



Minutes of the Meeting of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation held Tuesday, February 18, 2020, Gillies Lake Office, 100 Lakeshore Rd., Timmins, ON

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

Regrets: Andrea Griener, Brenda Torresan, Claude Beaudin, Jim Duncan, Lauren Thayer, Larry Robichaud, Sylvie Côté

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

Additions to the Agenda: None

Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed by: Kees Pols

Seconded by: Michèle Lepage

THAT the Minutes of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation Regular Meeting held on January 8, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

February 18, 2020

Carried

New Business

1) Sportsman Show

Registration is open for the Sportsman Show taking place April 25-26, 2020. Two volunteers would be required for each of the eight shifts of 2–2.5 hours. Cost of a booth is \$425.00 +HST. Registration deadline is March 1, 2020.

Proposed by: Joy Galloway

Seconded by: Kees Pols

THAT the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation commits \$480.25 to book a single booth at the Schumacher Lions Club Sportsman Show taking place on April 25-26, 2020.

February 18, 2020

Carried

Last year's bike draw ballots acquired public recommendations about trails. The majority of recommendations received were unrealistic. Show recommendations for this year include:

- Draw for handheld GPS, walking stick, walking poles or snowshoes.
- Ballot questions to include yes or no answers (i.e. have you used this trail – check box of trail names? Would you contribute an annual donation to the trails in Timmins?)
- Have a donation jar available at the show.
- Create a display of "Fun Facts" about Wintergreen (i.e. how many people walk around Gillies Lake every year? How many km of trails are maintained by the

MRCA?)

Action: J. Bonsall will complete registration package. All members to bring ideas for prizes, fun facts and ballot questions to our next meeting.

2) Children's Water Festival 2020

The curriculum linked, bilingual, interactive water education program will be offered to schools this May 26-27 at the Mountjoy Arena. If the current labour dispute prohibits schools from participating, a public event will be held on May 29-31. The Water Festival Committee is recruiting volunteers and financial donations.

Action: A Wintergreen financial donation will be discussed at the next meeting. Anyone interested in volunteering is to contact C. Percival.

3) Membership Contact List

Volunteer information updates are required annually.

Action: All members are to ensure that they update their contact information on file with J. Bonsall.

4) Survey Review

To date, eight members have completed the survey. A reminder email will be sent out and results will be presented at the next meeting.

Action: J. Bonsall to send out a reminder with the survey link. All members are to complete the survey if they have not already done so.

5) Birding Hikes

With the intention of increasing our educational hike opportunities, a local birding enthusiast (R. Fillion) is interested in collaborating with Wintergreen to offer introductory birding walks at Gillies Lake. She proposed two weekday and one weekend hike with a maximum of eight participants in each between May 27 and June 3. Registration will take place through our office and promotion at the Sportsman Show will encourage participation. M. Joron and R. Fillion are updating the outdated "Birds of Timmins Checklist" and hope to have it ready for this birding event.

Action: J. Bonsall will follow up with R. Fillion to plan the event dates. M. Joron will continue to update the checklist. A Wintergreen financial contribution to the costs of printing the checklists will be discussed at the next meeting.

Previous Business

6) Winter Hiking Day – February 22, 2020

The day's schedule and set up were reviewed. With the favourable weather forecast, car-pooling will be encouraged to help alleviate parking concerns. MRCA will look at the possibility of having the banks along the roadside pushed back to widen the road. Those who are attending can help by guiding parking.

Action: D. Vallier to contact City to see if road can be widened. J. Bonsall will pick up and serve refreshments.

7) Fall Trip 2020

Mattagami First Nation's pow wow dates have been set, but no communication has been received to date about the possibility of including this event as part of the fall hike.

Action: M. Joron will continue to try to reach someone from the Mattagami First Nation.

8) Membership Recruitment

An ESC Theriault teacher has provided 2 student names who are interested in participating. They were unable to attend this meeting due to prior commitments.

Action: J. Bonsall will follow up with students.

9) Wintergreen Guidelines

K. Pols will lead a small committee who will look after developing a Wintergreen Fund for Conservation guideline/orientation document. M. Lepage will participate. J. Galloway will participate if timing allows.

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.

Parking Lot

10) Fundraising Initiatives

Survey results will help Wintergreen develop an annual plan to guide what our priorities are and how much they will cost. From there a fundraising plan can be discussed.

Action: D. Vallier will follow up with MRCA Board Chair A. Griener to gauge her interest in assisting with guidance in prioritizing goals and objectives.

11) Wintergreen Coordinator/Lead

The group will continue to work towards committees who can take the lead in planned activities going forward.

12) Bat/Swallow Boxes

J. Lefebvre from the MRCA was approached regarding a possible partnership with NCDSB to build new or replace current bat boxes and swallow boxes. Members agree that this could be a good partnership to look into.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.