

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Saturday October 24, 2020

1. Liz Calvin welcomed the members of Green Durham Association (GDA) and called the meeting to order at 1 pm. In light of COVID restrictions some of the members participated virtually. Liz explained that Susan Fleming would be monitoring those participants and would be recording the meeting, and that to vote or ask a question, those participants should raise their hand. Liz provided a brief history of the barn where the meeting took place, and acknowledged the area as being the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and others.
2. David Taylor was appointed as secretary for the meeting as proposed by Wendy Dobson, seconded by John McCutcheon.
3. The minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) as previously distributed by email were tabled. John McCutcheon proposed accepting the minutes as written, seconded by Brian Buckles.
4. A review of the 2019/20 year was presented:

Stewardship and Public Access:

- GDA's volunteer program continues through our maintenance agreement with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). Partnerships with other user groups Durham Mountain Biking Association (DMBA), Uxbridge Horsemen's Association (UHA) and Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA) continue to develop and all these groups are sharing resources and volunteers.
- Two very labour-intensive projects have been completed throughout last Fall and this year, both involving removal of broken-down boardwalks and replacement with a more sustainable trail. DMBA, ORTA and UHA all played important roles.
- Despite the pandemic, a lot has been accomplished this year by volunteers.
- The TRCA shared liaison position has been ably filled by Ranald MacKay.
- GDA partnered with TRCA last summer to install posts and trail kiosks along a new 16 km spur of The Great Trail.
- Costs of the lease to cross the Johnson land into Dagmar was shared this year with DMBA and Cycle Solutions. Thanks are due to Tom Hawks for this arrangement.

Policy

- Importation of fill to aggregate pits became a community issue last winter in Uxbridge Township. GDA contributed comments during the public process to

address community concerns. GDA hosted a public information session to contribute to a more informed public discussion. GDA sponsored two speakers with relevant expertise, from Ontario Headwaters Institute and Ontario Soil Regulation Task Force. The evening was well attended and included a number of local town councillors and staff members.

- Throughout the past year or so GDA has contributed comments to ongoing reviews by the current government of proposed changes to the role of conservation authorities and to land use planning. GDA participated as a delegate to Durham Region regarding a request for a Ministerial Zoning Order by Pickering Town Council to develop lands north of Ajax
 - This past summer GDA has been working on a proposal to transfer lands currently held by the Province, often referred to as the Tannenbaum lands, thus forming a corridor between the Town and the trails to the south. A theme of all these policy actions has been the development of strong partnerships with other community groups. There has been much good will and sharing of information. GDA has especially appreciated the expertise and information shared by Land Over Landings members Lexi Whalen, Mary Delaney and Jim Miller.
5. Adam Conyers presented the 2019/20 financial statements as previously distributed to members by email and which were presented virtually. As of the year ending May 31, 2020 the revenue was \$33,825.14, with expenses of \$35,456.06. Adam then provided an update of donations and disbursements which have occurred since June, 2020. A motion to accept the financial statements as presented was made by Wendy Dobson, seconded by Bob Henderson. Carried
6. Tom Hawks proposed the following members for Directors and called for nominations to close and accept them for 2020/21 Directors: Elizabeth Calvin, Brian Buckles, Michie Garland, Adam Conyers, Bob Henderson, Robert Ferguson, Geoffrey Vernon, Wendy Dobson, John McCutcheon and Susan Fleming. Liz Calvin called for the close of nominations as presented, seconded by Susan Fleming. Carried.
7. Priorities for 2020/21 were presented:

Administration

- Website re-design was set aside during Covid restrictions in favour of trail work. The revisions will continue once winter hits

Public Access

- There has been a 3-fold increase in visitors to the trails since last year documented by TRCA and LSRCA. This has created challenges for adequate parking, and some dangerous situations. Trans Canada Trail Foundation has

capital funding and there is an opportunity to partner with other groups and apply. There are also funds for maintenance. Over the longer term, Infrastructure Canada has funds available and plans are afoot to develop a parking plan for all the trails south of Uxbridge. There is also a desire of all partners to explore charging for parking, whether on the roads or in parking lots, with all monies going towards trail maintenance.

Policy

- Much work has already taken place this summer towards an effort to work with the Province to transfer Provincial/Tannenbaum lands permanently to the Township of Uxbridge, thus forming a corridor between the Town and the trails to the south. GDA member Richard Willoughby has been leading the efforts, along with a small committee of other GDA members, Mayor Dave Barton of Uxbridge, and several of his staff.
 - A key part of this proposal involves the generous donation of land currently owned by John McCutcheon. His planned donation, along with the sale of less than 10% of the lands currently owned by the Province, will provide funds for the development of a plan for these lands, and for their maintenance. John McCutcheon was applauded by members present and also by members attending virtually.
8. The 2020/21 budget was presented indicating anticipated revenue of \$32,250 and disbursements of \$40,467, with possible grants from Trans Canada Trail Foundation being a separate part of the anticipated disbursements. Adam Conyers proposed a motion to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Bob Henderson. Unanimously carried.
9. A motion by Liz Calvin, seconded by Susan Fleming was made for the adjournment of the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.