memorial Plaque Presentation

- Laverne's widow Elaine will be attending the AGM. Laverne "Butch" Harburn is the only addition sine the 2023 AGM.

5. 2024 Memberships

- 133 memberships have been processed in 2024 with 24 "new first-time members".
- 56 of these memberships are from the dinner with membership revenue is \$4157 as of May 23/24.

6. 2024 Pheasant Challenge

- Ticket sales are slow but keep trickling in via PayPal....85 tickets sold to date.

7. Lawn Rolling

- Office complex was rolled on May 15th by 2 large rollers at a cost of \$423.75 including HST.
- This task has only been done 2 times in the last 13 years.

8. Vanessa Palmer Award

- No applicants for 2024.

9. Photo Contest

- This year's winners can be viewed in the Spring Newsletter.

10. Agriculture Contract

- Signed and contract in place for the duration of 2025-2029.

11. Brian Dale Drainage

- Scott has given Brian the direction to proceed for an excavator to cross Hullett land to repair his drainage.

12. 5 Large Yellow Birch Trees

- Trees will be picked up by Mat Shetler and planted by Emily and Ben on May 2nd in the South Red Trail section.

13. GIS Layer Update

- This performance indicator is quite involved, Ben will elaborate at the meeting if you have question's and has made progress on this since the last meeting.

14. Kubota Tractor

- The tractor is currently in Hensall for a repair to the PTO solenoid wire.

15. John Deere Tractor

- The tractor suffered a major breakdown on May 16th on Burns Line spreading gravel.
- It may be the drive clutch, Huron Tractor picked it up and it is currently in Blyth.

16. Canoe Channel/Hunt Stake Inspections

- Our volunteer reach-out was successful. Ben has coordinated the work and is gathering data and photos from participants. He has designed a fillable PDF data form for this large project and will send out a copy of the form to the BOD.
- **ACTION** – Ben to forward to the BOD the pdf form.

17. Volunteer Hour Tracking

- All hours are being tracked, current hours for 2024 are 149.

18. FOH Truck Repairs

- A floppy fender and leaking cooling line were recently repaired for a cost of \$600.

19. Dyke Mowing

- All dikes were mowed between May 6th and May 15th, 2024.
- A double pass cut was used with the 3 p.t John Deere rotary cutter, this method allowed a lower cut than the habitat mower.
- DUC has been invoiced \$2400 for this project (15 hours).

20. Parking Lots

- Most parking lots have been mowed and weed-wacked.

21. Hiking Trails and Roadside Mowing

- These tasks will be completed once Ben gets the Kubota tractor back from Hensall, the Orange trail has been cut.

22. Gravel and Road Grading

- Ben is working with the new Roads Supervisor to prepare the interior roads at Hullett.
- We have received a load of gravel free of charge from County of Huron in the Burns Line parking lot to spread on Burns Line

23. Turtle Movement/Nesting

- Recent warm weather has the turtles on the move quite early this year.
- Emily and Ben have placed nest protection boxes over fresh laid eggs on May 23

24. Tree-stand Removal

- One of the 2 fallen tree stands have been removed.
- **ACTION** – Ben - Education to develop a TREE STAND "Tip Sheet" – do's & don'ts, promotion via webpage, social media and fall newsletter.

25. Ag, Access Quotes

- Ben is meeting with the contractor to attain a quote this week as per my May 11th, 2024, email.

26. Emily's Planned and Completed Events to Date

- May 7th judging at Envirothon in Exeter
- On June 14th both Ben and Emily will be involved in the Water Protection Steering Committee and Sustainable Huron (joint meeting) tour.
- Hullett will be a featured stop on the tour and the group will be using our complex facilities for a catered lunch.
- On June 20th Emily will lead a bus tour with the event coordinator from Huronview showing the seniors the property.

MNR/DU

- MNR
 - Two new BOD have applied for positions and will be going through the approval process to be acclaimed.
- Ducks Unlimited
 - No updates.

Web Site/HUG/Newsletter

- Emily has taken charge by contacting the printers, aggressively seeking advertisers, invoicing, and confirming ad graphics.
- The planned period for production is late June early July and 9 ads have been paid for to date with \$1485 in revenue.
- **ACTION** – Ben to review current access of data analytics from the FOH webpage developer.

Pheasant Challenge/ Youth Waterfowl

- **ACTION** – Ben to contact Drew Pegram to inquire about the 2024 migratory bird opening date to schedule the youth waterfowl the previous weekend.

New Business

- Ben will be meeting May 30th with Ontario Woodlot management to complete a forestry tour to review the current forestry within FOH and provide future insights and opportunities to improve forestry and planning.
- **ACTION** – Ben & Scott to talk to the municipality regarding the Hullett signs and next steps to repair or remove.
- Pull up display – repair or replace? How many presentations does the FOH present at, and does it warrant a repair or replacement?

Meeting adjourned @ 9:55AM.

AGM MEETING

Friends OF Hullett – Head Office

May 26th, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

1. Introduction of Board of Directors & Guests

2. Report from the Marsh – Scott Austin (Marsh Manger) & Ben Elliott (GIS Technician)

- a. An overview of the FOH history, development by the uses of public and organizations was presented to the audience.
- b. Review of accomplishments and future investments.
 - i. Established continuous forest tree planting.
 - ii. Pheasant pen removal behind the FOH office.
 - iii. Youth waterfowl clinic
 - iv. Student Coop placements
 - v. Turtle box nesting program
 - vi. Continuous education through webpage, newsletters, social media, user guide and public phone and face to face engagement.
 - vii. Pheasant Program
 - viii. Parking lot infrastructures updates
 - ix. Repair of viewing stands
 - x. Trail maintenance
 - xi. Forestry management

3. Financial Report – Chris Ambrose (Treasurer)

- a. An overview or the financials for the 2023, 2024 and projected 2025 years were presented.
 - i. 2023 Income statement was reviewed.
 - ii. 2024 – slight loss
 - iii. 2025 – projected positive income

4. Report from the Friends of Hullett – Board of Directors

- a. A request from the FOH Board of Directors to have more engagement from members to assist with volunteering.

5. Past Service awards presentation – Duane Inkpen (Chairman)

- a. Service awards were presented to Mike Cardinal & Trevor Latta.

6. Presentation of Memorial Plaque

- a. Laverne “Butch” Harburn was recognized as a conservationist and member of the FOH. We appreciate his efforts and commitments.

7. Membership questions, comments, and suggestions.

- a. Current member commented that the lane crossing between Butter ball & Bluebill pool culvert crossing needs to be reviewed and addressed as during high water events the water flows over the crossing increasing the opportunity for erosion of the lane.

8. Election of the officers to the Board of Directors

- a. Mario Coniglio – BOD applicant
- b. Chris Ambrose – BOD applicant (current treasure on BOD)
- c. No objections from the membership so the 2 applicants will be acclaimed for a 3-year term.

9. Guest Presentation - Scott Austin & Ben Elliott

- a. A presentation was provided “The Changing Ecology of Hullett Marsh.”
- b. The presentation outlined the following:
 - i. History and development of how the marsh was developed.
 - ii. Importance of how wetlands contribute to an ecosystem.
 - iii. Marsh changes:
 1. Invasive species like phragmites, emerald ash bore and how FOH are managing these challenges.
 2. Species changes like black bears moving further south, turkey populations, spring migration becoming earlier.
 3. Adjusting mowing dates to allow for turtles.
 4. Potential of water access dates changing due to weather pattern changes.

Meeting adjourned – 11:30AM.