



MEETING MINUTES

PURPOSE – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date & Location: Wednesday September 11th, 2024, Ross Ferry Fire Hall

Time: 6:00PM

Meeting called to order by: Lars Willum 6:13PM

Board: Lars Willum, Glenda MacAskill, Joella Foulds, Nancy Cronin, Jennifer Daisley, Ross MacDonald, Andrew Walker

Regrets: Peter Kenyon

In Attendance: **Community:** Graca & Bruce Hollett, Rod Cronin, Helen Batherson, Jim Foulds, Gerald D'Eon, Councilor Fraser Patterson, Mike MacDonald, Chris Woodford, Beverly Edwards

ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Quorum established 6:16PM.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA DRAFTED BY ANDREW WALKER:

Fraser Paterson moved to accept the agenda.

Helen Batherson seconded.

Motion passed.

ANDREW WALKER READ THE MINUTES FROM THE 2023 AGM:

Comments:

- **Fraser Paterson** inquired for more information as to why the Farm Gate Market no longer met the qualifications under the Farmers Market of Nova Scotia and suggested taking this to a future council meeting to possibly draft a letter to the association in hope they would reconsider. **Joella Foulds** added additional commentary/clarification on the situation. **Helen Batherson** also added that the market has not seen an impact in the last year and doesn't feel it's necessary to join given the cost.

Rod Cronin moved to approve the 2023 AGM minutes.

Mike MacDonald seconded.

Motion passed.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1) Pumphouse Removal (Lars Willum):** Lars provided an update that the removal of the pumphouse has not yet been completed. The board is exploring a contact that may be interested in acquiring the infrastructure.
- 2) Annual Budget Creation (Lars Willum):** Lars provided a brief overview of our revenue/expenses and the sources of our revenue which we know is mainly grants/donations.
- 3) Beautification Grant Report (Ross MacDonald):** Beautification Grant work has been completed with all work executed between February and June 2024. The cost was slightly over \$35,000. \$10,000 provided by the province and \$25,000 provided by Victoria County.

An overview of the work completed:

- Removal of old light posts
- Removal of left side deck boards on wharf and replaced with marine grade boards.
- Install 6x6 concrete crib at shore to house ramp.
- Install 4x12 shore ramp, 8x20 floating dock.

In June of 2024 an application for another \$25,000 grant was not successful. Seeking feedback from the province as to why to improve future applications.

- 4) Membership/Sponsorship Committee Report (Nancy Cronin & Joella Founds):** Nancy & Joella provided an update on a sub-committee created at the last AGM with a goal of increasing membership of the society.

Some key highlights include:

- A letter was drafted and mailed to all households in Boularderie.
- Membership has increased almost 30% year over year.
- The cost of this initiative was \$351 and while it did increase membership, there was no increase in the amount of community members willing to volunteer.

- Nancy provided an update about a new location at the marine park for membership tent that worked well.
- The committee will brainstorm a new outreach idea for 2025 and sync up in the offseason to curate a Sponsorship program.

5) Transition of Financial Institution (Jennifer Daisley): Jennifer provided an update that the Society has fully transitioned to Royal Bank in April 2024. The Credit Union account was closed in July 2024.

LARS WILLUM PREPARED, PRESENTED THE CHAIRS REPORT:

Key highlights:

- The summer student Davis MacInnis returned this year.
- Daily visitors were up 50% and Sunday canteen orders also up 50%.
- New Fries & Hot Dog Sign for the top of the laneway.
- Many families enjoyed the new floating dock.
- A new wheelchair accessible picnic table installed (supplied by the Dept of Natural Resources).

Upcoming projects:

- Install new French trench for flood water management.
- Potential renovation of the old 105 highway sign.
- Paint work on the cement under the awning and canteen building.

Ross MacDonald brought up a potential safety issue with the 80 km/h speed limit and the blind corner coming out of the marine park. Lars and Debbie (the previous treasurer) have brought this up several times with the highway department and have requested a review of the limit or perhaps a blind corner mirror to enable drivers to see around the corner. Another suggestion could be new signage suggesting drivers to slow down.

Rod Cronin moved to approve the Chairs Report.

Jim Foulds seconded.

Motion passed.

JENNIFER DAISLEY PREPARED, AND PRESENTED THE FINANCIAL REPORT:

Key highlights:

- Donations continue to be high (over \$4,200).
- QR Codes have been set up to accept electronic payments for Membership Fees, Boat Launch Fees, Canteen, Beer Ticket Sales etc
- Boat Launch Fees collected was \$793 which is a substantial increase this year thanks to the QR code and new sign.
- All expenses for the floating wharf have been paid.
- **Helen Batherson** commented that the Farm Gate Market revenue has not been recorded in the financial update as the market has not concluded so this will be reflected in the year-end report.

