



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation
held Wednesday, September 9, 2020, Gillies Lake Office, 100 Lakeshore Rd.,
Timmins, ON**

Present: Sylvie Côté, Mark Joron, Michèle Lepage, Crystal Percival, Scott Tam, David Vallier, Rock Whissell, Joy Galloway, Larry Robichaud, Jessica Kim, David Yaschychyn, Jennifer Bonsall

Regrets: Kees Pols, Brenda Torresan, Claude Beaudin

Call to Order: M. Joron called the meeting to order and welcomed J. Kim from ESC Thériault.

Additions to the Agenda: None

Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed by: Scott Tam

Seconded by: Joy Galloway

THAT the Minutes of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation Regular Meeting held on March 11, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

September 9, 2020

Carried

New Business

1) Trail User Surveys

The MRCA launched a survey to get feedback from the community on their experiences using the trail system. To date approximately 100 responses have been received. The results of the survey will be shared with Wintergreen to help determine potential projects.

Action: All members are requested to share the survey link with anyone possible.

2) Wintergreen Strategic Planning Survey

The results from the members' survey that was completed in early 2020 have been compiled and distributed to members. Next steps in the strategic planning exercise will be to choose 3 high level goals for Wintergreen to focus on over the next few years. After that, we will identify projects that align with those goals. Discussion followed about the importance of fundraising being one of the key goals since no projects can take place without funds.

Action: J. Bonsall will resend the survey summary as well as the MRCA goals relating to Wintergreen's shared interest in "Connecting People to Nature". All members are asked to review the details in the summary and be prepared for a discussion at the next meeting that will determine the 3 high level goals we would like to focus on. You may also email your choices to J. Bonsall ahead of the next meeting.

3) Archie's Rock Signage

Wintergreen was a key partner in the installation of the original signage at Archie's Rock. The road sign has been damaged. We need to determine the extent of the damage and what repairs would be

required.

Action: D. Yaschychyn will check the damage to the site and advise.

4) Anti-hunger / Timmins Community Gardens / Pollinator Gardens

The community garden has created a pollinator garden and are looking for local and sustainable seeds to add. The potential for a larger partnership between the library's seed program, Bee City, Gillies Lake gardeners, Bannerman Park gardeners, Science Timmins and the Farmer's Market was discussed.

Action: C. Percival will provide J. Galloway with gardener's contact information to discuss seed sharing options.

Previous Business

5) Cancelled Events

The Sportsman Show, Children's Water Festival and Birding Hikes have all been cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19. Wintergreen did not register for Welcome to Timmins because there was no spokesperson available to take on the project. Participation at these events will be planned again for 2021. Fall Fair may also be added as a promotional venue for 2021.

6) Fall Hiking Day

Since large group gatherings are still restricted and transportation to a hiking site is not possible this year, a virtual hike /contest will be planned. Promotion will have participants walk all trails and take selfies with identifiable natural features then submit their photos with a hashtag. It will run through October so that fall colours can be featured.

Action: C. Percival and J. Bonsall will follow up with membership with hike ideas. Members are asked to email any suggestions to them.

7) Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed Water Event

Deferred.

8) Membership Contact List

All members are registered.

Action: All members are asked to notify J. Bonsall if contact information changes.

9) Wintergreen Guidelines

Deferred.

10) Trail Counters

The 3 new counters purchase last year have been installed which gives us coverage of all trails. The MRCA would like to continue adding counters when possible to allow better coverage where there are multiple access points. Recommendation was received to hold a media event promoting the increased usage of trail throughout 2020.

Action: M. Lepage, J. Kim and J. Bonsall will meet to plan media release.

Parking Lot

11) Fundraising Initiatives

12) Wintergreen Coordinator/Lead

13) Membership Recruitment

14) Bat/Swallow Boxes

MRCA will contact intermediate schools to determine potential partnership in building swallow houses.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.