

Friends of the Petawawa Research Forest
Annual General Meeting #20

November 9th, 2021, Zoom Meeting

Attending:

Board of Directors: Robin Cunningham, Frank Knaapen, Cash Allard, Peter Arbour, John Pineau

Public: Ann Serdula, Debby Barsi, Brittany Bechard, Cynthia Wolfgram, Helena Rummens, Jolene Meloche, Murray Woods, Rhys Hoffman, Stuart Craig, Wayne Reid, Tom Adamchick

Guest: Ron Casier (total: 17)

Introduction: - Robin welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda. He noted that this is our 20th AGM, and Frank Knaapen has been here since the beginning.

Minutes Robin reviewed minutes of our last AGM on December 9, 2020, a Zoom meeting.

MOTION John Pineau 2nd Peter Arbour to accept the minutes as presented. CARRIED.

Some action items discussed were trail system promotion and grafting of Petawawa Sunburst spruce trees.

Treasurer's Report:

Peter A gave a financial update. We had a balance of \$8605.07 on April 1, 2021.

Income included \$3528 from the Kitchissippi Run (donation from their group when closing down); \$10,000 from the CIF/Batesville Memorial tree plant fundraiser.; and individual donations amounting to \$140.

Expenses of \$3775.26 were from treeplant equipment purchases, as well as trails and arboretum spending; bank service charges were \$21.

Upcoming expenses: \$3000 promised for the Lidar validation project; \$950 to purchase tags for the tree marking course; and expenses for the CIF International Night held on September 25.

Peter projected a balance of \$14,526.81.

MOTION John Pineau, 2nd Frank Knaapen to accept financial update. CARRIED. A full report to year end (Dec. 31, 2021) will follow.

Nomination of Board of Directors:

Five current Board members are staying on: Robin Cunningham, Frank Knaapen, John Pineau, Peter Arbour, and Cash Allard.

Five new members, nominated by Peter & John, are: Murray Woods, Wayne Reid, Cynthia Wolfgram, Debby Barsi, and Rhys Hoffman.

MOTION John Pineau, 2nd Frank Knaapen, to accept the nominated slate. CARRIED.

We welcome Algonquin College Forestry Technician student volunteers Brittany Bechard, and Jolene Meloche to assist the Board.

Officers will be appointed at our first BOD meeting (proposed Nov. 30, 2021)

President's Report:

Robin This is our twentieth AGM. Frank has been here since beginning Founders made constitution charitable status etc. mandate to support PRF education recreation etc.

Thanks Frank trail work recruitment help from Stuart Craig and many others Alg College park benches labour wood from PRF hardware FPRF Paul Hamel carpentry class Arboretum 5 trees planted totals _trees planted, __species

Thanks student help w brushing, Kyle at PRF mowing

Thanks John P -Batesville treelant work -collaboration CIF OWA Alg College AFA

Contributions we made: tree marking tags for Ontario Tree Marking Program at PRF; CIF Nat Forest week promotion; CIF teachers tour; International Night: Murray Woods Lidar project

Media: updated website, Facebook site, John – Newsletter,

Thanks to all who helped out: executive, BOD, students, PRF staff, donors, Algonquin College Pembroke,

Welcome new members & volunteers

Look forward to productive year.

Trails:

Frank Knaapen reported on Trails

Snowshoe trail system expanded, 9 Alg forestry students on placement, red ribbons will be replaced with red tags,

Stuart Craig brush whacking on ski trails: Ski trail marking blue ribbons

Stuart helped install nine new bench seats,

Tom Adamchick has donated concrete bench ends for adding benches to trails closer to roads.

These should be less prone to theft.

The Board is considering purchasing brush saw for trail maintenance use. Mailboxes will be placed at trailheads; they will have trail maps

Trails have been getting good use, but we are aware of potential conflicts.

Cam Dube (of Algonquin College) is planning a bicycle event in PRF—hoping to use the existing road network.

Other Business:

Nil

(Break)

Guest Speaker: Ron Casier, Chair of the Canadian Chestnut Council, gave an excellent presentation: "The Restoration of the American Chestnut in Ontario": It was a review of the significance of the species ecologically, culturally, and economically, its tragic decline caused by the introduced Chestnut Blight disease, followed by the works of the Canadian Chestnut Council to preserve and restore the species to the landscape. Their projects include: a backcross breeding program to achieve disease resistance; planting grafted native chestnuts near existing isolated trees to provide for pollination and nut production; and establishing new colonies of native chestnut to help conserve the Ontario gene pool.
(American Chestnut will be a species of interest in the Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change project at the PRF.)

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.