



Minutes of the Meeting of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, via ZOOM meeting, Timmins, ON

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

Regrets: Sylvie Côté

1.0 Call to Order: M. Joron called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2.0 Additions to the Agenda: Member Resignation

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 April 14, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

May 12, 2021

Carried

4.0 Previous Business

a) Migratory Bird Event

We provided bird posters to the library for anyone who would like to pick them up after the zoom event this evening. They will also share Wintergreen's contact information for posters and checklists once they are available.

Spring hike promotion is on hold due to public gathering restrictions. We will focus on a fall migratory birding hike.

Action: None

b) Birding Checklists

Quotes for checklists were presented. Discussion took place about the value of printing a bilingual checklist so they are available to all, including French schools. With the difference in size of the booklet and the minimal difference in cost for production, it was agreed that a bilingual document will be prepared. The printing cost for 250 copies is \$432.00 +tax. A silent donor has offered to cover up to \$500 of the printing costs. Recommendation was also received to have the checklist available online so that it can be kept current at all times.

Proposed by: Kees Pols

Seconded by: Joy Galloway

THAT the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation will proceed with the printing of 250 copies of a bilingual birding checklist using funds provided by a silent sponsor.

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Carried

Action: M. Joron to provide the final document to J Bonsall for printing. K. Pols to follow up with sponsor. J Bonsall will add checklist information to the Wintergreen website.

c) Weekend Trail Clean-up Update

Trails were cleaned up along Bridge to Bridge, Scout Rock, Hersey Lake, and Bart Thomson. The trails appear to be in good shape and the event was covered well by the local media.

Action: None

d) Wintergreen Scholarship Review Committee

Scholarship information was distributed to all school guidance counsellors in April. No applications have been received to date. Social media promotions will continue. M. LePage, J. Galloway, S. Tam and K. Pols agreed to review applications after the June 4 deadline.

Action: None

e) Membership recruitment

The guidelines note that membership should consist of between 12-14 members. Currently we have 11. Looking for at least 2 new members who will be actively engaged in fundraising and community activities. All members are asked to bring recommendations to the group. Will be looking for an engaged student as well. The Member Information Handbook is finalized and available on the website to share with potential recruits.

Action: Everyone try to think of new members.

f) Gillies Lake Gardens—Water

S. Tam provided an update on the proposed water line. This recommendation is cost prohibitive (~\$25,000) since the line has to be below lake level. D. Vallier noted that the MRCA is purchasing a battery operated pressure washer for their maintenance activities. Staff will try to draw water from the lake to see if it would work for the garden purpose. A rain barrel was proposed – this would only be an option if we have enough precipitation over the summer to keep it full. R. Whissell suggested a submersible pump.

Action: R. Whissell to follow up with S. Tam about potential options. All members to give thought to possible solutions for the watering concern.

g) Swallow Boxes and Butterfly Houses - Update

Through the donation from EACOM, TH&VS's swallow houses have all been installed and are very active. OICS build 24 butterfly houses and they are being painted by the Porcupine Art Club and other local artists. They will be used in community gardens and donated for prizes during Bee City's pollinator week contests. A social media series will be promoted during pollinator week highlighting the partnerships and artists.

Action: None

h) Wintergreen Paraphernalia

Pricing for shirts for the Wintergreen members to wear when they are participating in events are: t-shirts \$17/each and golf shirts \$35/each. Styles and colour choices will be sent via email to determine what the majority of members would like to have.

Action: All members are to reply to J. Bonsall with their preference in member shirts. We will go with the majority vote.

A link to a site for swag purchase will be distributed via email. There are 1000's of available items with varied price ranges.

Action: All members are to review the site and send giveaway ideas to J. Bonsall.

M. Joron noted that the pocket trail guides were well received as a give-away during the clean up event. These could be distributed by all members wherever possible to use up the current stock. A revision will be necessary if we choose to reprint.

5.0 New Business

i) Great Canadian Giving Challenge

M. LePage introduced the Canada Helps Great Canadian Giving Challenge where each dollar donated in June through Canada Helps is an entry for your charity to win \$20,000. A fundraising campaign highlighting the year 1979, which was when the Timmins Recreational Trail Committee first began trail development, was discussed. (i.e. donate \$19.79 or \$197.90 to the trails that have been used since 1979) Promotion should begin as soon as possible through the media as well as visually on the trails including what trail project the funding would be used for.

Action: M. Lepage and K. Pols will meet to begin planning. Any others interested in assisting with planning should contact them asap.

j) Members Webpage

The link for the private members webpage was distributed prior to the meeting. In addition to agenda, minutes, by-laws and the handbook, a recommendation was received to include member contact information.

Action: All members are asked to send J. Bonsall any request for additions to either the member page or any of the other Wintergreen pages.

k) MRCA Charitable Status

D. Vallier noted that the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority is investigating registration for charitable status. Of 36 conservation authorities in Ontario, MRCA is the only one not a registered charity. Two-thirds of the authorities also have associated foundations that they work closely with. This will allow the MRCA to apply for funding that is based on operating budgets and that requires audited financial statements. It also alleviates the challenge of purchasing assets with donated funds. This move is not intended to replace the relationship between Wintergreen and the MRCA.

Action: None

l) Member Resignation

D. Yaschyshyn has submitted his resignation from Wintergreen after 9.5 years of membership due to relocation from the City of Timmins. His contributions to Wintergreen will be missed. Recommendation was received to see if he knows of anyone within his organization who may be interested in replacing him.

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

THAT the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation provide funds for a gift to thank Mr. David Yaschyshyn for his years of service.

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Carried

Action: D. Vallier will follow up with D. Yaschyshyn.

6.0 Parking Lot

a) Fundraising

7.0 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 9, 2021

8.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.