

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE NAWAUTIN SANCTUARY ASSOCIATION HELD AT 7 P.M., MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016 IN THE GRAFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

---

In attendance: Bernie Vogt, Colin Turnpenny, Debbie Kilmer, Val McIntosh, Ray Benns , Barbara Selkirk, Tom Groot, Mike, Filip, David Bryson, Maria Hendrickson, Jennie Giles

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

Mike Filip welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Mike Filip welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming, particularly our newest member, Barbara Selkirk. Ray Benns representing Alnwick Haldimand Town Council was also in attendance. Mike explained some of the progress made by this committee in the past year such as the FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program) and the Conservation Day for the students at Grafton P.S. He explained that we are always looking for ideas to generate income and that one such idea is charging for wedding parties to take pictures in the Sanctuary. It has been happening but no charges have been set so far. We are pushing forward with this.

**BUDGET REQUEST GRANTED**

Mike explained that we had been granted \$3,500 from the A/H Township.

**CONSTITUTION**

David Bryson reported that the (3) year term of this Committee ends at the end of 2016 and that it is still to be determined whether the present members are interested in continuing for a further 3 years. This will be put to the membership around October 2016 if it is necessary to elect replacements. He thanked the membership for their great support.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Maria Hendrickson presented the report (copy attached). Mike Filip moved to accept the report. Seconded by Tom Groot.

**DREDGING (& repairing the dam)**

Mike pointed out that he had put in considerable time and energy to get this proposal moving but that he'd been given an emphatic NO by the Lower Trent Conservation Authority. It has been totally stonewalled by the Ministry of the Environment. Ray Benns suggested that we resubmit an application, well documented as points of view have changed. Val McIntosh encouraged the Committee to keep trying. Taken under advisement. If and when we ever submit another application, Barbara Selkirk offered to write it up as that is what she does for the government.

**VANDALISM**

Over the course of the winter some Blue Bird Boxes were torn down and thrown onto the pond ice. Since removed and reinstalled by David Bryson. Somebody suggested that they were too close to the

paths but Barbara Selkirk explained that the Blue Birds like to feed on the freshly mowed grass near the paths so they are, indeed, in the right places. It was also pointed out that they should be back-to-back.

#### DOG POOP

Everybody has been pretty vigilant about this and there are only a couple of people offending. It was suggested that we install poop bag containers at the entrances.

Mike mentioned that he was especially pleased with the way the trails were maintained last year by the Township, they seem to have made an extra special effort. Also, most of the thorn bushes are gone and have been chipped. (Thanks to Mike and David).

#### FLAP UPDATE

David explained about FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program) and the presentation that Michael Mesure gave at Grafton P.S. Unfortunately, the weather was bad so the turnout was small but worthwhile. Debbie Kilmer had proved donations from the Canadian Canoe Museum and a Blue Bird Box which were raffled off and the proceeds went to the NSA. We will advise the membership when the movie "The Messenger" comes to the area.

#### BUYING COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES OR TREES

Jennie Giles explained how this came about and that so far, we have 4 trees going to be planted and one bench to be installed. Bernie Vogt suggested that at some point we will have to draw a line as to how many of these we put in the Sanctuary. Some discussion ensued regarding name plaques, donors etc.

#### CONSERVATION DAY

The first ever Conservation Day with 2 classes from Grafton P.S. was a huge success. Next year we will invite St. Marys Catholic School to attend. Each class planted a tree and they are marked. (Photos of Conservation Day and Tree Planting Day were shown throughout the meeting)

#### PLANS GOING FORWARD FOR 2016

Maria pointed out that we have a very good selection of trees planted and are trying to infuse more colour. Spraying is on track. Colin Turnpenny pointed out that although the spraying and cutting back is well under way we must watch for the buckthorn re-seeding.

#### DUES

\$5 per family per year. Anybody who hasn't paid can pay at the Township office.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Ray Bennis mentioned that A/H is one of only 2 Ontario areas to be chosen for a Community Expo promoting Safety in the County, June 3/4. (The other being Windsor). This is a FREE event and will be held at the Cobourg Community Centre. It will be in the media on May 24, 2016.

Mike Filip thanked everyone for coming . The meeting adjourned at 8.10 p.m.