

# Minutes Friends of Covehead Brackley Bays

## AGM Tuesday 27 November 2018

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**Present: Board members:** Emily Van Toevere, Jim Jenkins, Michael Hewitt, Gordie MacCallum, Troy MacKenzie, Gerry Lajeunesse, Verner Smitheram. **Associates** Gordie Ellis, Richard Keleher and Coordinator Justin Walsh.

**North Shore Community Council** was represented by incoming Mayor Gerard Watts, Councillors Krista Shaw, Peter Vriends, Wanson Hemphill, outgoing Mayor Gordie Ellis

Absent with regrets Directors: Barry Cudmore, Robbie Shaw, Tom Hinsperger

**1. Opening remarks: Meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Chair Verner Smitheram.** After greeting everybody, he noted the welcome presence of North Shore Mayor Gordie Ellis and the Councillors of the incoming (Dec 5<sup>th</sup>) Council.

A pleasant round of introductions was done to assure all were recognized.

### **2. Updates:**

**a) Note Card Fund Raiser 2018:** Verner reviewed the success of the campaign using the results of the Photo Contest 2018 to produce two different packets of local environmental photos each containing 4 photos, and 4 envelopes, selling for \$10 each. Sales to date were \$2,850. Another \$2,400 is expected. Thanks to Michael and Nancy for card design. While many have shared in the sales, we owe a special thanks to Gordie and Nancy with sales in the \$900 range each to date!

**b) Facebook Activity:** Troy Mackenzie gave an overview of activity on the Friends website with particular emphasis on Facebook activity spearheaded by Nancy Smitheram. The web site is up to date and we're seeing traffic indicating that the new communication plan is reaching people by the hundreds.

**c) Stanhope Wharf:** Wanson led the discussion about the need for repairs to the Wharf at the golf club. A meeting with Baron Delaney of DFO, held on October 22 revealed that the plan was to divest i.e. transfer the wharf. Baron said there was an order of priority they follow when divesting of properties with other Federal departments, the Province, the Port Authority and Municipal governments having first choice in this order of priority. DFO would repair the wharf and slip before transferring. Lots of discussion about its present condition and future potential ensued.

**d) Proposal for Bottle Exchange Fee Hike:** Justin briefed the meeting about our request through the PEI Watershed Alliance to increase the deposit charged on returnables. The proposed new revenues would be shared between the Province, merchants, Island Waste Watch and environmental groups.

**e) Regulations for Irrigation Ponds:** Verner reviewed the content of our communications with the Province regarding pond construction and the need for improved guidelines and new standards. Our proposal sent to the Minister of CLE on 27 Nov 2017 has not yet been implemented. It is expected that action will occur when the department proposes new regulations for a range of items in the coming year.

**3. AGM 2017 Minutes** were reviewed and Verner highlighted several noteworthy points such as the collaborative resolution of a boundary dispute with Winter River Watershed; collaboration with the municipality's Covehead Bay Sustainability Plan; and the fact there are now two watershed groups within the revised boundaries of the North Shore Community.

**Minutes were moved by Jim and seconded by Emily...carried.**

**4. Election of Directors:** Verner read the rules from our *Letters Patent* for the election of board members. Wanson and Justin co-chaired nominations for the 2018 Board of Directors. The 2018 slate was presented. It contained eight names, thus there were two vacancies to fill for the ten member Board. The vacancies were created to make room for new directors by Michael Hewitt and Tom Hinsperger who generously agreed to move to Associate status while continuing to participate in Board activities as they have in the past. Our thanks to them.

The following **slate of directors** was presented: Barry Cudmore, Jim Jenkins, Gerry Lajeunesse, Gordon MacCallum, Emily Van Toevere, Troy MacKenzie, Robbie Shaw, and Verner Smitheram. Franklin MacDonald was nominated from the floor. There were no other nominations. (Note the vacancy can be filled at any time.) **Moved by Justin and seconded by Gordie...approved.**

*The 2019 executive will be voted in at the first board meeting of 2018.*

**5. Treasurer's Report** presented by Gerry. The good news was that our deficit as of March 2018 was only \$13.38. Our retained earnings are \$17,530.17. Suggestions were made to approach the Parks about another special project to harvest and plant trees within the Park, and explore the possibilities of upgrading our truck. **Moved by Gerry and seconded by Gordie....carried.**

**6. Update Cass's Pond Project:** Justin reviewed present conditions and issues. Of special note is the fact that this project under discussion and planning for about 10 years is finally about to be launched. We will be receiving funding from the province to start on the project and complete the first phase by 31 March, 2019.

**7. Update NS Council's Sustainability and Health of the Bay Project:** Justin who is a current Councillor, indicated that a Council Steering Committee has been appointed and that the recent MRSB report on funding for the project is now in the hands of Council. Comparisons were made re NSCC's previous study and MRSB work to date. Discussion was held about the money spent

to date in this area, and where it all goes after MRSB's final report. Questions were raised about what role FCBB might play. A short discussion was held on the condition of the two Bays and the need to apply for funds from round two of DFO's Coastal Restoration Fund.

**8. Report on 2018 Program for Youth-led Canada Service Sessions:** Director Emily Van Toever who obtained the grant, developed and taught the educational program gave an overview of her "What's in the Bay" project. She showed a brilliant display of the teaching materials for use with kids on location, at a daycare center , and in a future session with adults. Lots of discussion and questions about this successful project followed. See pictures on FCBB Facebook.

**9. Report on Eco Tours for Tourists:** Gerry reported on the limited success of this past summer's ecotourism pilot. This was carried out in collaboration with Park's Canada, Shaw's Hotel and, Dalvay by the Sea. The problem was recruiting sufficient tourists. However, the potential is there for next summer in a partnership with tourist agency Experience PEI who can effectively market the program to bring in the numbers. Wanson with his environmental expertise to conduct the eco-tours and Experience PEI with the marketing skills are working on two activities for next summer and hope to have that completed in April.

There was no new business.

Meeting adjourned.

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Minutes prepared by Gerry and Verner