



HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes - Annual General Meeting Huronia Woodland Owners Association

Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association
Simcoe County Museum 29th February, 2020

Cameron Douglas (Acting Chair) opened the meeting by welcoming members at 1:15pm. There were 38 members in attendance including three new members (David Bowden, Cynthia Dixon and Kathy Stanton). There were also five guests in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

CD reviewed the minutes of the February 9, 2019 AGM. No issues. Motion to approve - Neil Craig; Seconded - David Bowden. Passed.

Financial Report

John Crawford presented the December 31, 2019 financial statements. Decline in membership fees attributed to fee split with OWA being \$7 last year, but will increase to \$17 this year. Overall loss for the year also due to expenditure on redesigned website. Motion to accept report and approve financial statements. Moved - John Crawford; Seconded – Bob Douglas. Passed

Review of HWOA Activities

- Chris Ellsmere reported on the fall Field Day held at John Cameron's farm. We had a good member turnout and great weather. Chris asked for volunteers to host this year.
- Jim Marchand reported on the White Pine event which took place in the basement hall of the Elmvale Legion. Gerry Beauchamp was awarded the White Pine award this year. Cathy Walton presented on the topic of vanishing barns and her book was available for sale.
- Neil Craig reported on the Forest Health presentation held at the Edgar Hall. The topic was on Beech Bark disease. The presentation is available for viewing via our website for those who missed it. A speaker is still being lined up for this year's presentation.
- Doug Frost presented the new website and walked through a number of the features including more links and access to past presentations.
- Jim Marchand is the HWOA representative on the OWA board. Jim reported that we had gained 17 new members since becoming a chapter of the OWA. Following the resignation of Eric Thompson, Eleanor Reed became the interim GM of the OWA. A search for a replacement has been initiated. Jim attended the Goodwood Summit to discuss the OWA's 5-year plan and Code of Conduct. HWOA has offered to host the 2022 OWEA Conference as this coincides with the

100th anniversary of Simcoe County Forests and is just past our 50th anniversary. Jim asked for volunteers to join the 2022 OWA Conference organizing committee. Committee members will be partially subsidized for attending this year's conference in Niagara.

Election of Directors

CD indicated that of the existing six directors, only John Crawford's term was up for renewal. John indicated that he would run again. CD called for director nominations from the floor. Neil Craig nominated Jack McFadden who accepted. There were no further nominees. Vote was held to confirm election of John Crawford and Jack McFadden as directors for a three-year term.

Presentation of the HWOA Scholarship Awards

The scholarship committee consisted of Mark Scharf, Cameron Douglas and Chris Ellsmere. Mark reported that there were 11 great applications this year and that 10 were from women. The two scholarship recipients this year were Naomi Butterfield (University of Toronto) and Jordan Killing (Lakehead University). Both recipients are enrolled Forest Sciences. Mark provided further details on Jordan's program and Naomi spoke about her studies and future plans. Mark presented scholarship certificates and \$500 cheques.

New Business

- Jim M asked for silent auction donations for the upcoming OWA conference.
- Bob Douglas indicated that we should consider a presentation on how our area would handle a large scale forest fire
- Brian Thompson asked for information about director duties and also about the funding of the 50 Million Trees program
- Bill Stanton asked about getting a pesticide license (Kathy Walton provided an answer)
- Jim Laking asked that we consider marking the 50th anniversary of the HWOA next year.
- Neil Craig asked about participation in the 50 Million Trees program (9 members had). Contacts are the local conservation authorities. We will add information on the website.

Break (coffee and snacks – Thanks to Chris E./Bev E./ Deb D.)

Presentation by Paul Robertson, President Ontario Woodland Owners Association

Paul was unable to attend due to a heating emergency, but Janice Napp presented his notes highlighting events at OWA including:

- OWA conference in Niagara – April 21-22
- Woodlot Appreciation Week – May 3-9
- Partnering with University of Toronto on various woodlot economic studies
- 100th volume of the Woodlander will be published shortly
- New Code of Conduct
- General Manager search committee formed
- New membership categories for an additional family member (\$10) or a full-time student (\$20)

- Ensure that chapter events get posted on the OWA website

Paul was able to answer several questions via phone including:

- Will OWA become a register charity? That is in their strategic plan, but likely not for 2020.
- OWA financial statements are available via the website
- Changes may be coming to the MFTIP program as the MNR is conducting a survey of landowners. OWA will have chance to comment. OWA would like MNR to require that all MFTIP property owners belong to an industry association like OWA. Paul thinks program will continue but with more focus on quality of stewardship and reporting results.

Jim thanked Paul for participating in our AGM.

Door Price – Thanks to Chris E. for donating a beautiful handmade cutting board.

Adjournment – 3:05 pm