

Minutes Friends of Covehead Brackley Bays Board Meeting Wednesday 24 April 2018

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Present were Troy MacKenzie, Emily Vantoever, Gordie MacCallum, John Baird, Louie Watts, Michael Hewitt, Tracey Allen, Stephen Allen, Tom Hinsperger, Jim Jenkins, Vern Smitheram, Barry Cudmore, Justin Walsh **Absent:** Wanson Hemphill, Robbie Shaw

1. Chair Verner called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Opening remarks/updates:

Troy gave an update on activities on Facebook showing the increasing number of people signing in and where their interests lie. Updates on activities by the crew will be a regular feature sustained by Staff, Nancy and Troy.

Vern gave an update on our success with our 5 June and 27 November 2017 proposals to the Community Land Environment Department re regulations for irrigation pond construction. The PEI Watershed Alliance has adopted our proposal that there be regulations as opposed to guidelines for irrigation ponds which would address issues like construction and safety overloads. Regulations would be beneficial for the various watersheds, and might help those building irrigation ponds to avoid costly mistakes. It is expected that the CLE will adopt and make the regulations part of the WATER ACT.

Vern, Justin and Jim attended a Wetland Training Workshop March 20-1. A wealth of scientific and technical information and exercises were provided about the formation, loss and restoration of wetlands. Faculty and attendees from St. Mary's University talked about the effect of rising seawater levels.

Tracey Allen was invited to give an update of the Sustainability Plan for the North Shore Community Council. Tracey thanked Verner and Justin for taking the time to provide input to the project on behalf of FCBB and gave a project overview - In the interest of planning for the sustainable use of Covehead Bay, the Rural Municipality of North Shore is conducting a review of Covehead Bay with the purpose of understanding the importance and impact which the various uses have on the overall environmental health, safety, social, and economic aspects, with the intent of creating a collaborative approach to shared use of Covehead Bay. The process includes a community survey, interviews with stakeholders, and a jurisdictional/document review. It was noted that there had been 120 responses so far for the survey (project finished as 144 survey responses plus 26 after the deadline or 171 in total). Tracey would welcome any additional input from FCBB members, noting that the project had an 8 week window which was coming to a close in early May.

FCBB response in support of the NS Sustainability Plan: Vern reiterated that FCBB will a) collaborate with all parties concerned with the health of the bay and this should be the primary goal; b) share any data collected over the years; c) strongly support aquaculture in the bay within its present dimensions; d) seek the support of NS Community Council for the restoration of Cass' Pond; e) pursue our concerns regarding shoreline erosion and f) would request Community Council to amend building and construction permits in light of coastal erosion issues.

On April 17th Vern attended an initial meeting for a Coalition for the Protection of PEI Land where concerns were raised regarding land ownership on PEI. There are concerns by some islanders that landholdings by specific companies are in excess of the current spirit of regulations. Our participation in the Coalition will be brought to the Board at a later date.

DFO has indicated that they will be doing water sampling of the bay including water temperatures, oxygen demand and water flow rates. DFO will send scientists to do this testing. It will also monitor the amount of food available for aquaculture. Jim indicated that food in the bay is a way above what aquaculture requires.

2. Minutes of 24 January 2018 were presented, moved for adoption by Barry and seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Jerry, Justin gave the Financial Report. Income and expenses were reviewed. The balance as of 1 March 2018 is \$9,351.76. A lot of the **funding applications** this year are geared towards the restoration of Cass' Pond.

The grants from the provincial government for 2018 for all the watersheds will total \$1.21 million. Funding for individual watersheds is based on the following: 1. Work plan from the watershed. 2. Number of community members involved in watershed activities. 3. Results need to show that water quality has improved.

4. Education Committee Report: a) Emily reported that her application was successful and a \$1,500 grant was received from the **Youth Led Service Grant** funded by the Government of Canada Youth Service Corps. The educational talks and bay site visits will take place in the summer months to allow for ease of site access.
b) In the absence of Wanson, Vern said that his **seaweed harvest project** is expected to start in late May. He also said Wanson will be offering free **woodlot tours**.
c) Vern is organizing a **public forum on climate change on June 21, 2018**. Presenters will be Peter Nishimura and Cindy Crane of the CLE .
d) Gerry Lajeunesse and Robbie Shaw are planning an **ecotour for tourists** highlighting activities in the watershed and Park.

5. Cass' Pond Project Presentation: A meeting is planned for residents /landowners affected by the project to inform them of plans and to consult them about concerns they may have. Justin, Jim and Vern will prepare a power point presentation for the 17 May meeting.

6. Photo contest: Michael reported that the number of photos submitted this year is low. He then handed out a very attractive series of photos from last year that he and Nancy are proposing to offer as a series of postcards for sale to raise funds for FCBB. **He moved that postcards be made available for sale, Troy seconded. Motion carried.**

7. Timing of Board meetings: It was suggested that Board meetings should start at 6pm. All agreed.

8. Barry moved for adjournment at 9 pm.

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Minutes prepared by Barry and Verner