

# FRIENDS OF HULLETT

## MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Nov. 25, 2025 @ 7:30 PM – Activity Rm, Mitchell Arena

**Present:** Mat Shetler, Steve Dalrymple, Mario Coniglio, Donna Taylor, Craig McDonald, Ryan Bayne (remote), Doug Gordon, Mark Penhale, Duane Inkpen (Chair)

**Guests:** Justin Johnson, Ben Elliott

### Meeting called to order at 7:29pm

1. Review minutes from previous meeting, October 28, 2025

- Minutes of the October 28, 2025 meeting were approved (unanimous)

### Action Items from October 28 meeting – ALL COMPLETED

- **ACTION:** Sort out issues with director access to Google Docs files (Justin).
- **ACTION:** Contact TD re FEF Turtle Project (Justin)
- **ACTION:** Tell KC's to check with Kinburn Hall to see if that be a feasible venue to support fund-raising for Hullett (Justin)
- **ACTION:** Book Mitchell Arena for 2026 Board meetings (Justin)
- **ACTION:** Fine tune Personnel Policies document and report back to Board (Mat and Mario)  
→ additional follow up on this item in the in camera meeting
- **ACTION:** Review the gift certificate amount suggested for Barb (Mat)
- **ACTION:** Send information to Scott Austin related to purchasing payroll token (\$50) (Mat)

### 2. Treasurer's report – Ryan Bayne.

Ryan reviewed budget files sent by email prior to this meeting and indicated that we are in good shape to the year end, and a surplus is forecasted.

### 3. Report from the Marsh – Justin Johnson, Ben Elliott

November 20, 2025

November Marsh Report

→ Designates points of clarification/amplification related to submitted Marsh Report

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#### Stewardship

##### 1. TD FEF Turtle Project

- Remaining funds have been reallocated and spent on:
  - Watercraft launch improvement/turtle nesting mound creation (i.e., gravel).
  - Signage for turtle nesting mounds/launches.
  - Water restrictions ensure that launches are not used during turtle breeding period. Signs reinforce annual watercraft restrictions.

→ There is still some gravel to move (1 dump load left). Will get more gravel to fix sat pond 12.

→ 6 aluminum panels cost ~\$400

##### 2. Invasive Species Control

- Buckthorn control is ongoing with the assistance of volunteers.
- ABCA has funding for contracted drone control of Phragmites using Habitat Aqua.
  - Quoted \$12,000 to treat aquatic Phragmites throughout Hullett in 2026.
  - FoH to match with in-kind contribution of \$6000 of staff time
  - May need to host an open house to inform public of aquatic pesticide use.

##### 3. Shrub Buffer Transplanting

- Shrubs were transplanted with the assistance of volunteers.
- Over 300 stems of dogwood and willow added to Field 61 wet area buffer.

**ACTION:** Justin to report back to John Haak.

#### Hunt Management

##### 4. Pheasant Challenge/Releases

- 882 tickets have been deposited to date (\$8,663.84 after PayPal fees).
  - Ahead of pace, on track to pass sales over last year.
  - Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 712 tickets sold; total 2024 tickets sold – 961

##### 5. Youth Pheasant Hunt

- Another successful year, a few ticket sales, donations, and hat sales at event.
- 12 participants total, down from years past
- Steve/Craig – any changes that could be useful for future? Notifications? Maps?

→ Number of participants is down this year, normally there are 16-18 participants

→ A useful change for next year is to tape off parking lots to avoid issues with other users not aware of the youth pheasant hunt

## Science

### 6. Collaborations with Ontario Parks

- Justin meeting with Ontario Parks re:acoustics projects at Pinery and Hullett
- Could lead to equipment/resources sharing.
- Alistair (Discovery Lead at Pinery) sees a growing partnership of Pinery and FoH.
  - Prescribed burning, acoustics, invasives control are possibilities

## Fundraising/Development

### 7. Habitat Stewardship Program

- Submitted application for three-year project to improve stopover habitat for birds.
- Would add ~\$25k per year to hire dedicated staff to run project.
- Also funds forestry mulching, acoustic recorders, and water quality improvements.
- Ontario Nativescape also added Hullett to their 2026 HSP ask.

