



Huronia Woodland Owners Association

(Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association)

Minutes – Annual General Meeting

Saturday April 17, 2021

Teleconference on Zoom

Attendance: Zoom software confirmed that 14 members were in attendance at the peak of participation. Full names are used in these Minutes to avoid any confusion.

1. The Acting Chair, Neil Craig called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm after determining that there was a quorum of members on the call. He confirmed that the Recording Secretary for the meeting was Jack McFadden and he thanked John Pineau, OWA for moderating the Zoom arrangements.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** It was moved by Doug Frost and Seconded by Jim Marchand that “ The draft Agenda be approved as circulated”. Motion Approved. It was also agreed that John Pineau’s presentation would also include a brief update on OWA activities.

- 3. Minutes of the 2020 HWOA Annual General Meeting.** It was moved by John Crawford and seconded by Peter Devillers that “the Minutes of the 2020 AGM HELD ON Feb 29, 2020, be approved as presented”. It was noted by Mark Sharf that in the discussion on the scholarships the number of female applicants should read 9 not 10. With this correction, the motion was passed.
- 4. Financial Report.** Our Treasurer, John Crawford spoke to the report that had been circulated and posted on our website. He moved that “the financial statements for the year ended Dec 31, 2020 be approved as presented”. Doug Frost seconded this. Motion approved
- 5. Review of HWOA Activities.** Neil Craig noted that all our traditional face-to-face gatherings had to be curtailed due to the COVID19 pandemic. He pointed out that the Directors still met regularly by Zoom and decisions were made on the scholarship candidates. We still managed to get several issues of the Knothole out to members and we communicated through our website. Some members did attend the OWA’s AGM last summer and the concept of Huronia pilot project for a “Community Forest Cooperative” was developed. There was a presentation on the latter project later in the agenda.
- 6. Election of Directors.** The Chair acknowledged the work of the Board of Directors in 2020. He explained that the term for two of the Board members was up. There was a motion by Sandy Agnew, seconded by Doug Frost that “ that the following individuals be elected as Directors of the Huronia Chapter of the OWA for a 3 year term starting at this AGM: Jim Marchand and Cameron Douglas”. The Chair then asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. Not hearing any, the question was called and the motion passed.
- 7. HWOA Jack O’Hara Scholarships.** Neil Craig provided a brief summary of the history behind this initiative and asked Mark Sharf to announce the successful candidates. The awards this year (\$500 each) went to Rimon Keleta (Sault College) and Ryan Patterson (Fleming College) who were

described by Mark as outstanding candidates. There were 10 applicants equally split between males and females. Both of the successful candidates provided a brief video clip describing what they would use the money for and each thanked the HWOA for the opportunity. These videos were played for those at our virtual meeting. Mark thanked Chris Ellsmere, Cameron Douglas and Bruce Keeling for their assistance with the selection and confirmed that the cheques and certificates would go out shortly.

- 8. White Pine Award.** Neil Craig provided a brief background on this award and explained that the usual November presentation had to be delayed due to the pandemic but that the award would be presented today at the AGM. Earl Dertinger was asked to make the presentation to the selected recipient, John Crawford. He described John's long history of good forest management as well as service to HWOA. In his acceptance speech John thanked his wife and his nominator Earl and expressed his intent to carry on with the good work of forest management. The personal plaque and large White Pine award will be delivered to John when pandemic restrictions allow.
- 9. New Business.** Earl Dertinger advised that the Simcoe County Forester Graham Davies had called him to confirm that the County intends to get the old mill at the Museum up and running as part of the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Simcoe Forests. Anyone wishing to act as the HWOA representative to the organizing committee should contact one of the members of the Board of Directors. John Crawford advised that District 5 of the Fair Board is working with the local Health Unit to properly plan for future events once the pandemic is over and things begin to return to some sort of new normal. Things will likely be different based on lessons learned. Neil Craig reminded those present that 2021 is the 50th Anniversary of the HWOA but celebration would have to be curtailed due to the pandemic.
- 10. OWA Update.** John Pineau, Exec Director of the OWA, provided an update on the work of the OWA with the use of a Powerpoint presentation. He noted that the OWA membership is growing. The OWA's virtual AGM and Conference is being held on April 20 – 22 and all members are invited. He

noted that there has been a lot of interest in the First Aid and Tick Kits and he is working on a forest owners blog. Their 5 big projects include the Kawartha and Huronia Community Forest Coop (presented in further detail later in the meeting), the integration of E Ont Model Forest with OWA, the development of strategies toward detailed forest inventories for all private forests in the province, continued work on FSC Certification and the HWOA's website

- 11. Huronia Pilot Community Forest Cooperative.** John Pineau also provided a presentation on this topic. His slide deck is available on our website. He described how similar projects are being undertaken in the Kawartha area (Fleetwood Creek Watershed) and in Huronia. The concept calls for a direct approach to landowners in the area who have older plantations which require thinning or hardwood forests that have not been actively managed in some time. The objective is to identify these sites, approach the owners of offer planning and management services and in doing so stimulate the local forest industry. A number of properties have been identified and initial contact is scheduled for this summer. The work on the Kawartha Project has been underway for almost a year now so that we can build on that experience. An Advisory Committee has been proposed and funding is being solicited for the project staff. More to come as the project proceeds

- 12. Adjournment.** Neil Craig thanked the presenters and the Crawford's for organizing the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 on a motion from Janice Napp.