

Minutes
Winter River - Tracadie Bay Watershed Association
Board of Directors Meeting

Corran Ban Parish House
June 11, 2014, 7:00 – 9:10 P.M.

Present:

Ben Hoteling
Bernie Fitzpatrick
Bruce Smith
David Thompson
Dominic Johnson
Don Mazer
George Coade

Jean-Paul Arsenault
John Hughes
Lowell Vessey
Meghan McCarthy
Sarah Wheatley
Scott Stevens

1. Welcome

The meeting was convened with all board members present. All members introduced themselves with some of their background, so that new board members could get to know each other.

2. Review of Minutes from last board meeting

The minutes from the May 22 meeting were read and accepted.

3. Report from Chair

Don – This is Don's last chairperson's report. He noted that our bylaws call for Chair and Vice-chair but we have been operating with two co-chairs the past few years. The new board decided to go back to the Chair/Vice-chair arrangement. Over the course of the meeting, he also spent time explaining some of the issues facing our watershed, answering questions and trying to give new board members an idea of what we have been dealing with in the past.

4. Coordinator's Report

The coordinator's report was distributed to board members prior to the meeting. Some highlights that we discussed included the school trips to the watershed to plant trees this week, the tour of the watershed with Rosie MacFarlane and Daryl Guignon planned for June 12 to determine work priorities for the summer, and updates on summer staffing.

5. Treasurer's Report

Our audited financial statements have now been reviewed and a few changes still need to be made by the accountants. The accountants also had some suggestions for us to save some money, and to improve our documentation procedures in the future.

6. Committee Reports

a. Communications

Sarah outlined some of the projects that this committee has completed such as newsletters, water conservation videos, website, and Facebook page. Future projects and goals were briefly discussed, which led to a discussion about membership, and the term "communities of interest" was introduced by Jean-Paul.

b. Field Work

John explained that when we started doing restoration work, we decided to start at the source of the water, starting near the airport and just keep moving further downstream each year. Tree planting has been a major project over the years, planting over 15,000 trees and we have been experimenting with different ways to

protect these trees from feeding animals. Each year we have to check back over the areas where we have previously worked, to make sure that our efforts worked. John noted that this year's efforts would focus on the section of the river from the Suffolk Road to the head of tide.

We would like to publicly thank Ben for donating a 10x10 storage building to the watershed association. It will be used for housing our watershed fieldwork equipment. It is currently located at the home of Luke, our field supervisor, who brings whatever tools are needed by the crew for the day and stores the tools at the end of the day.

c. City

Don explained that the City committee was an outgrowth of the watershed management planning committee. Now that Cathy has left the board, Don is the only person currently on this committee. We have been thinking about expanding the mandate of this committee to encompass water conservation within the watershed as well as pushing for conservation within the City. The water use within the watershed is much less than the use by the City, and our used water is recirculated within the watershed instead of being dumped into the Hillsborough River by the sewage treatment plant in Charlottetown. We would also change the name of the committee to better represent all that it will cover.

7. Selection of Officers

- a. Chair – Lowell nominated George and John seconded this. George agreed to fill this role. The board voted and the motion carried.
- b. Vice-chair – Lowell nominated John, but John decided to nominate Meghan. Jean-Paul seconded this. Meghan accepted the nomination. The board voted and the motion carried.
- c. Secretary – John nominated Sarah again, and Lowell seconded. Sarah agreed to continue as secretary. The board voted and the motion carried.
- d. Treasurer – After much discussion, Scott nominated Lowell, and George seconded. Lowell agreed to fill the role and Scott offered to provide support to Lowell when needed. The board voted and the motion carried.

8. Meeting Times

We reviewed the availability of everyone on the new board, and have set our new regular monthly meeting to be the third Tuesday of each month.

9. Other Business

a. Climate Change workshop

A doctoral researcher, trying to organize community based workshops for discussions related to responding to climate change and coastal issues. She wants to interview one of us and involve 7-10 people in a workshop this summer. Don thinks it looks like something interesting to participate in from initial perceptions. Jean-Paul mentioned that these plans have been done with municipalities, but how would it work with a watershed, since we don't have any jurisdiction. The board decided to accept the researcher's offer to come to our next board meeting and give a short presentation about what would be involved in this.

b. Summer shoreline cleanup

We normally participate in the Great Canadian Shoreline cleanup each fall, but the Aquaculture Alliance is organizing another cleanup for June 25-29. Some members were a little bothered that the aquaculture group expected us to participate in their cleanup, even though they haven't participated in any of the cleanups that we invited them to join, and most of the waste that we clean from around the bay each year is waste from aquaculture activities.

c. Bridge at Hardy's pond

There is currently a small bridge in disrepair on the pond and the Fish and Wildlife staff wondered what we thought should be done with it. It was originally to be part of a path around the pond, but since that path was never developed, it is a bridge to nowhere. We would prefer for Fish and Wildlife staff to demolish the bridge, which they think is a liability issue, but they don't have enough staff to do this and the previous Winter River group built the structure.

10. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Tuesday July 22, 7 pm at a location to be determined at a later date.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Approval of Minutes

George Coade	Signature	Chair Position with WRTBWA	Date
ORIGINAL COPIES SIGNED			
Sarah Wheatley	Signature	Secretary Position with WRTBWA	Date