



MEETING MINUTES

PURPOSE – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date & Location: Tuesday October 24th, 2023, Ross Ferry Fire Hall

Time: 6:30PM – 8:30PM

Meeting called to order by: Lars Willum 6:35PM

Board: Lars Willum, Peter Kenyon, Debbie MacLean, Joella Foulds, Nancy Cronin, Andrew Walker

Regrets: Ross MacDonald

In Attendance: **Community:** Cathy McGee, Graca & Bruce Hollett, Rod Cronin, Helen Batherson, Jim Foulds, Gerald D'Eon, Jennifer Daisley, Eliot Frost, Councilor Fraser Patterson

ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Quorum established 6:38PM.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA DRAFTED BY LARS WILLUM:

Nancy Cronin moved to approve the agenda.

Eliot Frost seconded.

Motion passed.

Note: Lars noted that we have implemented a new process in 2023 by emailing Meeting Minutes to members, posting on our website and Facebook.

ANDREW WALKER READ THE MINUTES FROM THE 2022 AGM:

Comments:

- New Business Item 1 (2022) regarding getting rid of the pump out: Lars has added that he has removed all pump out mentions from our social media.
- New Business Item 2 (2022) regarding the status of the security camera: Lars has added that the security camera is not operational, and a sign was placed stating something to the effect of 'Smile You Are on Camera' as a deterrent.

Eliot Frost moved to approve the agenda.

Helen Batherson seconded.

Motion passed.

LARS WILLUM PREPARED, PRESENTED THE CHAIRS REPORT:

Key highlights:

- An update on the Beautification and Street-Scaping Grant (2022-2023) and that we've been successful in receiving another grant (2023-2024).
- Donation and investment of equipment for the canteen kitchen.
- The summer student worked out well this year and has proven to be a valuable resource for the park.
- Lastly, the most notable and significant update is that we finally have an interim "Letter of Agreement" to operate on Crown Land which replaces the 20-year-old Parks Management Agreement and will secure the future operation of our park.

Andrew Walker added that we have a new website this year (www.rossferrymarinepark.ca) and encouraged everyone to visit.

Clarification was requested from Cathy McGee regarding the park and the wharf being under two different jurisdictions (Federal/Provincial). Lars Willum provided clarification.

Joella Foulds moved to approve the Chairs Report.

Rod Cronin seconded.

Motion passed.

DEBBIE MACLEAN PREPARED, AND PRESENTED THE FINANCIAL REPORT:

Key highlights:

- Donations in general were quite high this year which is incredible.
- Boat launch fees were down compared to 2022.
- Helen Batherson commented that the Market Revenue is slightly higher due to a last-minute addition. Debbie MacLean noted that this will be reflected on the year-end report.
- Insurance cost is slightly higher compared to 2022, since we have increased our insurance coverage from \$2MM to \$5MM.
- It was suggested that there is room for improvement and a necessity to create a clear annual budget for the society. To the best of our knowledge, hard costs for the society range \$5K - \$7K but this is entirely dependent on volunteer power.
- It was suggested that it might be time to hire someone to work the fryer as volunteers become fatigued with the task and it creates a consistency with the service.

Helen Batherson moved to approve the Financial Report.

Darryl Walker seconded.

Motion passed.

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

Key highlights:

- As Helen's first year as coordinator, she thanked Joella for her support.
- The market continued the Farm Gate model for the 2023 season with 21 vendors, 13 stops and 12 market days.
- There was a vendors 'Meet & Greet' just before the season started so vendors could get to know one another and go over details of the 2023 season.
- The Canada Day and Labour Day pop-up markets at the marine park was a huge success.
- A marketing student grant was awarded and Nic Quirk was hired for the summer.
- We lost support from the Farmers Markets of Nova Scotia organization which determined that the Farm Gate model does not fit with their current definition of a farmers' market.
- Throughout the season, customers were encouraged to fill out ballots and that data will be used to shape the marketing plan for the following season.
- Unfortunately, one vendor was determined to be violation of two codes and was ordered to stop selling the product in question by the Department of Environment.

