**Dufferin Marsh Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 8, 2014**

**Present:** Mary, Brenda, Sheila, Nadia, Jen, Eric, Greg (Recording Secretary)

**Regrets**: Liz, Charles, Linda

**Guests**: Susan Beharriell, Jeff Donner

The meeting was called to order by **Mary** at 8:15.

**1. Minutes of March 11th meeting**

The minutes of our last meeting were reviewed.

2 amendments:

1. Under **New Business, Tecumseth Pines**, Mary's motion was to “nominate” Nadia as a member-at-large
2. **Item 2**. The date is May 31st.

**Brenda** moved the minutes of March 11, 2014 be accepted with these changes. Seconded by **Nadia**.

**Eric** took over the Chair.

**New Business: Susan Beharriell Presentation**

This item was moved to the top of the agenda at the request of the guest speaker.

Ms. Beharriell is a member of the King Township Sustainability Committee. She requested permission to use the DMC as a model for similar grass roots movements to protect wetlands in King City, Nobleton and other areas of the township. 9 church congregations have been contacted and approx. 12 people have signed up as potential volunteers. While no new groups exist at this point, Ms. Beharriell's goal is to facilitate, not run, them and to connect them to the DMC to discuss best practices.

Discussion with guest:

* Q) What is the process to be used?
  + A) She will encourage them to get involved in our projects and seek permission to provide their email information to the DMC
  + Thursday's frog monitoring workshop was raised by **Mary** at this time as a possible venue for new volunteers to join in.
* Q) Are they going to shadow us to learn how we work?
  + A) No other groups are formed yet so that is not likely in the near future.
* Q) Should not King Township Environmental Stewardship be involved with this project?
  + A)Yes, she plans to involve them as well as Ontario Nature, Ducks Unlimited, etc... As an example, she will soon be meeting with Lake Simcoe and Region CA as to what a theoretical future environmental group in Kettleby could and should do

Ms Beharriell brought up the uncertainty as to the eventual ownership of wetlands in new subdivisions in King City, once the developers have finished. It could go to TRCA, the Township, or someone else. This is an important factor in this process.

The guest speaker departed and discussion continued.

**Mary** raised the opinion that the King Township Environmental Stewardship is the correct liaison to these new groups. She also expressed doubt about the success of this endeavour, stating that it is the place that inspires protection in of itself, not someone telling others that they should protect it.

**Nadia** expressed concern that new potential volunteers could be diverted away from the DMC. **Eric** responded that he believed Schomberg citizens would still be involved with the DMC but King City and Nobleton citizens would be encouraged to form new local groups.

**Mary** expressed concern about the focus on wetlands. All natural areas should be protected and there may be people who are passionate about protecting their local woodlot, for instance, but who are not inspired by wetlands.

**2. Earth Hour Event Summary**

Event was attended by 40-45 people who mostly stayed for the evening. There was a good sense of community. New Eyes Old Skies had a lot of interested participants, even though it was overcast. There appears to be less buy-in to Earth Hour as an event every year, not just in Schomberg but also elsewhere in the province. It was suggested that next year's event involve more activities (games, a possible lantern walk) and be more advertised.

**3. Monster Marsh Mash Summary**

Minutes from this event have already been circulated. Action Items arising from this include:

* grant application for a new staff person
* a call for name suggestions
  + **Mary** suggested Dufferin Marsh Nature Connection
* request for a conservation easement
* the creation of an MOU with King Township about the future of the Dufferin Marsh.
  + This should follow the same process as the Schomberg Community Garden

**New Action Item**: frame a concrete MOU to be presented to the Township using that already entered into by the Schomberg Community Garden (to be circulated by **Mary**). This may require a subcommittee to be struck at the next meeting.

**4. April 19th Clean Up Day**

The tent will be a hub for any group in Schomberg participating in the Township-wide event. It was suggested that a sediment fence along the trail to the north of Dr Kay be removed as part of the cleanup.

**Mary**: tent and table, garbage bags, gloves, wildflower seed gifts, membership box, juice boxes, handwash station

**Brenda**: vests

**Eric**: snacks

**Liz**: coffee, cream, sugar

**Ongoing Items**

**5. Membership**

No update.

**6. Tent**

No update.

**7. Wine Tasting**

June 7th has been set as the new date and confirmed wih Sheena. **Eric** will contact a winery.

**8. Water Quality**

No update.

**9. Safety Vests**

**Brenda** has the vests but the Fishers are out of town so the logo application is on hold until their return.

**New Business**

**Goose Rope**: Pending availability of **Charles** and the Cooper Kayak, the rope will be installed on April 12th at 10:00 a.m. A possible alternate time is the following Saturday after cleanup. Items required: rope, stakes, knife, sledgehammers. Note: there are approx 20 hooded mergansers on the SWM pond at this time but it is expected that they will move on in short order.

**Frog Monitoring**: **Mary** believes she may be short on monitors this year so may be calling on members of the Executive to help out where possible. The workshop for monitoring is on Thursday April 10th at the Grackle.

**Volunteer Recognition Night**: Thursday, April 24th at 6:30 at Kingbridge Centre. **Brenda** and **Eric** will be there representing the DMC. Please all attend if possible.

**Lookout Construction at Trisan Centre**: Set for Saturday April 26th from 9:00 to 12:00. Please register with **Mary** if planning to participate as space is limited.

**Garlic Mustard Pull**: No specific date has been set but it will occur in May at the same location as last year, in the woodlot at the end of Rosalena.

**Social Media**: It has been suggested that the DMC create a Twitter account, as well as possibly a Facebook and/or Instagram account, to update happenings at the Marsh. **Nadia** raised the point that we must be sure to keep them current, as otherwise it looks bad. Guest Jeff Donner is an active user of Instagram and offered to help with setting that up and helping members of the Executive learn it.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:45

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**Next Regular Executive Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 13th, 8 p.m.**

**Grackle Coffee**