

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust Annual General Meeting
Thursday, March 27, 2014
7p.m. at Hubley Community Centre

1) Approval of Agenda

Harry Ward, co-chair called the meeting to order at 7p.m.

2) Approval of Minutes for 2013 AGM

Moved by Peter Lund, seconded by Matt Whitman that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

3) Report from the Co-Chair

Harry Ward presented the following report:

At the 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM), members of the Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust (FBWHT) provided input on the direction and priorities they wanted the Trust to take. Using the report from this meeting as a guide, board members held a Planning Workshop on July 6, 2013 to determine the workload for the Trust in the coming year. Four strategic areas were identified.

1) Education-A primary focus for the Trust will be keeping the community informed on benefits, threats and opportunities in the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area (FBLWA).

*Quarterly printing of The Bridge

*Our Secretary Afton Doubleday has set up sharing of information and updates to Trust members and friends. She has also set up a Facebook page.

*David Patriquin offered to redesign our website, host it and be our webmaster; our website is now functional.

*COCO meetings were held 5 times in the year; the April COCO meeting featured a presentation by Ken Donnelley about the Otter Lake Landfill site situation.

* Board members Peter Lund and Harry Ward have worked with youth groups based at the Hubley Community Center to help identify projects and learning opportunities.

2) Recreation-A primary focus for the Trust will be to enable, encourage and facilitate access to the FBLWA and foster compliance with leave No Trace principles.

*We continue to meet with NSE staff to identify all access points, develop uniform signage and a map.

*Public education is ongoing. On August 7, the Trust hosted an information session with Peter Bush, NSE planner, to provide clear information about access and activities within the FB LWA to attendees and to listen to their ideas.

*Meetings with NSE and other community groups about access are now being held, with the plan to include bicycle riders and to encourage them through Bike NS to obtain permission from NSE to ride in the FBLWA on the Joshua Slocum Trail, Old Halifax Road and the Old St. Margaret's Bay Road.

3) Improvements to the FBLWA Boundaries – activities will be spear headed by the Trust in concert with St. Margaret’s Bay Stewardship Association. Discussions will include identifying Crown Lands that should be included in the FBLWA with a focus on establishing a buffer between the Wilderness Area and developments.

4) Promoting HRM’s Western Common-Trust will continue to monitor the unfolding of the Western Common Plan

Meetings first with the Trust and WRWEO and then the FBLWAS Coalition began in November 2013 at the request of Councillor Reg Rankin. The Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Coalition has been established as the organization for HRM to work with around planning for the Western Common. The Trust is prepared to take on a lead role.

In addition to the above areas Trust members have published the brochure entitled *Plants of The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail*, and organized a Launch Celebration for this brochure on May 8, 2013. The Trust hosted the annual May Fair in the Park on May 26, sponsored the Warbler Walk at Jerry Lawrence Provincial Park on June 2, 2013, and hosted a hike of the first loop of the Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail last summer. The board has provided input to the RP+5 committee through attendance at meetings and providing written submissions, has been opposing changes to the Otter lake Landfill site, participated in the consultations for the Parks and Protected Areas Plan. The Trust is a member of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Coalition, has become a member of the Backlands Coalition and has offered support by way of written submission to HRM Mayor and Council and attending HRM meeting of the Council of the Whole, has written a letter to the Premier, Ministers of Natural Resources and Environment concerning the Plan for the St. Margaret’s District of the former Bowater Lands.

Moved by Richmond Campbell, seconded by John Bignell that the report be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

4) Treasurer’s Report

Beth McGee, Treasurer, presented the following report:

The Income Statement for the year ended December 31, 2013 is attached.

FBWHT ended the year with a bank balance of \$3,391.24. Memberships and donations amounted to a combined total of \$478.60. In 2012 FBWHT received a \$439.00 grant from HRM for the Flora Brochure which was printed in 2013.

The major expenses for the 2013 fiscal period are cost to reprint the Flora brochure, AGM expenses , bank charges, and insurance premium.

