



Minutes of the Meeting of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation held on Monday, March 8, 2021, via ZOOM meeting, Timmins, ON

Present: Sylvie Côté, Mark Joron, Michèle Lepage, Crystal Percival, Scott Tam, David Vallier, Rock Whissell, Joy Galloway, Jennifer Bonsall, Claude Beaudin, Kees Pols

Regrets:

1.0 Call to Order: M. Joron called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to our first video meeting.

2.0 Additions to the Agenda: Memorial Donations

3.0 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 September 9, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

March 9, 2021

Carried

4.0 Previous Business

a) Trail User Survey

Results from the 2020 Trail User Survey indicated some clear areas where we can improve. Recommendations were for better signage, more brushing, resurfacing of certain areas, neighbourhood connections, more rest areas and more dog enforcement. The full results will be distributed to members.

Action: J Bonsall to distribute Trail Survey responses

b) Archie's Rock

Last fall the road sign was broken. It appeared to have been driven into, snapping the 8x8 posts. Mark Joron and Larry Robichaud were able to complete repairs to the sign using steel supports. It was noted that the trail around Archie's Rock needs brushing and some of the signage is missing.

Action: K. Pols will look at getting a group together in late spring to clear the trail and replace missing signage

c) Wintergreen Guidelines

K. Pols and J. Galloway have reviewed the comments received from the first draft and made the revisions. A second draft will be circulated to the membership for review so that they can be finalized at the next meeting.

Action: J. Bonsall to distribute the second draft of the Wintergreen Member Guidelines.

5.0 New Business

a) Resignation

Lauren Thayer has submitted her resignation; her new employment schedule does not allow her the time to contribute fully to Wintergreen.

Action: None

b) Swallow Boxes / Butterfly Houses

EACOM Timber Corporation has provided a \$1,000 donation for the supplies required to build the swallow boxes and butterfly houses. TH&VS have already completed 30 swallow boxes and this donation reimburses Wintergreen for the supply costs which were provided to the school last fall. O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School will be completing the butterfly boxes this spring.

Proposed by: Claude Beaudin

Secoded by: Michèle Lepage

THAT the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation provide \$500 to O’Gorman Intermediate Catholic School to purchase the supplies needed to complete 25 butterfly houses.

March 9, 2021

Carried

Action: M. Joron and C. Percival will work together on PR for this EACOM/ Wintergreen/OICS/THVS collaboration.

c) Lake Shore Gold Corp. Donation

Lake Shore Gold Corp has provided a donation for trail work on Golden Springs, Lion’s Walk and Bridge to Bridge Trails. Funds are to be used for trail material, signage, bear bins and maintenance work.

Proposed by: Joy Galloway

Secoded by: Michèle Lepage

THAT the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation authorizes the MRCA General Manager to utilize the \$29,600 received from Lake Shore Gold Corp. to support the intended purposes on Golden Springs Trail, Lion’s Walk Trail and Bridge to Bridge Trail.

March 9, 2021

Carried

Action: J. Bonsall will work with Lake Shore Gold on donor recognition in the early summer when work begins.

d) Glencore-Kidd Operations Donation

D. Yaschyshyn applied for, and received, a donation of \$800 through the Glencore-Kidd Operations Community Engagement Recognition Program. This donation is to be used for recreational trail maintenance and signage.

*Proposed by: Joy Galloway
Seconded by: Michèle Lepage*

THAT the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation authorizes the MRCA General Manager to utilize the \$800 received from Glencore-Kidd Operations to support the intended purposes of trail maintenance and signage.

March 9, 2021

Carried

e) Current Funding Applications

The MRCA staff have submitted several applications for funding on behalf on Wintergreen. The Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, if received, would require contracting out the brushing and resurfacing work required on the trails. We would also be adding trail signage and bear bins. These applications are an area where a subcommittee could continue researching and applying for funding, in particular for trail revitalization, with support from the MRCA.

Action: M. Lepage will follow up with a contact about application opportunities for the signage project.

f) 2021 Events

Hiking Events—Decision was made to wait until fall before we plan our larger hiking event.

Migratory Bird Event—These events are ideal in smaller groups. Registration would be required and all participants will abide by public health safety guidelines.

Action: J Bonsall will contact Roxanne Filion to see if she is interested in leading spring birding hikes.

Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed—This group is planning a variety of summer activities where there may be an opportunity for Wintergreen involvement.

Weekend Trail Clean Up—Host a Spring Trail Clean Up Activity where groups take on a specific section of trail and complete a clean up. Arrange media coverage and publicly thank the members of the community who are regularly cleaning up on the trails.

Action: K. Pols will spearhead this event.

Gillies Lake Garden Group—The group is planning on continuing the work on the garden at Gillies Lake once the snow is melted.

g) Memorial Donations

Wintergreen offers benches and picnic tables as a memorial donation option. The cost of building and installing a bench is now up to \$1,000. Picnic tables are on hold until we can find a supplier that is affordable. The one-time fee for a lifetime installation provides no revenue for maintenance work required over the years. A 10-year dedication limit was agreed to for bench purchases going forward. After 10 years, the original purchaser will have the option to renew their dedication plaque and if they are not interested, or cannot be contacted, the bench will be available for dedication by someone else.

h) Social Media Engagement

S. Tam requested that the statistics from our social media engagement be provided at the next meeting.

Action: J Bonsall will prepare the requested information.

6.0 Parking Lot

a) Fundraising Initiatives

Michèle provided links to ideas for promotion of general donations. Donations will be promoted at events throughout the year.

b) Membership Recruitment

Wintergreen is looking for both members to be a part of the planning and organization of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation. Event volunteers are required for the events that we will be hosting throughout the year.

R. Whissell noted that there will be a volunteer table at the fall fair sponsored by the Timmins Gaming Association. If Wintergreen is interested they would be able to use the table for promotion and volunteer recruitment.

7.0 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

8.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.