

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

November 20, 2021

Held at 2789 Concession 7 Uxbridge ON and broadcast via Zoom

- 1: Liz Calvin welcomed the members of Green Durham Association (GDA) and asked for a motion to call the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Susan Fleming proposed the motion, seconded by Adam Conyers. Liz Calvin explained the process for asking questions and voting virtually, and informed members that the meeting was being recorded.
2. David Taylor was appointed Secretary for the meeting as proposed by Bob Henderson, seconded by Brian Buckles. An acknowledgement that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and others was given.
- 3: Approval of the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM), distributed by email in advance of the meeting, was proposed by Geoffrey Vernon and seconded by Susan Fleming.
- 4: The many activities of 2020/21 were reviewed:

Stewardship and Public Access – Volunteers continue to step forward to assist. Partnerships with other trail groups are strengthening, including sharing resources, volunteers, and projects. GDA volunteers worked with Durham Mountain Biking Association and Oak Ridges Trails Association to mow the trails with lawnmowers purchased with a grant from TransCanada Trail Foundation. GDA supported TRCA with maintenance costs and with the costs of having a local liaison. GDA partnered with DMBA and Cycle Solutions to share in the cost of the lease arrangement to access trails on the Dagmar Tract

Policy – Work on a proposal to transfer lands currently held by the Province (sometimes called the former Tannenbaum lands) continues. It is now being considered at the Provincial Treasury Board level. A generous donation of land by John McCutcheon to the Township of Uxbridge forms a key link to these lands. Across the roads from these lands which we hope will become publicly accessible greenspace, a proposal by Miller Paving to among other things import fill into the Boyington Pit #3 was troubling. A team of GDA members looked at every aspect – zoning, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Aggregate Resources Act, and pit licence requirements – and were able to identify some aspects which were concerning. GDA retained a reputable municipal lawyer to help articulate these aspects and these

were shared with Uxbridge Township and through a submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, GDA contributed comments to ongoing reviews by the provincial government about expanding the Greenbelt, and more recently about yet another proposal to build on lands which are the headwaters of Carruthers Creek. GDA also submitted comments as invited during revisions to the Regional Official Plan.

A theme in all of these policy actions has been the generous sharing of expertise, information and time by GDA members, also individuals, groups and organizations from outside GDA.

5: Adam Conyers reviewed the 2020/21 financial statements. As of May 31, 2021, the revenue was \$86,560.40, with expenses of \$45,393.45. Including cash and securities, GDA has assets of \$160,715.50. A motion to accept the 2020/21 financial statements was proposed by John McCutcheon and seconded by Brian Buckles.

6: Jim Miller proposed a motion, seconded by Lori Wilder, to approve the following members as Directors for 2021/22:

- Brian Buckles
- Susan Fleming
- Michie Garland
- Bob Henderson
- Wendy Dobson
- Elizabeth Calvin
- Adam Conyers
- Rob Ferguson
- Geoffrey Vernon
- John McCutcheon

7: Priorities for 2021/22 were presented:

100% funding was available from Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) in September, 2021. With help from TRCA, GDA applied for \$268,000 to expand the 3 Rocks parking lot, re-build a bridge which goes over an arm of Duffins Creek, and replace 2 old boardwalks with a more sustainable trail. OTF will release names of those successful in their applications in January 2022. A meeting with Lafarge to explore parking lot improvements on the 6th Concession is scheduled for late November 2021.

We will continue to explore opportunities to improve trail connections which will help keep people off the road.

We will continue to share in costs with TRCA for a local liaison and for maintenance – things are settling down at TRCA after a few years of upheaval. We'd like to re-visit the liaison role to be sure it is doing all we want it to do for the area. We have a meeting planned with TRCA for later this year to start those discussions. We have increased the

amount of money we could put on the table for discussions with TRCA about the liaison position. We will share again in the mowing/maintenance efforts with TRCA to maximize the \$10,000 yearly donation we receive from one of our members for this purpose. It will require purchase of more mowing equipment, we have applied to TransCanada Trail Foundation for assistance.

We will continue to work towards an Uxbridge-driven approach, rather than a fractured approach of individual organizations. We hope our trail counters will help with advocacy too – the information can be useful for many of our partners. The Provincial lands project if successful will be a further step towards an Uxbridge-centric approach – it will nudge partners (conservation authorities, Uxbridge Township, Parks Canada and others) to work together and create a new way of planning, managing and maintaining all of these trails.

We will continue to monitor the Miller pit situation and respond as needed, and monitor the contentious Whitebelt lands surrounding the Carruthers Creek headwaters.

8. The 2021/22 budget was presented with anticipated receipts of \$55,500 and expenses of \$56,200, resulting in a drawdown of \$700.00. Significant expense items include support to the TRCA for maintenance and a local liaison position. Geoffrey Vernon proposed a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Adam Conyers.

9. Guest Jim Miller of Land Over Landings gave a brief update about the federal lands. This is the 50th anniversary of the original airport announcement. The federal government has studied expected passenger volumes from 2016 to 2036 and determined that the forecast suggest no new airport is needed. Despite that, the City of Pickering continues to propose the building of a new airport on the basis of economic opportunities. Jim pointed out that studies have yet to consider the need for the airline industry to reduce their carbon footprint to meet Canada's commitments to address climate change.

10. A motion to adjourn the meeting was proposed at 2 pm, seconded by Susan Fleming. The meeting was adjourned at 2 pm