Dufferin Marsh 

Committee/ Nature Connection

**Annual General Meeting**

**Cold Creek Conservation Area**

**November 8, 2014**

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Present: Elizabeth Asselstine, Mary Asselstine, Jen Bedford, Charles Cooper, Bob Gwalchmai, Sheila Kelly, Eric Leon, Greg Mitchell, Nadia O'Rourke, Donna Parrish, Susanne Prince, Reka Ratkai, Dorothy and Bill Salter, Brenda See, Beth and Mike Shackleford

1) Charles chaired the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

2) Mary was assigned to be the recording secretary, Greg took over at item 4.

3) The **minutes** from 2013 AGM were reviewed and received.

Motion to approve the minutes.

Moved: Liz

Seconded: Eric

Approved.

4) The **Activity Report** was presented by Eric and accepted with the change that Eric is the sole vice chair.

Motion to receive the activity report.

Moved: Liz

Seconded: Jen

Approved.

5) The **Treasurer’s Report** was presented by Brenda. Only 26 tickets were sold for the wine tasting, as opposed to the usual approximate 50 tickets. It will probably be the last wine tasting as the debt has been fully repaid. Whether it will be replaced by something else has not yet been determined. New sources of revenue should be looked at. Although the Committee has received various grants in the past, events such as the community skate are funded from the Committee’s bank account and that will not last forever.

A question was raised as to what is the number of actual members. Mary responded that there are approximately 60 active volunteers (who participate in at least one event and/or pay the membership fee) and 100 interested people on the email list. Discussion ensued on whether there should be a more formal membership fee structure and what does one get for that fee? One response is that you are supporting a community service.

Motion to approve the unaudited financial statement.

Moved: Mary

Seconded: Nadia

Approved.

6) The **budget** was presented by Eric. The budget is basically the same as the last year. There was a discussion about the $100 budgeted for mailings since we don't do them. It is really for advertising/marketing so it should probably be renamed as such.

Motion to approve the budget.

Moved: Liz

Seconded: Jen

Approved.

7) Mary presented the **results of the retreat** in March where 25 people met to discuss the future of the committee. The Committee feels that it has achieved the goals set out for it 25 years ago, such as protecting the Dufferin Marsh and putting in place programs, events and ongoing monitoring. More will be upcoming during dinner.

8) To refocus and rebrand this group as recommended at the retreat, the executive presented a **proposed name change** to “Dufferin Marsh Nature Connection”. The name indicates our goal to connect people to nature and nature to nature but retains the “Dufferin Marsh” name which has some local goodwill. The word “Committee” was dropped as it may feel stuffy and perhaps unwelcoming.

Motion to rename the organization.

Moved: Mary

Seconded: Eric

Approved

9) A slate was proposed for the **executive positions** as follows, with a call for other nominations.

Chair Charles Cooper

Vice Chair Eric Leon

Treasurer Brenda See

Recording Secretary Greg Mitchell

Membership Secretary Nadia O'Rourke

Members at Large Elizabeth Asselstine, Mary Asselstine, Jen Bedford, Sheila Kelly

Motion to approve the executive slate.

Nominated: Liz

Seconded: Charles

Approved.

\*\*\*\* After the meeting, it was discovered that Joe Desouza had been nominated as a Member at Large, but the email had not been seen at the time of the AGM. Mr Desouza was not in attendance at the AGM. Mary has proposed that she return to the non-voting executive position of Dufferin Marsh Coordinator and the other members of the executive will need to vote on the addition of Mr Desouza at the next executive meeting in January. \*\*\*\*

10) There was a call for volunteers to assist with the chestnut sales at **A Main Street Christmas** on December 6th.

11) **New Business**

None.

**Moved to Adjourn by Mary at 7:05 pm**