



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation held
Wednesday, January 8, 2020, Gillies Lake Office, 100 Lakeshore Rd.,
Timmins, ON**

Present: Claude Beaudin, Sylvie Côté, Jim Duncan, Mark Joron, Michèle Lepage, Crystal Percival, Kees Pols, Lauren Thayer, Brenda Torresan, David Vallier, David Yaschyshyn, Jennifer Bonsall

Regrets: Joy Galloway, Andrea Griener, Larry Robichaud, Sue Sorochan, Scott Tam

Call to Order: M. Joron called the meeting to order and round table introductions took place for the benefit of new members Brenda Torresan and Michèle Lepage.

Additions to the Agenda:

Christmas Bird Count
Wintergreen Guidelines

Approval of Previous Minutes

*Proposed by: David Yaschyshyn
Seconded by: Claude Beaudin*

*THAT the Minutes of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation Regular Meeting held on
December 11, 2019 be adopted as amended.*

January 8, 2020

Carried

New Business

1) Website Content

The new MRCA website will be launching shortly and Wintergreen content is being added. Current sections include: About Us, Donors, Donate Now, Events. There is also a volunteer sign up option for when we are recruiting volunteers. The following are requested additions:

- a member page for minutes, agendas, meeting dates and Wintergreen documents
- maps that are for sale through Wintergreen
- link from Tourism Timmins
- look at an option to sign up to receive Wintergreen information

It was also recommended to send the weblink directly to school science and phys. ed. teachers so they are aware of our site/content.

Action: J. Bonsall will update the content and send the weblink to everyone when the site is open to the public.

Previous Business

1) Wintergreen Credit Card

Following last meeting's approval for the credit card, TD Bank has set up a GIC (Term 1 year 60 days) at 1.86% interest as security for the credit card. Signatures are required for the card application and once completed, the card will remain at the MRCA office and be used for purchases required for our ongoing activities.

2) Winter Hiking Day – February 22, 2020

Timmins Porcupine Search and Rescue will present their winter survival skills. Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre will provide 30 pairs of snowshoes in varying sizes, instruction on their use and a healthy snack for participants. M. Joron will guide the longer hike, K. Pols will guide the shorter hike and L. Robichaud will guide the snowshoe portion. The Fur Council has not responded to a request to participate. David Lundberg has not responded to a request for a canvas warming tent. Hot beverages will be served at the event; promotion will include a request to bring your own re-useable mug. A donation box will be there along with cards indicating the online donation option.

Action: C. Percival will meet with guides to plan a schedule for the day and create the promotional materials.

Proposed by: Kees Pols

Seconded by: Claude Beaudin

THAT the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation will purchase two large thermoses of refreshments for the Winter Hike.

January 8, 2020

Carried

3) Fall Trip 2020

No information has been received yet about the Mattagami First Nation's pow wow dates.

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

4) Membership Recruitment

Welcome to B. Torresan and M. Lepage. There is still an interest in having youth input in the group.

Action: J. Bonsall will follow up with Eco-Thériault to check on their interest.

5) Christmas Bird Count

This year's bird count had 19 participants, one new species was added, and robins were seen at two count areas. Our area is up to 53 species.

Action: M. Joron will provide the count information to J. Bonsall to include in the Wintergreen Events section of the website.

6) Wintergreen Guidelines

A decision was made when the by-laws were revised to keep them simple and have a separate document for the ongoing organizational guidelines. J. Bonsall provided the historical information about what the Wintergreen Fund is along with guidance documents on creating a non-profit procedural manual and a volunteer handbook. Either option would be applicable to the required purpose.

Action: J. Bonsall will email the documents along with meeting minutes to members. All are to review and determine which option would be preferable. A smaller committee will be set up to create the guidelines.

7) Friends of the Porcupine River Watershed Water Event

B. Torresan suggested a potential partnership between Wintergreen and the FOPRW to host a 'water hike' for people to enjoy guided trip on the waterways such as Porcupine River. The idea was well received and further discussion will take place.

Parking Lot

1) Fundraising Initiatives

Discussion continued about fundraising goals. D. Vallier summarized the MRCA strategic plan themes and it was agreed that Wintergreen fits well with the overlying theme 'Connecting People to Nature'. Historically Wintergreen has supported education, events and awareness of trails and conservation areas. Further strategic planning is required for Wintergreen to determine key goals for the next few years. Once those goals are set, a fundraising plan will be put in place.

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.

Date of Next Meeting: Doodle Poll to follow

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.