

Minutes Friends of Covehead Brackley Bays Board Meeting

Tuesday 24 September 2019

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Present: Directors: Michael Hewitt, Troy MacKenzie, Franklin MacDonald, Gordie MacCallum, Jim Jenkins, Gerry Lajeunesse, Barry Cudmore, and Verner Smitheram,
Regrets: Robbie Shaw, Emily VanToever.
Associate: MNS Councillor Wanson Hemphill, and FCBB Coordinator, Justin Walsh.

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

2. OPENING REMARKS/UPDATES: a) Verner welcomed those in attendance and gave an executive update: There are now 43 Associate members. Eleven executive meetings have been held in 2019 with most having the Cass's Pond project as the main item.

b) Verner attended the North Shore Rural Municipality Council meeting on September 23rd to determine if the Council's Sustainability Committee had recommendations for the Council to consider. A number of amendments were proposed by various Councillors and accepted for the updated document.

c) Mayor Gerard Watts indicated after the meeting that he was open to opportunities for the council and FCBB Bay to collaborate on projects of mutual interest.

d) Verner recommended attendance at the **Environmental Forum** in Hunter River on October 3rd where all 4 federal candidates would answer questions from a variety of environmental groups. FCBB is one of the supporting groups.

e) A plaque has been placed in the **Brackley Beach Community Center** recognizing the \$5000 gift to Friends of the Bay by Judy Profitt in remembrance of her late husband, Ron Hughes of Brackley Beach.

f) Verner and Justin canvassed residents of Eagles Path to hear their concerns about **bluff erosion** and to offer shrubs and trees and planting guidance. There were no requests from the residents for this offer. Wanson suggested that a fee of \$4.50 per tree be charged to cover planting costs, should there be interest.

g) Rick Dempsey has joined our organization as an Associate member.

3. THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 4TH MEETING WERE REVIEWED. There were no corrections or revisions. Moved by Barry and seconded by Gordie that the minutes be adopted as circulated. Motion carried.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT was presented by Gerry. Balance on hand as of September 24th was \$23209.64. We are waiting on the following funding:

*Rural job initiative: \$12,000

*Canada Summer Job program: \$6,000

*Wildlife Conservation Fund: \$1,1000

Projected surplus at the end of year is \$30,000 including fundraising of \$12,000. Gerry is suggesting that we move \$12,000 back to savings by year end. The financial report was moved by Gerry and seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

5) FUND RAISING: a) Verner reported on the results of the raffling of two **\$500 gift certificates donated by each of the Dunes and the Stanhope Golf Club** who were thanked for their repeated support. **Gordie** was warmly thanked for his EXTRAORDINARY leadership and fundraising efforts as is evident from the following summary

<u>SELLING AGENTS</u>	
STANHOPE GOLF	15 AUG 265.00
DUNES	15 AUG 220.00
DAD'S STORE	15 AUG 110.00
FRANKLIN MACDONALD	15 AUG 75.00
VERNER SMITHERAM	15 AUG 185.00
<u>GORDIE MACCALLUM</u>	4,018.80
TOTAL RAISED	4,873.80

b) An update will be given at the next meeting on the fund raising by means of **NOTECARDS** developed by Michael Hewitt and their ongoing sales spearheaded by Nancy Smitheram.

6) COORDINATORS REPORT BY JUSTIN.

a) **Funding to date for Cass's Pond Project** is \$41,000 Expenses are \$23,000

The fish ladder upgrade at Cass's pond will cost \$15,000 and will be completed this Fall. .

b) Department of Highways will be consulted about improving the safety of the road access to the pond.

c) Vanco Farms continue to express interest in experimenting with the value of the silt from the pond.

d) Justin expects a more extensive and complete quote from Island Coastal Services in late September for removing the sediment from pond.

e) Other work in the watershed has been similar to previous years. Justin's daily log summary highlighted the following

WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES 2019

- Organized shoreline clean-up along Covehead and Brackley Bays
- Planted 500 long-lived trees and food shrubs with hare protection
- Spring Run-off Survey completed
- Partnered with NSCC & MRSB to help apply for Covehead Bay Restoration Funds
- Removed blockages to migrating fish in 5 rivers (60 km) from the upper springs to estuaries
- Partnered with UPEI, and Mike Cassidy to conduct Sea Lettuce harvests for Clinical Trials
- Deployed HOB0 dissolved oxygen meter in Brackley Bay
- Hosted an event with local Girl Guides
- Monitored the bays and estuaries for anoxic events
- Used our Nitrate Photometer and conducted weekly nutrient testing at 6 locations

- Weekly water testing at 10 (16 in total) additional locations (pH, temp, oxygen, TDS, Conductivity, etc.)
- Erosion monitoring (calculated 2019 erosion rates at the 10 locations selected in 2012)
- Information booth display on Canada Day
- C.A.M.P. for DFO at six locations
- Maintenance on 8 rock check dams in a drainage ditch along Bell's Creek to reduce run-off
- Hosted annual Youth Eco-Learning and Adventure Day
- Constructed 15 new brush mats to restore stream banks
- Annual Nitrate testing at the same 9 ground water spring locations established in 2009
- Heavy Rain Event Erosion Monitoring Survey
- Planning and initiation of the Cass's Pond Project

7) OUR BOARD HAS REQUESTED A MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE, BRAD TRIVERS to update him on the Cass's Pond project. We need to impress upon the Minister the importance of this project and also the extreme difficulty we have in sourcing matching funding. We are requesting that he consider other options that will allow us to source adequate funding to pursue the project. It will be difficult to get federal funding if the provincial government is not strongly onside especially since Cass's Pond is provincially owned.

We believe that success in this project will serve as a model for future cleanups. The board was in agreement that we request a meeting with the Minister.

8) JIM REPORTED ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEI WATERSHED ALLIANCE.

His board expects to meet with the Minister of Environment to inform the Minister on the board's activities. The Alliance will be asking for 3.7 million per year in total funding and a 5 year commitment from government.

9) NOTICE OF RMNS MEETING: Following up on NS Councillor Wanson's concerns of human sludge being spread on fields within the watershed, the North Shore Council is hosting a public meeting chaired by Wanson on Sept 30th to examine this issue. All are invited.

Next meeting will be scheduled at the discretion of the Chair and Executive.

Barry moved for adjournment at 7:47. Seconded by Gerry. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Barry and Verner