

# Minutes Friends of Covehead Brackley Bays Board Meeting 4 February 2020

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**Present: Directors:** Michael Hewitt, Franklin MacDonald, Gordie MacCallum, , Gerry Lajeunesse, Verner Smitheram, Robbie Shaw, and FCBB Coordinator, Justin Walsh.

Regrets: Emily VanToever. Troy MacKenzie, Jim Jenkins, Barry Cudmore

**Associates:** MNS Councillor Wanson Hemphill, Meaghan MacDonald, Richard Keleher, Krista Shaw, Rick Dempsey.

**Chair Verner called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.**

**1. Opening Comments:** Verner welcomed the group. He reviewed the numerous executive meetings (12) that were held over the last eight months. He pointed out our web site has had some upgrades. Gerry Lajeunesse was called on to report on The PEI Coalition for the Protection of PEI Lands meeting he attended on behalf of FCBB. This coalition is preparing for upcoming public meetings across the province on closing loopholes in the Act.

**2. Minutes of September 24, 2019** meeting were reviewed and approved without changes. Moved by Micheal Hewitt and seconded by Gordon MacCallum.....Motion carried.

**3. Treasurer's Report** given by Gerry L. As of February 4, 2020 the bank balance is \$31,920 with \$4,000 in revenue to come and \$8,000 in expenses still to go out, leaving FCBB with an approximate balance of \$27,920 to start the 2020 season.

Moved by Gerry Lajeunesse and seconded by Robbie Shaw.....Motion carried.

**b. Fund Raising:** Verner pointed out that the healthy bank balance is partly a result of the two fundraisers held over the past year. *Ticket sales* spearheaded by Gordie netted \$4,873 and a generous donation \$5,500 from Judy Profit of Brackley Beach. *Note Card sales* generated by the photography and publicity work of Michael Hewitt and Nancy Smitheram netted \$3,720 to date with another \$400 to come.

**4. Cass' Pond Project:** Verner reviewed the recent **meetings held with provincial government departments** on the project. Meetings were held with EWCC Deputy Brad Colwill and Director Kate Macquarrie on 27 November 2019 and with MLA and Agriculture Minister Bloyce Thompson and Mgr of Sustainable Development, Carla Miller on 16 January 2020. Both meetings provided a sound description of the project and identified the current funding impasse caused by the requirement for 50% matching funds on a project of this scale when our base funding is in the range of \$32,000 and federal funding has not been obtained.

Our presentation document described the following.....

- Provincial ownership of the tidal pond known as Cass' Pond
- The deteriorated condition of Cass's Pond & impact on Covehead Bay
- Funding to date
- Actions completed with current funding
- Major restoration tasks to be done
- Estimated costing of actions necessary for the continuation of the project
- Three Major Project Benefits in terms of ....
  - **Restored Pond Environment**
  - **Agricultural & Environmental Mutual Gains**
  - **Community Infrastructural Benefit**
- **Funding Issues: Matching funds:** FCBB was assured provincial support in 2018 under the **Rural Regional Development Fund**. However, fund administrators were not able to commit to the project in 2019-20 without matching federal/private funds.
- **This is the problem we seek to solve.**

While it appears that our presentation was well received, no commitments were made at either of the meetings. **We will be pursuing follow ups with both ministries.**

**5. Coordinators Report.** Justin reported on the many funding areas being explored. Staffing challenges from last year and the same expected for this year. Discussion and suggestions were made to try to meet the challenges for 2020.

**6. AGM Planning:** Verner pointed out the lack of an AGM in 2019 and put forth this resolution: *Given that since 2012 our AGM has been held in the late Fall and given that we have been in violation of Article IV, 1 of Letters Patent 2001 which indicates that the AGM should be held no later than 6 months from the fiscal year end, be it resolved that as of 2020, FCBB will align the AGM date with Article IV, 1.*  
*To effect the transition, no AGM will be held for 2019 and AGM 2020 will be held in April.*  
Moved by Robbie Shaw, and seconded by Michael Hewitt.....Motion carried.

**7. Board Composition and Renewal Discussion** was held with regards to the need for board gender balance and the need for new faces on the board. Brainstorming took place on these issues and suggestions were made as to how to advertise or make known to the public. Newsletters, Facebook, and other social media, and face to face recruitment options were noted.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30...**Moved by Gordie and seconded by Franklin  
**Minutes prepared** by Gerry and Verner