

Minutes Friends of Covehead Brackley Bays Board Meeting

Wednesday 23 May 2019

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Present: Directors: Jim Jenkins, Verner Smitheram, Barry Cudmore, Gordie MacCallum , Franklin MacDonald, Gerry Lajeunesse. **Associates:** Michael Hewitt, Wanson Hemphill, Willem VanNieuwenhuyzen. **Coordinator:** Justin Walsh.

Regrets: Emily VanToever, Troy MacKenzie, Robbie Shaw

1. Chair Verner called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. Opening remarks/updates:

****A moment of silence was held for missing fisherman, Jordan Hicken.** Justin Walsh has participated in the search.

*Vern reported that there had been **15 executive meetings** since November 2018.

*On 13 May Vern presented an invited talk on **Cass's Pond: An Ecological and Community History** to the **Stanhope Historical Society** which included a summary of the plans of the Cass's pond restoration project.

3. Minutes of the March 6th Board Meeting were reviewed and approved. Michael moved and Gordie seconded that the minutes be accepted. Motion carried.

4. Treasurers Report : Treasurer Gerry Lajeunesse informed us that at this time the following basic funding is expected in support of the watershed's restoration activities.

\$30,000 from the Watershed Management Fund provincial grant;

\$11,000 from the Rural Development Fund;

\$9,200, Canada summer student program;

\$12,000, Wildlife Conservation Fund;

\$9,800, Rural Job Fund.

A 2008 Ford 150 truck has been purchased from Capital Honda in Charlottetown for \$8,625.00. Funds were withdrawn from the reserve fund to pay for the truck. Peter MacLaine a salesman from Capital Honda and resident of this area was effective in completing the sale at a very favourable price.

Gerry moved the adoption of his report, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

5. Justin gave an update on the Cass's Pond Project:

A. Of the \$22,000 promised in 2018 funding by the previous provincial government from the Rural Development Fund to start the project, \$11,000 has been received with clear indication that the remaining \$11,000 will come soon. Application has been made for 2019 follow-up funding but awaits authorization by the new provincial government.

B. Re: Soil testing of sediment samples from Cass's Pond: Some additional testing will be required to determine if the heavy metal hexavalent chromium is present in the sediment. **All other parameters** were good with levels of less than 10 % of what is considered **safe for agricultural use**. Testing is being done by Stantec, an approved firm.

C-The fish ladder by the road requires repairs, estimated to be \$12,500 and is in progress. Because the gates are not yet closing fully, the pond drainage is partial. Repairs are expected to be completed by mid-June.

D. Protocols between FCBB and Landowners and FCBB and Sediment Users. Jim is developing protocols relating to the removal of sediment from the pond. One protocol will be developed for the removal of sediment, where the sediment has an agricultural use. If the sediment soil tests indicate that any of the sediment is not suitable for agriculture, a protocol will dictate how the sediment would be handled, stored or removed. Protocols are also being developed relating to temporary roads allowing truck and excavator traffic through private properties to the pond. All protocols, when completed will be on the website.

E. Normal Watershed Activities: Coordinator Justin expects normal watershed activities and funding similar to the past for the enhancement of the 73 kms of streams within our 5 stream area. Some funding is dependent on the policies of the new provincial government. Justin has submitted his work plan for this year to the provincial Watershed Management Fund, outlining goals and objectives. The work plan states the activities required to achieve the objectives.

6. FCBB Fund Raising Efforts: The sale of **note cards** started last Fall will resume. The 4 cards in the each of 2 distinct packets contain award winning scenes from the watershed and can be purchased for \$10.

B. There was discussion about selling **tickets for a chance to win a \$500**. Gordie indicated that the Stanhope golf course might be prepared to participate. He also suggested contacting the Dunes Studio in Brackley Beach. This idea will be discussed further at the next board meeting. (NOTE: Both the Dunes and the Golf Course agreed and by 6 June both campaigns were in progress.)

7. The shoreline cleanup is progressing. We thank the **Girl Guides** for their enthusiastic coverage of the shoreline along the Promenade. **Local residents** have participated in areas of safe access in both bays. The remainder of the cleanup will be done by staff.

Activities will be posted on our Facebook.

8. Education Committee:

A. Emily submitted a proposal to **plant native species of plants in a public place**. She would reach out to Gary Schneider for advice on what species to plant. Brackley Beach Community Center was suggested as one possible site.

B. Also Emily wants to have presentations about aquatic life in our bays at the **youth camps** this summer where children from the community would assist in an aquatic monitoring program of species in the bay. Her efforts are warmly supported as they were last year.

C. Eco-tours for Tourists, Wanson had no new information at this time about our plans with **Experience PEI.** He also said that Parks Canada was not prepared at this time to partner with the Friends of the Bay to removing mature white spruce from the within the park boundaries and replacing them with other native species.

Adjournment: Barry moved for adjournment at 7:50 PM

Minutes prepared by Barry and Verner
