

Minutes Friends of Covehead Brackley Bays Board Meeting

Wednesday 6 March 2019

coveheadbrackley@gmail.com www.stanhopecovehead.pe.ca www.fcbbwatershed.ca

Present: Directors: Emily VanToever, Troy MacKenzie, Jim Jenkins, Verner Smitheram, Barry Cudmore, Robbie Shaw, Franklin MacDonald. **Regrets:** Gordie MacCallum, Gerry Lajeunesse

Associates: Michael Hewitt, Gordon Boothroyd, Melody Gay, Nathan Trainor, Cheryl Labonte, Aaron David, Peter Vriends, Ian MacKinnon, Wanson Hemphill, Phillip VanNieuwenhuyzen, Peter Bennett.

Coordinator: Justin Walsh.

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

2. Opening remarks/updates:

***Executive Meetings:** Vern gave an update of executive meetings, seven meetings since the last board meeting to December 31st, 2018 and five from January 1st to March 6th, 2019. Most related to the Cass Pond project.

***Presentation of Cass Project to the new Rural Municipality of North Shore Council** was made on February 14th.

***Request to Government re Bottle Exchange:** Friends of the Bay in October 2018 requested the provincial government to increase the deposit on cans and bottles to discourage littering. The government has yet to respond to our request.

3. Cass' Pond Project Launching and Powerpoint Presentation: This is part of the series of information sessions to ensure NS Council, local residents and landowners, provincial government agencies are aware of our activities.

a. The first steps in launching the restoration project started in late February with gradual draining of the pond.

b. Vern gave an update on the Cass Pond project, including history and background.

c. Justin described and illustrated the various phases

Phase 1 A Install sediment detention structures

Phase 1 B Reclaim essential spawning habitat

Phase 1 C Remove sediment from the channel

Phase 2 A Drain pond

Phase 2 B Remove sediment

Phase 3 A Improve infrastructure for connectivity, including upgrading fish ladder

Phase 3 B Improve safety and access

Phase 3 C Community area enhancement

Phase 4 Estuarial connectivity future possibility

d. In the discussion that followed, it was noted that some residents may oppose the concept of a walking trail along the edge of the pond. Verner repeated that our policy was to continue to consult with adjacent landowners at all stages.

4. Minutes from September 20, 2018 were approved. Moved by Jim. Seconded by Emily. Motion carried.

5. Election of 2019 Executive: Troy assumed the role of Chair for the election of the Executive. The process based on our Letters Patent was reviewed. Since only one nomination was made for each post, the following were acclaimed: Verner Smitheram as Chair. Jim Jenkins as Vice Chair. Barry Cudmore as Secretary. Jerry Lajeunesse as Treasurer.

6. Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Jerry, Justin gave the Treasurer's Report. Emily moved the acceptance of the report and seconded by Michael. Motion carried. Balance in the CIBC checking account as of February 1st was \$6,385.20. As the Cass' Pond Project moves forward, Jerry will play a supervisory role in the disbursement of funds.

7. Staffing 2019: Justin expects the continuation of the normal watershed activities for 2019. He expects that activities will ramp up in 2020 as the Cass Pond Project moves forward. Multiple funding applications have been submitted. Now waiting on responses.

8. Education Committee Report:

a. Emily gave a report on project funded by Youth Led Canada Service Fund. This project was chosen as a successful project for Eastern Canada. The project exposed the youth in the community to the various species in the watershed. Emily anticipates collaborating this year with Nicole Cannell of the local Girl Guides of Canada to build on the success of the past year.

b. Wanson and Robbie updated the Board on the Eco Tour project. Two pilot tours were held last summer involving Bubbling Springs in the National Park. However, it appears that Parks Canada will conduct its own tour this year. Other options for tours in our watershed are being considered by Wanson and Robbie in collaboration with the tourism firm Experience PEI.

c. Wanson reported on the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program for kids. He presented results of species found in our bays covering the years between 2011 and 2017. There was no data for 2018 as there was no funding available to continue the project.

d. Wanson recommended that Friends of Covehead and Brackley Bays negotiate a partnership with Parks Canada in Acadian forest restoration . It was moved by Jim, and seconded by Emily that we approach Parks Canada re this potential project. **Motion carried.** It was noted that there was good success environmentally and financially from a previous project.

Motion for adjournment by Barry at 7:50

Minutes by Barry and Verner