

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the WRTBWA
Held on September 16, 2020, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Present: John Hughes, Lowell Vessey, Ryan Winters, Sarah Wheatley, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Clare Martin, George Coade, Matt Steeves, Jeff Bysterveldt, Dwayne McNeill

Guests: Roger Townshend, Jay Carr, Patrick Lévêque, Megan Glover, Don Mazer, Barry Lazar, Jaycee Sabapathy.

Absent: Scott Stevens

1. Clare called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

2. Started with remarks from the Chair of the Board, Clare Martin

Clare welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting, including board members, staff, and supporters. She explained that we usually hold the AGM in May, but this year's meeting was delayed due to COVID-19. Clare introduced the board members and each member said hello. She also introduced our coordinator, Sarah Wheatley. Since Zoom was used for the meeting, Clare asked participants to raise their hand to ask a question. Clare mentioned there were new nominees for the board elections.

3. AGM minutes from 2019

Sarah read the AGM minutes from 2019. No changes or corrections were made. The minutes were moved for adoption by John Hughes and seconded by Jean-Paul Arsenault. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

4. Report from the Treasurer

Lowell Vessey took the microphone at 7:15 pm.

Lowell presented the Financial Statement prepared by an independent third-party auditor. Lowell explained differences in revenue from 2019 to 2020.

There were no questions or new business arising from Lowell's report. Lowell moved to accept his report. George seconded. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

5. Report from the Chair

Clare Martin took the microphone at 7:25 pm.

- As in the past our Watershed continues to support the residents of the Watershed.
- The Watershed Management Plan created by the Board of Directors guides the work of the Board which is carried out by staff. The focus of the Plan is to sustainably use the watershed's resources.
- Actions guided by the Management Plan in 2019 to protect the quantity of ground water in the Watershed include:
 - Sept 2019 – Organized a meeting with MLAs from all parties, and the Mayor of Charlottetown
 - Oct 2019 – Attended Public meeting in Charlottetown as well as a private meeting with the Deputy Minister of the Environment regarding the proposed Water Withdrawal Regulations associated with the new Water Act.
 - Nov 2019 – Met with City and Province as part of Winter River Water Committee
- Actions guided by the Management Plan in 2019 focusing on land based activities that impact surface and ground water include:
 - Remediation of soil erosion situation with input from all parties. Health of stream in that area has improved.
 - 3 follow-up meetings help with multiple stakeholder groups
- Description of information available on the Association's Website
- Clare concluded by thanking the members of the Board, the Coordinator, and staff for their hard work and dedication.

6. Report from the Coordinator

Sarah Wheatley took the microphone at 7:30 pm.

- Sarah shared pictures of the staff from a fundraising event and the staff fun day.
- Sarah's report included a description of stream work, shoreline clean-ups, hedge row planting, forest enhancement work, crop rotation maps, culvert surveys & repairs, community events, education days, and data collection.
- Sarah described the changes required for COVID-19.
- Sarah thanked our partners and highlighted plans for the upcoming year.

7. Election of board members

Jean-Paul Arseneault explained that nine board members wished to return for another year and asked for nominations to fill the three empty seats. Three new members were nominated (Roger Townshend, Jay Carr, Patrick Lévesque). Three opportunities were provided for additional comments or nominations. The AGM attendees had no further comments and thus, Jean-Paul declared the existing and new board members elected for the upcoming year.

8. Other Business

Clare Martin took the microphone at 7:50 pm.

Clare thanked Ryan Winters for his service to the Board and presented him a framed photo of fall scene of the Winter River.

9. Concluding Remarks

Clare shared concluding remarks and moved to adjourn the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55

Respectfully Submitted, Ryan Winters