Respectively submitted,
Beth McGee
01.03.14

Five Bridges Wilderness Heritage Trust
Income Statement for Year Ended December 31, 2013

REVENUE

Memberships	305.00
Donations Mayfair	173.60
Sage Fund	439.00

TOTAL REVENUE 917.60

EXPENSES

Flora Brochure	861.35
AGM Expenses	143.83
Bank Charges	54.00
Bank Cheques	148.76
Joint Stock Registration fee	28.59
General Liability Insurance	200.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 1,436.53

NET INCOME (Loss) * -518.93

Bank Balance Jan 01, 2013 3,910.17

Bank Balance Dec 31, 2013 3,391.24

- In 2012 FBWHT received a grant from HRM Community Grants in the amount of \$439.00 to be used toward the cost of publishing the Flora brochure entitled "Plants of The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail". The reprint of the Flora brochure occurred in 2013.

B. McGee
March 01, 2014
Unaudited

Moved by Peter Lund, seconded by John Cascadden that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

5) Amendments to the By-Laws

Gary Armsworthy presented the following proposed amendments to the By-Laws:

35. The Chair will be chosen by the Trustees at the first meeting of the Trustees following each Annual General Meeting. The position of Chair may be held by two Co-chairs with a division of responsibilities as the Trustees may assign.

50. The Trustees may declare a vacancy on the Board when

- a. one of its members resigns or is asked to resign by the Board,**
- b. one of its members cannot do the required work through no fault of his/her own, or**
- c. one of its members is absent for three consecutive meetings in a row without a satisfactory explanation.**

Moved by John Casacadden, seconded by Peter Lund that the amendment to By-Law #35 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Matt Whitman proposed a friendly amendment to remove the words in a row in By-law #50, section c.

Moved by Peter Lund, seconded by Matt Whitman that the amendment to By-Law 50 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

6) Report of the Nominating Committee

The by-laws of the FBWHT provide for Trustees to be elected for a period of three years. The following terms remain to be served.

Two Years Remaining

Bob Angus
Peter Lund
Mike Marriott
Afton Doubleday
John Bignell
Tam Hill

One Year Remaining

Harry Ward
John Cascadden
Ron Brown

Nominees

Barbara Allen

Scott Guthrie

Beth McGee

Moving to Advisor status:

Jacqueline Pettipas

Iain Rankin

The by-laws provide for a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 15 Trustees.

If all vacant trustee positions are not filled as a result of the election, the Board may appoint interested persons to fill the remaining positions.

If we receive fewer nominations than required to fill our compliment, those nominated will be acclaimed. If we receive more nominations than the vacancies available, we will hold a secret ballot. Only members are eligible to hold office and vote.

If a ballot is required we will vote, registered members will write the names of their choices on the ballot. Only the first five names will be counted, ballots with fewer than five names will be considered valid.

The Chair of the meeting will now accept nominations from the floor.

The Chair will appoint two individuals to count the ballots.

Following the announcement of the results we will move that the ballots be destroyed.

John Cascadden, Barbara Allen, Beth McGee

Members, Nominating Committee

There being no nominations from the floor, nominees are acclaimed to the board for a term of three years.

7) Report of the FBLWA Stewardship Coalition

Tom Musial, Chair of the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Stewardship Coalition presented the following report:

The representatives of the Coalition met with a variety of groups and individuals during the past year, and several new projects are under consideration, but the FBLWA Stewardship Council has not endorsed any new projects during the past year.

