



Minutes of the Meeting of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, via ZOOM meeting, Timmins, ON

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

Regrets: Brenda Torresan, Claude Beaudin, Laurent Robichaud, Scott Tam, Sue Sorochan, Sylvie Côté

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

2.0 Additions to the Agenda: Earl Miller Request, Boardwalk Light Plaques

3.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed by: Kees Pols

Seconded by: Joy Galloway

THAT the Minutes of the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation Regular Meeting held on September 8, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

October 13, 2021

Carried

4.0 Previous Business

a) Chamber Membership

The email resolution was passed approving membership to the Chamber. Registration will take place next week. M. Lepage will be the primary contact for the account. Chamber updates will be a standing agenda item. M Lepage or J. Galloway will provide Wintergreen with regular updates on activities and communications from the Chamber.

Action: J Bonsall to complete membership registration

b) Fall Hiking Day

Registrations are being received for the October 17, 2021 Fall Hiking Day and a media release was distributed today. Hike guides have been confirmed and volunteers for the event are in place. Hike routes and details of the day were discussed.

Action: None

c) Birding Hikes

Roxane had one participant for her fall migratory birdwatching walk, but they enjoyed their day and shared a variety of great pictures.

Action: None

- d) New volunteer signup
J Bonsall contacted the five individuals who noted their interest in volunteering with Wintergreen. Two have replied and will be joining us on Hiking Day to help out in any way that is needed.

Action: None

5.0 New Business

- a) Earl Miller Request

The Earl Miller school council is planning a spring outdoor hike and is looking for guides to provide information and education about plants, trees, animals, birds, etc. Discussion took place about their ideal proximity to Scout Rock Trail and the possibility of promoting bird feeding stations and a trail clean up through this event.

Action: C Percival will communicate with the school council and present additional information to members.

- b) Boardwalk Light Plaques

A request was received to replace a missing light donation recognition plaque along the Gillies Lake Boardwalk. Many others are damaged. Discussion took place about the ongoing costs of maintaining these one-time donation items. The replacement of the plaques is deferred until the Fundraising Committee can discuss other options.

D. Vallier noted that the donation recognition board near the Boardwalk has been temporarily removed and the area will have work completed to replace the rotten wood from the sign structure.

Action: Gillies Lake light donation recognition will be brought back to the membership for discussion at a later date.

- c) Goldcorp Canada-Newmont Porcupine Donation

A donation was received from Goldcorp for a variety of items. The MRCA is requesting access to those funds to go ahead with the improvements.

Proposed by: Kees Pols

Seconded by: Mark Joron

THAT the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation authorizes the MRCA General Manager to utilize the \$23,760 received from Goldcorp Newmont Porcupine to support the intended purposes of trail improvements, bear bins, trails counters and signage replacement.

October 13, 2021

Carried

D. Vallier also noted that he will be presenting a request for funding for trail signage to the Timmins Chamber: Chamber for Good committee this month.

D. Vallier provided an update to the progress on *Conservation Authorities Act* changes, including the recent revision that identifies trails and passive recreation as mandatory activities for Conservation Authorities. The current concern is that the revision only applies to trails and recreation on lands owned by the Conservation Authority. Any non-owned trails will continue only under agreement with the municipality and with continued community funding.

Discussion followed about the possibility of proposing a business case to the municipality to receive funds from the Municipal Accommodations Tax Fund, which allots 50% of funds to the municipality for upgrading tourism infrastructure.

d) Potential Wintergreen Intern

D. Vallier proposed a potential partnership between the MRCA and Wintergreen to obtain a marketing intern who could assist the MRCA with the marketing plans in place and take on a coordinator role for the Wintergreen Fund for Conservation. Members are in favour of researching this possibility to determine the costs that will be involved.

ACTION: D Vallier and J Bonsall to research options.

e) Bee City Update

Seed ball kits were very well received by the community. Ongoing project to create seed bookmarks, which include local bee information on the bookmark and a seed paper attachment for planting, needs input. Recommendation was received to contact the Porcupine Horticultural Society. Request was received to ensure that Wintergreen information is included on all items that receive funding from the organization.

Action: None

6.0 Parking Lot

7.0 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 10, 2021

8.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.