Andrew Walker moved to approve the Financial Report.

Lars Willum seconded.

Motion passed.

HELEN BATHERSON PREPARED, AND PRESENTED THE ROSS FERRY FARM GATE MARKET REPORT:

Key highlights:

- In 2024, the market continued with the Farm Gate model and several new vendors outside of Boularderie were about to utilize the Ross Ferry Fire Hall.
- Attendance was mixed – 11 full time vendors, several others just attended the pop-up markets or had limited availability.
- Pre-season meeting was conducted in June for all vendors to meet and gather necessary information.
- The market continued the pop-up markets this year for Canada Day and Labour Day, and newly added August Long weekend. The pop-ups continue to be well-attended.
- Late in the season, it was decided to move all Southside vendors to Ross Ferry to bypass road construction.
- Nick Quirk returned this year as a summer student.

Helen Batherson moved to approve the Ross Ferry Farm Gate Market Report.

Joella Foulds seconded.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE COMMUNITY/BOARD:

- 1) **Andrew Walker** provided an update and briefing on the establishment of QR codes to accept electronic payments from the community.
- 2) **Christopher Woodford** provided an update on the Intergenerational Programming which at the time is on hold and Dynamic Trail which is now called Take it Outside. Christopher is currently working with other municipal departments on signage etc and hopefully over the winter this will be established. Christopher brought up the idea of an accessibility grant to install a mobi-mat for the new floating dock so it can be wheelchair accessible.
- 3) **Graca Hollett** shared that the Wilkie family who used the park for a family event had a wonderful time and will be donating to the society. She suggested there may be an opportunity to promote the park for families to use for small gatherings. She continued with an idea to have life jackets to rent out for small children.
- 4) **Christopher Woodford/Lars Willum:** discussed special activities down at the park (games etc) and that children could play with during celebrations.
- 5) **Lars Willum** on behalf of Peter Kenyon who sent his regrets but shared an update to be read aloud. Peter had several observations to table:
 - The front and south side of the dock do not have horizontal boards to allow boats to tie up on all sides. Right now, the only option is to tie up alongside the floating dock which could be hazardous.
 - The new floating dock is being used as a beach play area which again could be hazardous for boaters coming and going when there are small children in the water.
 - The boat launch often accumulates gravel on the ramp and the summer student needs to be reminded to use a broom to clean the ramp.
 - The wharf is incredibly slippery, and a non-slip solution should be investigated.
- 6) **Nancy Cronin** provided an update on the application to EHS to install a defibrillator (AED) at the marine park. Currently, it's a no-go but she is exploring other possibilities.
- 7) **Gerald D'Eon** inquired about lighting on the wharf now that the poles have been removed. He suggested the need to install walking lights around the wharf for safety reasons.
- 8) **Fraser Paterson** provided a quick update on the signage/speed limited at the intersection to the marine park. He suggested inviting Steve down to have a look with members of the board.
- 9) **Ross MacDonald** expressed his keen interest in making the park more accessible for those with disabilities.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:

Fraser Patterson oversaw the election of Directors.

The nominating committee nominated Lars Willum as Chairperson and President. There were no further nominations. Lars Willum was acclaimed as Chairperson and President.

The nominating committee nominated Ross MacDonald and Peter Kenyon as Vice-Chair. There were no further nominations. Ross MacDonald and Peter Kenyon were acclaimed as Vice-Chair.

The nominating committee nominated Jennifer Daisley as Treasurer. There were no further nominations. Jennifer Daisley was acclaimed as Treasurer.

The nominating committee nominated Andrew Walker as Secretary. There were no further nominations. Andrew Walker was acclaimed as Secretary.

The nominating committee nominated Nancy Cronin as Volunteer Coordinator. There were no further nominations. Nancy Cronin was acclaimed as Volunteer Coordinator.

The nominating committee nominated Joella Foulds and Glenda MacAskill as Member at Large. There were no further nominations. Joella Foulds and Glenda MacAskill were acclaimed as Member at Large.

Darryl Walker did not reoffer as Member at Large and we thank him for his contribution to the Ross Ferry Stewardship Society.

An all call for additional nominations was opened to the community and with no other offers of nomination, the Elections closed.

Nancy Cronin motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:23PM.