



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation
held Wednesday, March 11, 2020, Gillies Lake Office, 100 Lakeshore Rd.,
Timmins, ON**

Present: Sylvie Côté, Mark Joron, Michèle Lepage, Crystal Percival, Kees Pols, Scott Tam, Brenda Torresan, David Vallier, Rock Whissell, Jennifer Bonsall, Cassie Campsall, Paula Roy

Regrets: Claude Beaudin, Joy Galloway, Andrea Griener, Larry Robichaud, Sue Sorochan, Lauren Thayer

Call to Order: M. Joron called the meeting to order

Additions to the Agenda:

Pollinator Hotel
Water Hike
Trail Suggestions

Approval of Previous Minutes

*Proposed by: Kees Pols
Seconded by: Scott Tam*

THAT the Minutes of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

March 11, 2020

Carried

New Business

1) Survey Review

J. Bonsall provided a review of the responses received in the Wintergreen Survey on goals and priorities. The information will be compiled in preparation for a planning session.

Action: D. Vallier will discuss the possibility of having A. Griener assist with a planning exercise.

2) Water Hike

Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed (FPRW) is working with Lake Shore Gold to supply kayaks and canoes for those wishing to attend the water hike. Once the Wintergreen Fall Hiking Day date is confirmed, FPRW will book a late September date for their Water Hike.

Action: M. Joron will confirm fall hike date and advise B. Torresan.

3) Pollinator Hotel

One survey suggestion received was to create pollinator hotels. C. Percival explained what they are, and how they could become a community project. In years past, Wintergreen held birdhouse building contests and auctions. The same idea could be done with pollinator hotels now that Timmins is designated as a Bee City.

Action: C. Percival will discuss the idea at the next Bee City meeting. Further discussion among the group is required.

4) Trail Suggestions

A question was raised about the off-leash dogs using the on-leash trail sections at Hersey Lake. D. Vallier explained that the *Conservation Authority Act* prohibits off-leash dogs in conservation authority owned property. Rainbow Loop is not owned by the CA, but is maintained by the CA through a trail agreement with the property owner. As such, it is the only area where dogs can be off leash. Enforcement efforts have begun with an MRCA Regulations Officer in place. A fee for use at Hersey Lake was also discussed. D. Vallier noted that the cost of implementing an electronic program is prohibitive and the capacity for monitoring such a program effectively is not available.

Action: The MRCA will be doing a media blitz to remind park users about the regulations and advising the public of the enforcement taking place.

Previous Business

5) Sportsman Show

A custom walking pole will be donated as a prize draw. Additional donations are still required for draw prizes. Volunteers are still needed to sign up for booth monitoring times. A request was received to have something that identifies Wintergreen members (e.g., shirts, vests).

Action: Confirmation at the next meeting of ballot questions, display information and draw prizes. J. Bonsall will distribute the sign-up sheet for members to confirm their available times. J. Bonsall will look into shirt options.

6) Children's Water Festival 2020

Registration packages were sent out. Four schools have already signed up. Four sessions are able to accommodate up to 1,000 students. A sponsorship guide will be sent to potential donors this week. Existing funds are being used to make repairs to the activity centres. Additional funds will be required to provide bus transportation for attending schools. An email will be sent to members to recruit volunteers for the events.

Action: C. Percival to follow up regarding financial request to Wintergreen and volunteer recruitment.

7) Winter Hiking Day – February 22, 2020

The event hosted over 90 participants. Presentations from Timmins Porcupine Search and Rescue, Timmins Fur Council and Sewn Home were well received. Pictures are posted on website and social media. The donation box allowed us to raise \$66 for our fund.

Spring Hike date and location were discussed. May 30, 2020 is confirmed for the Spring Hike and Potvin Chutes is to be discussed as a location option. Bus transportation can be arranged. Historical information about the site will be required.

8) Fall Trip 2020

Mattagami First Nation is amicable to having the hikers stop there. Discussions with them will continue as their plans progress. Registration will be required for participants; the number will be determined after discussion with MFN. One bus will be reserved to transport hikers.

Action: M. Joron will confirm pow-wow date so we can begin planning.

9) Wintergreen Guidelines

K. Pols is working on a draft document and will meet with those interested in participating in guideline development over the next few weeks.

Action: K. Pols to confirm a date and time. J. Bonsall will book the MRCA boardroom for meetings. Any interested members are to contact K. Pols.

10) Membership Contact List

Volunteer information updates are required annually.

Action: J. Bonsall will follow up with those who have not yet provided contact information.

11) Birding Hikes

R. Fillion has provided dates during the last week of May and suggested having hikes at Gillies as well as Porcupine Lake in conjunction with Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed. Work continues on the development of the bird checklist.

Action: J. Bonsall will work with R. Fillion to promote the birding walks.

Parking Lot

12) Fundraising Initiatives

Brief discussion about having future sponsorships be time limited rather than permanent recognition

13) Wintergreen Coordinator/Lead

14) Membership Recruitment

15) Bat/Swallow Boxes

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.