**Dufferin Marsh Nature Connection**

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 10th, 2015**

Present: Brenda, Jen, Liz, Mary, Nadia, Sheila, Charles, Eric, Joe, Greg

Regrets: None

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 pm.

1. **Minutes of January 15th Meeting**

The minutes were accepted with no comment. Moved by Liz, seconded by Charles, carried.

1. **Community Skate**

Snow removal was attempted earlier today but only the original fire pit area was able to be cleared. The rest of the area we usually use has been walked on and has been compressed too much to be cleared. The south part of the pond (near the south lookout) has been regularly cleared for use by local hockey players. This area is much larger than they actually use so it was decided that this is our only option. We will attempt to contact them to avoid any possible conflict. Nadia has some contacts who have knowledge of local hockey participants.

It was decided to move the firepit adjacent to this area because people like to watch the skating as they relax by the fire. We may need signs to show people where to go, if they arrive at the normal location by the northern lookout.

A call for volunteers will be sent out for Friday to clear the new location. Brenda will be there to oversee from 11:00-1:00, Liz's neighbour has a snowblower and is willing to help out but his availability is unknown and she will discuss with him. Bob and Cheryl have also expressed interest in helping out on Friday.

Eric mentioned that the ad for the skate is already in the paper. Task list for the event is in the agenda.

1. **Social Media Involvement**

Jen, Mary and Charles will meet to discuss in March.

1. **Website Updates**

Jen presented the new look of the website. Weebly hosts our page, we have a contract for two years. There is also a forum and a link to the Bird Feeder Trail Project (see below). Work is still progressing on it. Jen has also set up a Gmail account for the DMNC.

1. **Bird Feeder Trail Project**

This new project allows people to register their feeder location, what they are using for food, and comment on what they have spotted there. It is linked to an application developed by the King Township GIS Coordinator, based on York Region mapping data.

1. **Constitution**

Mary has been working on some amendments to the constitution but we need to incorporate the minutes from the visioning exercise into a new vision for the DMNC. Mary will circulate the proposed changes for discussion next meeting.

1. **Future Relationship with King Township**

Mary announced that at some point in the next few months, she will no longer be working for the Township of King's Parks, Recreation and Culture department. Given that the position of Dufferin Marsh Coordinator no longer exists and a new Environmental Stewardship Coordinator will be hired, the relationship with the Township may change. This new Environmental Stewardship Coordinator will most likely be taking a non-voting position on the executive, according to the proposed new constitution.

Furthermore, the Township has all the data from past monitoring done at the Marsh. As this was done under the auspices of the Dufferin Marsh Committee, it was agreed that we would like to request a copy of all the data. We may have to pay for copying or scanning costs, as most of it is in hard copy format.

8. **Upcoming Dates**

New dates were set for the following events:

* Earth Hour March 28
* Clean Up Day April 19
* Frog Night Out May 3
* Bird Feeders September 13 (confirmed)
* AGM November 1 or 8 (to be determined at a later date)

9. **Tent**

New tents are $275 at Cosco. The old tent is in poor shape and it may be more worthwhile to replace than repair it. Eric will further research and report back next meeting.

10-13. No updates.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Tecumseh Pines**

The community has invited us to join them for what would become a regular “Meet and Greet”. There appear to be several points of contact from their end so Nadia will attempt to establish a single point of contact. We are eager to advertise and promote each other's events (such as posting on our website and helping distribute flyers). On March 11th of last year, they asked if we would partner with them on a bird-watching programme. This is more our area of interest than social engagements.

1. **Website information**

Charles and Nadia agreed to have their contact info posted on the website. It was also noted that the frog call recordings were made by Charles and therefore are our property and can be published on the website.

1. **Memorial Donation**

A collection was taken up for donations in memory of Roots (Grackle owner Amanda's dog) to the Cause 4 Paws organisation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm. Next meeting is **Tuesday, March 10th at 8:00pm at The Grackle**