

# Minutes Friends of Covehead Brackley Bays Board Meeting

16 June 2020

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[www.stanhopecovehead.pe.ca](http://www.stanhopecovehead.pe.ca)

[www.fcbbwatershed.ca](http://www.fcbbwatershed.ca)

**Present: Directors:** Franklin MacDonald, Gordie MacCallum, Barry Cudmore, Gerry Lajeunesse, Verner Smitheram, Troy MacKenzie, and FCBB Coordinator, Justin Walsh.

**Regrets:** Emily VanToever. Robbie Shaw, Jim Jenkins,

**Chair Verner called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.**

**1. Opening Comments:** Verner welcomed the group and noted that we were observing Covid-19 conditions requiring 2 metre distancing and a 10 person limit. He reported on the following...

- a) ***The FCBB -April 2020 Activity Report & Survey Response*** –served as a record of our activities since our last meeting on February 4th after which pandemic conditions prevented group meetings.
- b) ***Follow-up presentations RE Cass Project to PEI Government.*** Though we have made several attempts to connect by phone, email and letter with MLA Hon. Bloyce Thompson about his stance concerning our presentation to him on the Cass’s Pond project on 16 January, we have yet to hear any response from the Minister or his staff. [See our website [www.fcbbwatershed.ca](http://www.fcbbwatershed.ca) for a summary of our presentation.]

After a recent discussion about this situation with Mayor Gerard Watts, he has offered to invite us to the next **Council** meeting with MLA Thompson to air our concerns.

- c) ***We now have a new Estuary Watcher: Sarah Jones*** is a graduate of the University of Prince Edward Island, with a major in biology. She has studied riparian areas throughout Prince Edward Island, and has performed biodiversity studies and worked as part of the logistics crew in northern Alberta. In her spare time she enjoys volunteering for the Canadian Red Cross and cycling in the woods. As an Estuary Watcher, Sarah will be monitoring the Brackley Bay.
- d) ***The P.E.I. Estuary Watch Program*** is a water quality monitoring program for bays and estuaries of PEI. In this program, volunteer “Estuary Watchers” make daily observations of water quality.

The P.E.I. Estuary Watch Program is useful because it:

- Is a low-cost method of monitoring estuaries;
  - Can be used to track the location, timing and duration of anoxic events;
  - Can be used to make comparison to future water quality or to see how water quality is changing in an estuary over time; and
  - Raises interest and awareness of water quality in the local estuary.
- e) ***Shoreline Cleanup May 2020.*** A call for resident participation resulted in a very effective shoreline clean-up along the most of the Covehead and Brackley Bays. In addition many of the roadways in Stanhope and MacMillan Point were included in the spring cleanup. See **Appendix A** for a list of what was accomplished and by whom.
  - f) ***Community Tree Planting.*** We have gladly agreed to plant 50 trees on behalf of the Rural Municipality of North Shore.

**2. Minutes of 4 February 2020** were reviewed by Barry. Moved by Barry and seconded by Troy that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried. **Note:** Minutes are on our website [www.fcbbwatershed.ca](http://www.fcbbwatershed.ca) under About Us.

**3. Treasurer's Report** –Gerry gave the treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$25,602 on 16 June. The "rainy day" reserve fund has been supplemented with a transfer of \$10,000 from the operating account to replace the funds taken from that account last year to purchase our truck.

The watershed received \$24,631 on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 from the province's basic support fund, the Watershed Management Fund (WMF) which represents 80% of the funds they will grant us this year. Gerry moved the financial report, seconded by Gordie. Motion carried.

**4. Cass Pond Project Update** –In his report Justin provided more information relating to Cass's Pond. A channel on the east side of the pond is developing, land along the bank is stabilizing, algae growth is likely under control and there should be a better water exchange. He has connected with officials at the Department of Highways to see if the department will make some changes to improve the safety of the entrance to the community area off highway 6.

*Comments re Cass' Pond Project:* Troy and Franklin suggested that Facebook might be an effective media for informing people about the need for the Cass's Pond project to proceed. The board also encouraged us to contact Vanco Farms about taking a few loads of sediment from Cass's Pond to see what effect the soil would have on crops. We are waiting for results from the provincial lab about the latest soil samples taken by Justin. (Also see item 1 b) above.)

**NOTE: This was published in the North Shore Newsletter 16 June 2020**

### **Cass's Pond**

The Friends of Covehead and Brackley Bay (FCBB), along with stakeholders of the community and Council, continue to seek financial support to complete the revitalization of the pond. This is a work in progress which, like many projects, is stalled in this time of the pandemic. If support for the restoration of this once-prominent community asset is not in place this field season, the newly rebuilt fishway will be opened to bring the pond back to its previous water level.

