



HURONIA WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes

Annual General Meeting
Huronia Woodland Owners Association
A Chapter of the Ontario Woodland Association
Oro-Medonte Community Center
17 Feb 2024

Call to Order & Introduction

- Cam Douglas acting as Chair called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm
- An indigenous land acknowledgement was read by Doug Frost
- Cam Douglas introduced the current directors

Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes

- Cam Douglas reviewed the minutes of the February 25, 2023 annual general meeting
- Cam Douglas moved that the 2023 Minutes be approved. David Bowden seconded with the correction of one minor typo. CARRIED

2023 Financial Statements

- John Crawford presented the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023
- A small loss of \$481 was incurred. Funds (both Operating and Scholarship) remain invested in one-year GICs
- John Crawford moved that the 2023 financial statements be approved. David Bowden seconded. CARRIED

Reports

- John Crawford has thousands of old HWOA slides that might possibly be digitized. He is looking for a volunteer to assist him with this project.
- John Crawford provided a history and update on the sawmill project slated for the Simcoe County Museum. The HWOA committed to contribute \$2,000 several years ago. John reported that after a re-design

the project is expected to be in the 2025 County Forest budget with construction to commence in 2026.

- David Hawke provided a report on HWOA activities over the past year including the Forest Health meeting (woodlot diversity), Fall Field Day (hosted by Sandy Agnew) and the White Pine award (presented to Sandy Agnew)
- Doug Frost and Craig Drury presented a report on the status of the upcoming OWA provincial conference being hosted by the Huronia Chapter at Horseshoe Resort. The event has been sold out. Sponsorship and tradeshow space is being finalized. A request was made to consider selling additional tour tickets.
- Jack McFadden discussed activities at the Maple Syrup Producers Association along with new government funding to expand production. A suggestion was made to consider joint activities on occasion.
- Jack McFadden reported that the Board may offer an Indigenous Awareness session to members. This session is sponsored by the OWA and is being held in several chapters. The tentative date is May 23. If it proceeds, details will be provided to the members in the Knothole and the website.
- Jim Marchand provided a report on Membership status. Jim noted that 6 years ago there were 60 HWOA members, but only 16 had paid their dues. We currently have 155 paid-up members. Jim was thanked for his service as Membership director and the work he has done with the OWA.

Election of Directors

- Cam Douglas explained that two directors, Chris Ellsmere and Jim Marchand, had completed their terms and were not seeking re-election. This leaves 7 directors on the Board. He then opened the floor for nominations/ volunteers.
- Doug Frost nominated Sandy Agnew who accepted.
- Doug Frost also nominated Curtis Gray who was not present to accept
- Craig Drury nominated Adam Parker who accepted
- Grant Casbourne volunteered to become a director

- There being no further nominees or volunteers, Cam Douglas closed nominations and noted that the three candidates were valid HWOA members and were hereby acclaimed as new directors bringing the total number to 10.

Presentation of Scholarship Award

- Mark Scharf reported that 8 applications had been received by the Scholarship committee for this year's \$1,000 award.
- The winner as selected by the committee was Jennifer Sarah Cann, a 4th year student in the Earth Sciences and Forestry program at the University of Toronto.
- While Sarah was not able to join us in person, she did submit a video explaining her program and research work.

15 Minute Break

OWA Update

- John Pineau, OWA Executive Director, provided a short presentation on the value and benefits of OWA membership highlighting how the organization has grown and evolved over time.

Interview with Retiring Directors

- Q&A with Chris Ellsmere and Jim Marchand moderated by Earl Dertinger
- Earl provided a short history of the HWOA and named many of the past members and directors who contributed to its formation and success.
- Both Chris and Jim discussed their reasons for joining and becoming HWOA members
- They also discussed some of the events that they enjoyed over the years.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm