

## **Minutes of AGM Meeting of 15 November 2016**

1) **Present: Directors:** Chairman Verner Smitheram. Gerry Lajeunesse, Gordie MacCallum, Barry Cudmore, Jim Jenkins, Michael Hewitt, Tracy Allen and Troy Mackenzie  
-Coordinator Justin Walsh and Consultant Wanson Hemphill

**NS Councillors present :** Connie Egan, Kent Maclean, Peter Vriends, Gerard Watts, Justin Walsh.

**Other residents present:** Tracey Doucette, Robbie Shaw, Louis Watts, John Baird, Willem Van Nieuwenhuyzen

2) **Welcome:** Chair Verner Smitheram called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, warmly welcomed all present and outlined the evening agenda which was moved by Gerry, seconded by Jim. Motion carried. Each person present was then invited to introduce themselves along with a little background.

3) **Minutes AGM 21 October 2015** were presented on screen and reviewed. The main item was a draft of FCBB presentation to the Water ACT hearings. Moved by Barry and seconded by Michael. Motion carried.

4) **Treasurer's Report:** Gerry presented the treasurer's report. He noted that we have prudently established a reserve account of \$16,000 that could be used in the event that we were not successful in obtaining moneys from future grant submissions. Verner noted that we have a good financial record and that we have charitable status making us eligible for large national grants. Gerry moved the financial statement and Jim seconded. Motion carried.

5) **Willem Van Nieuwenhuyzen** of VANCO was introduced by Verner. Willem talked about the 4 acre retention pond being built on the old Donnie Allen property on Rte 25A. The structure will collect water from spring runoff and heavy rain events. The pond is being lined with brick clay and is 14 feet deep when full of water. A center pivot irrigation system will irrigate surrounding fields in the summer. An environmental plan was followed in constructing the site. Willem's presentation was much appreciated and he was invited to meet the Executive at a later date to discuss other environmental concerns.

6) **Election of Directors for 2017:** Connie Egan and Wanson Hemphill called for nominations. The following were acclaimed and elected as the slate of Directors for 2017. (The executive and chair will be selected at the first board meeting of 2017.)

1. TRACEY ALLEN
2. BARRY CUDMORE
3. TRACY DOUCETTE
4. MICHAEL HEWITT
5. JIM JENKINS
6. GERRY LAJEUNESSE
7. GORDIE MACCALLUM
8. TROY MACKENZIE
9. ROBBIE SHAW
10. VERNER SMITHERAM

We are happy to have new Directors Tracy Doucette and Robbie Shaw “on board”.

**7) PEI Watershed Alliance Funding Proposal:** Jim presented his report re future provincial funding for island watersheds. It was noted that island watersheds are heavily dependent on provincial funding. The alliance has developed a draft funding model that is transparent, fair and predicable. The draft model is to be voted on by all Island watershed groups. Jim moved that the draft funding model be accepted by our water shed. Gordie seconded the motion . Motion carried with one abstention. (Note: a powerpoint file is on record with details.)

**8) FCBB Photo Contest 2016:** Michael presented his report on a very successful photo contest developed for education and publicity purposes in 2016. Michael and Nancy Smitheram spearheaded the development of rules, a wide range of publicity, the gathering of prizes and the internet tools for candidates submissions. Their efforts were recognised as was Troy’s online support and they were thanked for their great work. As a further esthetic contribution to the publicity Michael developed a FLICKER SITE which makes all photos accessible.

A 2017 flip desk calendar with the winning photos has been developed by Nancy and Michael and is for sale. Calendar sales have been very good and should yield a contribution of over \$1,000 to FCBB projects. Jim asked that a framed copy of the winning photos be presented to the Stanhope Golf Course in recognition of its generous support for the photo contest.

**9) Cass’ Pond Project:** Vern gave a brief report on the past and ongoing efforts to improve the pond. Justin presented a Powerpoint review of the state of the pond and research we have conducted on silt depths, water temperatures, impacts on fish life etc. It is hoped that the

restoration of the pond can begin in 2017 with the approval of the landowners within proximity of the pond.

**10) Watershed Boundaries Issues :** Verner led the discussion on this issue. Friends of the Bay takes exception to the way in which government ceded Dalvay Watershed lands to the Winter River watershed without any consultation with our board in 2011-2. The board has argued that part of the disputed lands be returned to our watershed. Negotiations with Winter River started on April 16<sup>th</sup> have not yielded a resolution. FCBB has applied to the Deputy Minister of Community, Land and Environment to conduct sessions to resolve this issue. We have requested a transparent process where all parties involved are represented. It is expected that the session will be held within a few weeks.

**11) Brackley Bay Berm :** Vern , Jim and Gordie updated the meeting on efforts and challenges to environmentally safe ways of removing the rapidly developing berm in Brackley Bay. The berm is restricting the tidal flow and the flushing of the bay. The board has sought the support of Wayne Easter in searching for funding for an environmental assessment of the feasibility of removing the berm.

**12) Mussel and Oyster leases in Covehead Bay:** NS Councillor Kent MacLean on behalf of the Environmental Sustainable Committee of the North Shore Council expressed concerns over mussel leases and bottom oyster leases in the bay. The NS Council feels that there was a lack of consultation on the part of Fisheries and Oceans in this matter. The issue is ongoing.

Motion for adjournment was made by Gerard Watts at 9:35 pm.

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Minutes prepared by Barry Cudmore and Verner Smitheram