The current members of the FBLWA Stewardship Council that have representation on the Council are

- Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails Association (BLT R2T)
- Five Bridge Wilderness Heritage Trust (FBWHT)
- Safety-Minded ATV Association (SMATVA)
- St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association (SMBSA)
- Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization (WRWEO)
- Nova Scotia Environment (ex officio)

Projects that are currently in progress under contract with the Department of Natural Resources include

- Improvement and management of trails exempted from the FBLWA that permit ATV access (SMATVA)
- Management of the The Bluff Wilderness Hiking Trail (WRWEO)
- Management of the BLT Trail (BLT R2T)

The following projects have been discussed as possibilities beginning in 2014, but none is yet definite:

- Project to serve as the Community Advisory Committee relative to the development of the Western Common/Wilderness Common Master Plan of May 2010 at the request of Reg Rankin and the HRM planning staff (all five founding members of the FBLWA Stewardship Coalition would be involved)
- Project to allow mountain bike riders to ride on the same hard packed trails in the FBLWA as members of the ATV community under a management agreement (the lead group is still undetermined)
- Project to adopt the Nine Mile River Watershed. FBWHT has received seed money from RBC Bluewater Grant to begin this project. (FBWHT)
- The Water Resources Working Group has applied to Clean NS last Wednesday for two summer students July/August 2014 to work on water quality projects that would be undertaken as a Coalition project. (SMBSA, WRWEO and FBWHT)
- Project to develop a Community Nature Interpretation Centre at Lewis Lake (Hubley Community Center)
- Project to develop a better understanding of wildlife species, habitats and biodiversity in the FBLWA, and involve the public in nature appreciation, through informative wildlife checklists for each ecosystem. (SMBSA)
- Project to review key land parcels adjacent to and in the vicinity of FBLWA for greenway connectivity, water resources protection, recreational value, access to wilderness. (SMBSA)

Of all the proposed projects, the request to serve as the Community Advisory Committee Project relative to the development of the Western Common/Wilderness Common Master Plan of May 2010 is the most probable and may be the most significant.

Any community group that formally subscribes to the **FBLWA Guiding Principles** and undertakes a project that fulfills one of the **Roles of the Coalition** may, with the consent of the Coalition Council, become a member of the Coalition and serve on its Council.

8) Cycling in the FBLWA

Beth McGee explained that cyclists are not currently permitted to use the trails in the FBLWA. An organization would be required to enter into a trail maintenance agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment in order for cyclists to access the trails. FBWHT has been meeting with NSE, Bicycle NS, HRM Recreation and Safety Minded ATV to discuss potential community organizations that may be willing to take on this project.

There would be an excellent opportunity to connect with the Destination Trail from Halifax to Lunenburg and create a cycling loop in the FBLWA.

Members expressed interest in this project, but noted that the organization that enters into a trail maintenance agreement must also be responsible for educating its members on leave no trace principles and possibly installation of signage.

9) OHV Trail Building

Mike Marriott, President of the Safety Minded ATV Association provided an update on trail building activities within the FBLWA. The Association has entered into a trail maintenance agreement with Nova Scotia Environment for 22km of trail. The goal is to have trail loops that are open for everyone to use. They are currently open for ATVs, hikers, cross-country skiers, etc. The Association is hoping to complete work on the Old Coach Rd. as far as the Nine Mile River by the end of 2014.

Mike noted that trail builds have led to more responsible use of ATVs on the trails.

He also presented a new enhanced map on the FBLWA and trails.

10) Certificate of Appreciation

Harry Ward presented a certificate of appreciation to Peter Bush, Protected Area Coordinator for Nova Scotia Environment, for his support of the Trusts work.

11) Presentation by Bay Treasure Chest

Harry Cook, Chair of the Bay Treasure Chest Committee outlined the new Bay Treasure Chest initiative, which is spearheaded by the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association. FBWHT is one of five organizations participating in this fundraising project, including the Youth Hub, St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship, Bay Rides and St. Margaret's Bay Seniors Association.

Collection boxes, which were built by John Matthews, have been placed at 13 retail locations. RBC Tantallon provides space and materials for counting the collections.

Draws are made each week on Wednesday, and winners are announced in the Masthead News. Participants must be 19 years old or over.

12) Adjournment

Moved by Peter Lund that the meeting be adjourned.