Graca Hollett moved to approve the Ross Ferry Farm Gate Market Report.

Jim Foulds seconded.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Ross MacDonald's Status Report (re: Beautification Street Scaping Grant) *Presented by Lars Willum in Ross' absence.

Key highlights:

- \$10K was contributed from the Province of Nova Scotia under the program.
- \$7.5K from Victoria County

- \$2.5K from the Stewardship Society
- Work to be completed by September 30, 2024:
 - Replace floating dock
 - Replace rotting deck boards on left side of wharf
 - Remove the old light posts
 - Replace some of the benches
 - Clean up the seaweed and debris on left side of wharf
 - Proposals and quotes are underway with contractors

2) Christopher Woodford (Victoria County) Intergenerational Program and Trail Update

*Presented by Lars Willum in Christopher's absence.

Key highlights:

- The idea and a brief background on Intergenerational Programming was presented. The Ross Ferry Stewardship Society is on board with the initiative.
- The Dynamic Trail Fitness Program at the park and is now called Take it Outside Initiative. The program would like to provide the park with snowshoes and walking sticks for the community to rent/use in the winter.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1) Upgrades to the Canteen Kitchen *Presented by Lars Willum

Key highlights:

- New deep fryer and heat lamp has been purchased.
- Home Depot donation of oven
- This will allow the canteen to keep up demand during Canada Day & Labour Day

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 elected 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 as Member at Large. There were no further nominations. Joella Foulds was acclaimed as Member at Large.

The nominating committee nominated Darryl Walker as Member at Large. There were no further nominations. Darryl Walker was elected as Member at Large.

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

OTHER NEW BUSINESS PRESENTED FROM THE COMMUNITY:

- 1) **Cathy McGee** presented an idea and suggestion to improve membership in the society. She suggested a meet and greet at the fire hall to serve coffee, tea, sweets with volunteer sign up and membership drive.

It was also suggested that perhaps a more personal approach with door to door might be an effective way to engage the community. Joella Foulds volunteered to head up a sub-committee along with Rod and Nancy Cronin to improve the member experience. Fraser Patterson graciously offered to co-sponsor this event similar to a recent new-comers night that was held.

- 2) **Eliot Frost** asked for an approval to proceed with installing a weather station at the park. The cost would be approximately \$1,200. Concerns were raised about where the station would be placed as the light posts are being removed in 2024. No decisions were made at the time and further conversation will take place at another date.
- 3) **Lars Willum** discussed the idea of digging up the eelgrass on the left side of the wharf to make the beach more accessible for the community. The eelgrass can be used in the garden beds or for the community to take. It was also suggested to put stone to prevent erosion but this falls under the Department of Natural Resources so permission must be obtained. Jim Foulds discussed the high level of importance of eelgrass beds and removing it may be a moral issue and would not prevent it from returning.
- 4) **Debbie MacLean** discussed ongoing constraints, challenges and high fees associated with the Stewardships Society's banking relationship at the Credit Union. As an example, Debbie presented an idea that Royal Bank's Small Business Banking (specifically for non-profit) has a monthly fee that is significantly less than our current provider and will allow us greater flexibility to do e-transfers and have a physical card (Debit/VISA), neither of which we can do/have now with the Credit Union.

Debbie MacLean motioned to cease our banking relationship with the Credit Union and investigate/establish a new banking relationship with an alternate financial institution.

Helen Batherson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously and with enthusiasm to find a solution that is a better fit for the Society's financial needs.

Appreciations: Lars Willum thanked Gerald D'Eon for his donations to the canteen kitchen throughout the summer. Lars Willum thanked Debbie MacLean for her years of service as outgoing Treasurer and Jennifer Daisley for joining the board as our new Treasurer.

Eliot Frost moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.