➔ Expect to hear back on whether the application was successful in March 2026.

### 8. Invasive Species Action Fund

- Grant application submitted to fund building of a biochar kiln at Hullett.
- Grant value \$2000, would host a workshop and a woody invasives control event.
- Kiln to be placed near 1-20 parking lot; acts as educational piece/stewardship tool.
  - Could be used in part to simulate prescribed burning at lower costs.
  - Excess biocharcoal produced could possibly be sold to raise funds for FoH.
    - Makes a great garden fertilizer!

### 9. KC's Streeteats Fundraiser

- Rainy weather greatly impacted sales at the truck; KC's forced to buy \$200 permit.
- Colin was hoping to raise \$1000 and match to bring \$2000 to Friends of Hullett.
  - Will donate \$500, more than KC's profit for the week.
- To do a photo-op/cross-promote fundraiser recurring annually during Control Week.
  - May add additional promotion of event in HUG

### 10. 2026 Charity Dinner and Auction

- Bluewater hosting FoH again on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- Tickets are in development with Goderich Print Shop
- Please begin searching for items and support for the dinner!

**ACTION:** BoD should assign members to 2026 Dinner Committee.

➔ BoD members were pleased to get involved. Details of tasks will be sorted out in due course.

### 11. Canada Summer Jobs

- Asking for three positions again, similar set-up to 2024 ask:
  - Maintenance Worker: Minimum Wage + \$1 per hour
  - Maintenance Supervisor: Minimum Wage + \$2 per hour
  - Outreach Coordinator: Minimum Wage + \$2 per hour
- CSJ may cover MERCs this year as well

## 12. Maintenance

- Mowing complete for the year
- Brooder house being restored, to be used for chemical storage
- Snow markers deployed at Sugarbush and Office
- Duck Baiting in Sanctuaries is ongoing
- Camera surveillance of parking lots remains ongoing

## 13. Financials

- *General Donations to Date - \$6,530.87*
- *Membership Donations to Date - \$10,467.81*
- *Donations to Pheasant Release Program to Date - \$1037.24*
- *Hat Sales to Date - \$1,143.60*
- Token has been delivered to Janice, new credit card to arrive soon

## Outreach/Communications

### 14. Delta Waterfowl/Ontario Out of Doors Article on Hullett

- Ben guided Delta Waterfowl Development Director Scott McGuigan on duck hunt
- Scott is a writer for *Ontario Out of Doors* and wanted to write a story on the Marsh
- The story is likely to be run next year in the magazine, will cover:
  - Friends of Hullett and our mission/history
  - Hullett Marsh and hunting opportunities including the Pheasant Program
  - Collaborations with OFAH
- Will be great exposure for us and the Marsh to a wide audience/key user demos
- Could lead to future collaborations with Delta and OFAH re:hunter education

## Additional items

- Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority will be providing a small donation to FoH.
- Duane asked about thinning of pine trees in a couple of plantations.

**ACTION:** Justin to look into thinning out pine and firs in the identified plantations.

- Duane asked about installing concrete blocks at parking spots in the parking lot (#40650) along Conservation Road.

**ACTION:** Proceed with installing concrete blocks in parking lot (#40650) - Justin

- Duane discussed burn and plow with Steve Flynn. Could a chisel plow work? Flynn has the equipment

**ACTION:** Justin will discuss how to proceed with this issue with the Stewardship Group.

## 4. Reports from the MNR/DU items

- Justin submitted everything required for the contracts.
- Invoices are being processed.

## 5. New Business

**Mark:** commented that some roads in the Marsh are in poor condition and should be repaired.

**ACTION:** Look into what it will take to get the roads repaired (cost, process) - Mark

**Craig:** commented that we are short on volunteers for the pheasant releases. Steve will be bringing a helper for the release this week.

**Justin:** received an email from Nathan Scholler re. the idea of an “advanced membership” status as it relates to the pheasant hunt. Board agreed that the current approach will continue for another year so we have a clearer understanding of its success and any issues that emerge.

**Justin:** for the new year – is considering more outreach initiatives to attract other types of users besides hunters.

## Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm

Next meeting in January 2026.

## 6. In camera

Minutes in separate document.