**DUFFERIN MARSH NATURE CONNECTION**

**AGM MEETING Minutes**

Sunday November 18, 2018

Attendees: Mary A, Brenda, Jen, Angela, Eric, Kate, Donna, Dave, Mary M, Clarke, Joanne

Time: 4:45 pm

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1. Welcome

Mary welcomed everyone and there were introductions around the table.

1. Selection of Recording Secretary

Mary A. offered to be recording secretary. Eric chaired the meeting.

1. Review of Minutes from 2017 AGM

The minutes were reviewed without comment.

Move: Mary

2nd: Dave

Approved.

1. Activity Report

Angela prepared an activity Report and thanked the former Vice Chair for his help. She reviewed all the activities of the group over the last year. She noted for the chestnut sales that prices were too low resulting in a small profit only. For the Community Skate there was a smaller turn out than normal even though the ice conditions were prefect. She thanked all the volunteers especially Harry Hoare who cleared the ice several times because of the snow storm. The Great Backyard Bird Count and Earth Hour celebrations were a great success. Frog monitoring and Frog Night Out were also done. Because of bad weather the Cleanup Day was postponed by one week. 18 volunteers helped. We did a garlic mustard pull at Hughie’s Cathedral and installed new tree swallow boxes with the help of the Lions. New permanent turtle signs were installed on Dr. Kay Drive. There was a discussion about whether one more permanent sign is needed on Cooper Drive. There are 3 temporary to use for next year. A bird walk was held on Fair Weekend. The bulletin board had a bird game. Phragmites was treated by the Township. In the fall we did a bird feeder workshop during the Schomberg Street Gallery.

The report was received.

Moved : Brenda

2nd: Mary

Approved.

1. Treasures Report

Dave presented the financial statement. The balance was down from last year. The group did not do a major fund raiser in 2018. As noted in the activity report, chestnuts were not well priced. Donations in kind were tracked this year to determine our actual costs. The cost of insurance is still a big questions. It was suggested that there may be a role for the Township to support insurance for community groups. There was an enquiry about the cost of test strips. It was suggested that it is in the interest of the Township to support the payment of these strips. Dave advised that the balance of the financial statement is consistent with the bank balance.

Move: Angela

2nd: Jen

Approved.

1. Budget

The budget was presented by Dave. He increased the insurance for A Main Street Christmas. Payment for the water quality test strips was included. Suggested we should do a fund raiser like the beer tasting in 2019.

Moved: Mary

2nd: Donna

Approved

1. Environmental Stewardship report

Mary talked about the stewardship activities in the wetland. The list included water quality monitoring, frog monitoring, vegetation changes, bird observations, invasive plants, litter and garbage pails, meeting with the Township, Tree Swallow boxes, programming, grants for natural linkage in Schomberg. It was suggested that we contact the Sir Sanford Flemming College environmental management course in Lindsay. There may be a project they could do at the marsh.

Move: Dave

2nd: Donna

Approved.

1. Future Planning Direction

Mary introduce three strategies for revitalising the DMNC executive. The first was to create better marketing. A flyer should be distributed at each event. A draft flyer was circulated and well received. It was suggested that we spin the text in a more positive way. Some ideas were: “want to connect people to nature” or “learn more about nature in your town”. Need to let people know we have been here for 30 years and want to protect what we have. Need to follow up with new people after each event. Need an Instagram account. It was suggested that there are different messages needed for different audiences. Need to let people know the events run by volunteers. Can we get this done for A Main Street Christmas? A stamp for bags at a Main St Christmas was discussed. We need a sign the advertising our next event.

The second strategy is to develop our project to connect natural areas in the Village and advertise the project to get excitement building. A map was distributed to discussion purposes.

The 3rd part of the strategy is to get a grant to support a project manager that will take the lead on the project and help with administrative duties. The job could also include helping other groups.

**Action: Angela** will look into a stamp.

**Mary** will get posters ready for a Main Street Christmas.

1. Election of Officers

Chair: Charles

Vice Chair: vacant

Treasurer: Dave

Recording Secretary: Mary

Membership Secretary: vacant

Media Relations: vacant

Members-at-large: Brenda, Angela, Joanne, Kate

Move: Mary

2nd: Dave

Approved.

1. Upcoming Events

Organising for AMSC is complete. There are enough volunteers. Next events are the Community Skate on February 9 and the Great Backyard Bird Count on February 16.

1. New Business

No new business.

Adjourn

Move: Mary