



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation
held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, via ZOOM meeting, Timmins, ON**

Present: Claude Beaudin, Joy Galloway, Kees Pols, Mark Joron, Michèle Lepage, Scott Tam (early departure), Jennifer Bonsall

Regrets: Brenda Torresan, Jim Duncan, Laurent Robichaud, Sue Sorochan, Sylvie Côté, Crystal Percival, David Vallier, Rock Whissell

Guests : Cameron Grant, Chamber

1.0 Call to Order: M. Joron called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2.0 Additions to the Agenda: Fall Hiking Day, Birding Hike

3.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

*Proposed by: Joy Galloway
Seconded by: Kees Pols*

THAT the Minutes of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation Regular Meeting held on July 14, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

September 8, 2021

Carried

4.0 Presentations

Cameron Grant from the Timmins Chamber provided a presentation reviewing the potential benefits of becoming a member of the Chamber. Annual fee is \$245 with total costs in first year, including administration fee and tax is \$333.35.

5.0 Elections

*Proposed by: Scott Tam
Seconded by: Michèle Lepage*

THAT the current Directors maintain their positions until January 2022.

September 8, 2021

Carried

6.0 Previous Business

a) Gillies Lake Garden Watering

The required pump and attachments have been purchased. R. Whissel has completed a site visit to determine what is required. Currently waiting for staff availability for installation.

Action: None

b) Fundraising Committee

J. Galloway began discussions with a marketing specialist. K. Pols, M. Lepage and J. Galloway will meet to discuss next steps including how to approach potential donors, how are we going to brand ourselves and the campaign, and determine tasks for the membership to complete. Suggestion was received to provide posted updates on trails about the number of people using that trail during the month.

Action: K. Pols, M. Lepage and J. Galloway to meet. MRCA to provide priority projects planned for 2022.

5.0 New Business

a) Welcome to Timmins Update

M. Joron and J. Galloway provided a summary of the feedback received at Welcome to Timmins Night.

- People were very surprised to discover who maintains the trails in the community.
- There was good interest in the pocket trail guides and birding checklists.
- Cash donations were received.
- Our goals of providing information and environmental awareness activities can be improved upon.
- Five people provided their contact information to volunteer with Wintergreen – not interested in meetings, but more in actual volunteering opportunities.
- As a membership, there is a need to find educational / outreach activities that will engage volunteer participation and get our name out in the community.

Action: J Bonsall will follow up with volunteers to determine their interest in participating in an upcoming meeting to learn more about the group.

b) Chamber Membership

Members in attendance agreed that membership in the Chamber would allow Wintergreen to connect with community businesses that are interested in supporting our programs. An email motion will be circulated with the minutes since quorum was not present at the meeting.

Action: J Bonsall will include the Chamber link and fees in an email resolution.

c) CAA changes and MRCA impact

An overview was provided of the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. Those changes include clear ministry-provided directives regarding governance, transparency and mandatory activities. Recreational activities are deemed non-mandatory under the provincial transfer payment (the MNRF financial contribution to the Conservation Authority). The current understanding is that any recreation activities can continue through

Memorandums of Understanding with member municipalities. Through the close relationship between the MRCA and City of Timmins, there are no expected changes to our current activities.

d) National Forest Week 2021

The Canadian Institute of Forestry is coordinating National Forest Week (September 19-25, 2021). It is too late to have a proclamation declared for 2021, but it is recommended that this be included in 2022 activities. M. Joron noted that EACOM has several community forestry initiatives throughout the year that can be highlighted by Wintergreen. There is also Hiking Week, Trails Week, Arbor Day and several others that fit well with Wintergreen's goals and can be used for promotion of Wintergreen activities.

e) Fall Hike

A Fall Hiking Day will be hosted at Hersey Lake this year since busing is not feasible with COVID restrictions. The date will be set for Sunday, October 17, 2021. Several guides will be required to accommodate smaller groups of hikers.

Action: J Bonsall will contact the Porcupine Health Unit about event restrictions and draft a promotional poster for the event.

f) Birding Hikes

Roxane Filion proposed four (4) dates for birding hikes throughout the month of September. It will be promoted as a Wintergreen event with a guest guide. Promotion will take place through social media only, since only six (6) participants will be in each group.

Action: J Bonsall to confirm dates with R. Filion and begin promotion.

6.0 Parking Lot

a) Wintergreen Member T-shirts

New quotes will be requested and t-shirts with the Wintergreen logo will be ordered for members to wear when participating in the Wintergreen hosted events. For clarification, these are not going to be sold or available as giveaways, but will be solely for the use of current members.

7.0 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 13, 2021

8.0 Adjournment

Proposed by: Kees Pols

THAT the meeting adjourn at 5:15 p.m.

September 8, 2021

Carried