

Minutes Friends of Covehead Brackley Bays Board Meeting Thursday 14 June 2018

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Present: Directors: Michael Hewitt, Emily Van Toever, Gordie MacCallum, Wanson Hemphill, Tom Hinsperger, Gerry Lajeunesse, Jim Jenkins, Verner Smitheram, Robbie Shaw, Barry Cudmore. Associate Franklin MacDonald. Coordinator Justin Walsh, Regrets: Troy MacKenzie

1. Chair Verner called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

2. Opening remarks/updates:

Verner requested that board members attend the Climate Change Presentation on June 21st and invite others to attend. Vern in cooperation with Tracey Allen has advertised the meeting extensively on social media

Verner gave an update to the board members on the meeting held with landowners adjacent to Cass's Pond. Landowners expressed support at the meeting for the Cass's pond project to move forward. Two property owners have offered their land as a site for sediment taken from the pond. *The issue of land ownership of the land under the pond has been cleared up. Since this was a tidal pond the land under the pond belongs to the province up to the high water mark.* The Cass's Pond project will tie into the sustainability plan of the North Shore Council. Verner is optimistic that the project will go ahead.

Jim attended the protection of PEI Lands Committee on behalf of the Board. The committee is concerned about the ever increasing size of farms by fewer and fewer owners. The committee feels that farm land needs to stay in agriculture and at the same time not penalise the farmer for wanting to sell to the highest bidder.

3. Minutes from the 24 April 2018 meeting were approved. Moved by Jim and seconded by Barry. Motion carried. **Business arising** from the minutes: It was noted that the PEI Watershed Alliance is continuing to request that government follow FCBB's Request to CLE in **5 June and 27 November 2017 proposals** that it change its stance on irrigation ponds so that the current **guidelines become regulations**. This would help land owners avoid unnecessary environmental issues.

4. Treasurer's Report: The Board has received its operating grant of \$30,811 from the Province. Gerry and Justin have reviewed the last 4 years to see where our operating funds have come from to ensure that we address financial issues before they become problems. Funding seems to be in place this year and is similar to last year. A reserve fund of \$12,000 is still available if needed. Funding formula from the government will change in 2019 but Jim foresees only minor changes affecting our watershed. It was noted that going forward, the amount of funds available will be dictated by community involvement. *Numbers of people participating in events will affect the size of grant that we receive.*

5. Motion re Roadside Waste. Concerns were expressed about the amount of garbage along roadsides, and in particular bottles and cans. The Board believes that a higher deposit on cans and bottles might be

an incentive to recycle these items as opposed to tossing them in ditches and along roadways. It was **moved by Barry and seconded by Gordie that FCBB request the Alliance to petition the government to increase the deposit on bottles and cans and that the added revenues come back to the Alliance and watersheds. Motion carried,**

6. Coordinator Justin updated the Board on activities planned for this year and also those groups he has applied to for funding including Cass's Pond and Belle's Creek projects. He believes that the Critical Path Plan for Cass's Pond is on schedule.

7. Report re Youth Grant. Emily updated the Board on the plan for using the grant of \$1500 for the Youth led Canada Service grant. She expects the project to be completed by year end and has submitted a detailed plan to Verner. **The first session for KidsFit will take place on 5 July. SEE FACEBOOK**

8. The sea lettuce harvest project initiated by Wanson has not commenced because he does not have a permit to harvest. Justin said that the sea lettuce is growing and government is interested in doing an analysis of the nutrient value of the lettuce. A project with UPEI is planned.

9. Tours for Tourists: Robbie and Gerry reported on the ecotourism pilot. Most of the tour would be done inside the National Park. Shaw's Hotel would promote the project. Gerry and Robbie are waiting for an answer from Parks Canada for their cooperation.

10. Photo Contest update from Michael: Fourteen individuals have submitted 39 photos. There is a lot of competition from other contests. July 31st is the closing for the contest. Grand prize is a membership to the Stanhope Golf course.

11. Presentation on No-till Farming: Tom gave an update to the board on the planting of fields adjacent to the Black River. He is using a no-till drill to plant crops of corn adjacent to the river which under previous owners were heavily tilled before planting. The advantage of no-till systems is that the soil is not disturbed and over time organic matter levels will increase and any runoff will be minimal. Barry had Tom use the no-till drill for planting soybeans on a field adjacent to the Black River.

12. Post Cards fundraiser: Nancy and Michael have compiled 8 postcards (2 collections of 4) from photos submitted to the photo contest last year for the purpose of raising funds for FCBB. Packages of 4 will sell for \$10. Packages were distributed among board members.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Barry and Verner