While the delay is disappointing, there are many positive habitat benefits produced by the current drawing down of the pond, which is a regular practice in our province. The benefits include, but are not limited to: the creation of a deeper fish migration channel, improved flow rates, and better water exchange. This deeper channel will also reduce aquatic species' vulnerability to predation and lower water temperatures thus increasing dissolved oxygen content, and reducing the excessive pond weed and algae populations. Please go to the website of [Friends of Covehead and Brackley Bay](#) for updates, information about the planned process, and the environmental benefits of the Cass's Pond Project.

**5. Coordinator Report:** Justin is educating staff on the rules to be followed re COVID-19. A crew of two have been hired and they are returnees. Activities will have clear goals and objectives. Sea lettuce harvest will expand from last year. Green crab numbers in the bay will be monitored. The crew will attempt to remove hazardous and overhanging trees from the shorelines in our bays.

**6. Bay Shoreline Preservation Initiative -hazard trees.** Verner reported that on 3 June he invited *Dale Thompson*, PEI Environmental Assessment Officer to view his photos of shoreline erosion on the bays. These focussed on *hazard trees* overhanging or on the slopes. These are mature trees that are threatening to fall and rip large chunks of the banks. Hurricane Dorian brought many of these down. As a protective measure, they should be cut before they fall and do their damage. The Department will issue permits for such cases. However, each lot owner must apply separately and be verified.

In response to our intention to encourage more owners to deal with hazard trees by reducing the paperwork, Dale has invited FCBB to submit a **Watercourse, Wetland and Buffer Zone Activity Permit Application**. The Department should be able to issue a single permit to FCBB to cover off work on more than one property provided we follow guidelines about hazard trees in riparian zones.

**Motion:** It was moved that FCBB should apply for a **Watercourse, Wetland and Buffer Zone Activity Permit**. Troy moved and Gerry seconded. Motion carried

**7. Preparation of AGM 2020:** At the 4 February meeting a 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.

Verner stressed the need for new members for the board. Emily has resigned because of other commitments thus we now have two vacancies. Verner stated that he has been Co-Chair or Chair since 2007 that it is clearly time for a change and that he will be leaving the Chair after the next AGM. However, he is prepared to provide support as we transition as requested by any successor.

Board members were encouraged to consider their roles in the next period and to bring forward possible new names for the board.

It was suggested that we hold the next AGM when Covid-19 rules allow for larger gatherings so the public can be invited as usual.

**Gerry moved for adjournment at 8:15 pm**

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**Minutes prepared by Barry and Verner**

**APPENDIX 1: BELOW**

**SHORELINE AND ROADSIDE CLEANUP MAY 2020**

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**STANHOPE AREA**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Friends of Covehead and Brackley Bays, a big shout of THANKS to all you residents of STANHOPE for your vigorous contribution to our Annual Shoreline Cleanup. Your community spirit and environmental concerns are much appreciated. Below is the detailed list of participants and the areas covered by your group as contacted by your friend and FCBB Director Gerry Lajeunesse...

Marie McAulay.....Doc Soper and Bayshore road.  
Don and Mary Roberts.....the same road that Gordie Ellis lives on.  
Fred LaFlamme....Seamans Rd. fm Bayshore road to Ross Lane & Allen Court to Mackay Lane.  
Beryl MacMillan....Bayshore road and Doc Soper area.  
Dave and Val Owen..3424 Bayshore rd. to Lighthouse Point Rd.  
Mike and Connie Egan...Bayshore road from their house to Warren Lane.  
Jack and Pat MacIssac and other neighbors....from the point to MacMillan Lane.  
Gerry and Joanne ...both sides of MacMillan Lane.  
Ken and Heather Hubley.. Bayshore road near their home.  
Parker and Heather Grimmer and Debbie Buchanan... the area of Georges Lane and the Bayshore Road, and the area of the old Stanhope Beach Resort.

**MACMILLAN POINT**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of FCBB, A BIG THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the MACMILLAN POINT shoreline and roadside clean up  
Fiona Walton and Sandy MacAuley -MacMillan Point Shore  
Pam and Dana Hart and Rosemary Turner-Brackley Bay East  
Luanne Gallant and Lorraine Matheson -Wild Duck Cove Road  
Nancy Smitheram and Gloria Weatherbie-MacMillan Point and McLaughlan Roads  
Verner Smitheram -South Shore Covehead Bay to Bay vista Road  
Plus a number of other residents who did areas near their homes but did not report.