

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.