

Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest Annual General Meeting #19  
December 9th, 2020, Zoom Meeting

Present:

Board of Directors

Robin Cunningham, John Pineau, Hilary Veen, Tom Moore, Peter Arbour, Frank Knaapen,  
Cash Allard

Algonquin College

Shea Duffy, Jeremiah Doucette, Austin Bourgon, Cyril Cook, Carson Lamure, Ty Golden-Duval,  
Michel Huot

Public

Anne Serdula, Stuart Craig

Guest - Liz Cobb PRF

Introduction: - Robin welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda. Hilary presented the minutes of the last meeting and they were accepted (moved by Robin, seconded by Peter).

Treasurer's Report: - see attached report - was accepted (moved by Robin, seconded by John). We have a balance of \$9210.86

Guest Speaker: Robin welcomed and introduced Liz Cobb who is writing the Forest Management Plan for the PRF. She is on an interchange agreement with the Ottawa Valley Forest to work at the PRF until March.

Liz used a PowerPoint slide presentation to update the progress on the management plan. The management plan will cover properties on the PRF and CNL lands. There is no federal legislation covering forest management planning on federal lands, so provincial regulations and federal strategies for species at risk are used. A rigorous information gathering procedure was followed. Both photo interpretation and LiDAR was used for the inventory, as species composition cannot be obtained from LiDAR. As the PRF is part of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence forest region, a vertical structure code was needed for management purposes. The consulting firm FORSITE was contracted to compile the planning composite inventory.

A question period followed Liz's presentation. Here are a few points that came up:

- Because the PRF is a research forest, a large area of exclusions due to research were removed from the operational landbase.
- The management plan cannot incorporate climate change, but this will be mentioned in the plan, including assisted migration and southern seed sources.
- No tourism or public consultation was included in the plan.
- There is a 15m buffer on recreation trails - Liz needs GPS of any new trails we make.
- Allocations are separate for the two properties, and separate plans are written.

As far as Heidi Erdle's role as Knowledge Transfer position, this is very new right now; it will cover data management and attracting more research.

Nomination of BOD:

Dave Lemkay has stepped down from the BOD:

The board members are as follows: officers will be decided at our first 2021 meeting.

Robin Cunningham

Frank Knaapen

Hilary Veen

John Pineau

Tom Moore

Peter Arbour

Jordan McMillan

Cash Allard

Jake Wakelin

Shea Duffy

Algonquin College

Jeremiah Doucette

Austin Bourgon

Cyril Cook

Carson Lamure

Ty Golden-Duval

President's Report: (see below)

Trails:

Frank Knaapen reported on Trails. Stuart Craig has been mapping the trails with his GPS so we have them digitally recorded. Due to storms, we had to go back and redo all trails. We have new snowshoe trails, which Frank would like to mark with plastic trail markers.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the following individuals for their time and labour in helping with the following:

Arboretum clearing and making a corduroy over a wetland on the ski trail:

Liam Donovan

Koady Ladouceur

Isaac McMillan

Gabrielle O'Byrne

Tanner Nickalls

Brush whacking on ski trails:

Stuart Craig

Snowshoe trail maintenance and corduroy over a wetland:

Spencer Hyland

Francis Gilbert-Hamel

Clay Moore

Other Business:

Shea put forward his ideas wrt work the FPRF could be doing. He would like to talk about public access to information about the trails, putting maps out and info on the internet, downloading trails to the county website. Hilary suggested forming a subcommittee with Stuart Craig on the committee to pursue this.

Peter put forward that he would like to pursue creating new Petawawa Sunburst trees from grafts of existing trees.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FPRF AGM Wed. Dec. 9, 2020

With the current Covid-19 crisis going on, the Friends have been somewhat less active this year, but we have had some notable achievements.

We had two regular BOD meetings (Feb. 5, & Sept. 1) plus this Annual General Meeting.

The University of Toronto Masters in Forestry annual class tour visited the PRF on Saturday Feb 22. We helped with their logistics by providing lunch. Ian Miller again prepared the lunch along with his traditional maple snow taffy. Thanks to Ian as well as to Melissa Vekeman for her organizational work.

The Batesville Memorial Treeplant couldn't be done at the PRF this past spring. However, Board member John Pineau arranged connections to other local treeplants so that we could still receive the Batesville donation. We intend to install a sign at one of our previous planting locations at the PRF to show our appreciation and reverence.

We had committed to supporting the annual Algonquin College awards dinner in March; however, the dinner couldn't happen due to Covid lockdown. For this year, we arranged, in partnership with the CIF, to give students their CIF silver ring at the end of their program in August.

Four different Algonquin College classes used the Arboretum for tree identification. Other visitors such as Ann Serdula's Deep River seniors group toured the Arboretum as well. We installed a few bench seats for visitors to rest and enjoy. We planted three trees, bringing our totals to 178 trees planted of 81 species. We did quite a bit of work at the Arboretum clearing brush. It's amazing how the former town-site lots are growing in. We even created a few more planting spots, as we are running out of space near the roads. Thanks to Frank Knaapen and Algonquin College forestry students for their chain saw work.

We are currently getting bench seats made for the ski trails. The PRF has provided lumber; we purchased necessary hardware (hinges, screws, etc.); and the Algonquin College carpentry program has volunteered to build them for us. Thanks to the students and their instructor, Paul Hammel, and to Ray Metcalfe of the Deep River ski club for design advice and for donating the first bench. These informal partnerships are so positive.

We made a donation to preserving a special heritage oak tree in Toronto, and were happy to hear that they are going ahead with this project.

We made a donation to the Canadian Institute of Forestry for their National Forest Week promotions.

John Pineau put together our Spring Newsletter in March. Our Website is being updated and our Facebook page is active.

Board member Frank Knaapen has again looked after maintaining the trails, out with a chain saw himself and with volunteers—students and members of the Deep River ski clubs. Frank is continuing with expanding the newest trail for snow-shoers. Thanks to all.

I wish to thank all the Board of Directors and last year's student representatives. Special thanks to secretary Hilary Veen and outgoing Board member Dave Lemkay. Welcome to the new student representatives.

The Friends of the PRF will continue to help out where we can and promote the Petawawa Research Forest to the community. It is such an important and wonderful place.

Robin Cunningham  
December 9, 2020