

ARA Directors Meeting, Deverness Stables

August 29, 2023

Members Present: Sandy Horne, Don Wescott, Nick MacInnis, Tim Handforth, Liam Fulmore, Malorie Crispo, Dan Doiron, David MacNeil, Christine Hanlon, Gerry Doucet

Agenda Items

1. Call to order: 6:33
2. Approval of Agenda: Added Don's Plaque for lifetime under 8. Other. Motion Carried Consensus
3. Adoption of Minutes: Consensus
4. President's Report: Tim said that most of his report would be covered under New Business
5. Treasurer's Report: Christine reported that she hoped to have the books organized and a financial statement completed by the end of September.

Activities:

6. Fundraiser: Dave reported that Wayne Grant at Eskape Anglers had offered a complete Vision outfit as a raffle prize. Wayne would like the funds raised to be directed to a specific project and for the event to run until Dec.24. Dave reported that the event qualified for a single event lottery license under \$4000 based on in-person sales.

Dave also provided cost estimates from Highland Multimedia. Discussion followed on the best strategy for ticket sales, the number of tickets to order, ticket prices and other details. It was decided to take on the raffle project. Tim said that he would approach Allison to handle the tickets and lottery license as well as the distribution and collection of tickets and money. Dave will contact Wayne and confirm the details.

New Business

7. Project Manager: Tim reported on his conversation with Rene Aucoin, President of Cheticamp Rivers Association. The CRA has a Project Director in a full-time seasonal position. They have had the same Project Director part-time for 16 years. Duties included bookkeeping. Discussion: Gerry supports the idea. Christine asked if this would be internal or external hiring. Tim prefers internal if a qualified person is available. Chris explained how she and Judy MacInnis have been operating regarding wages and bill payment. Tim asked if Allison could pass along regular bookkeeping reports to the Treasurer. Tim will talk to Allison. The goal is to get caught up and in audit compliance as soon as possible. Chris thinks that by the end of September this will be done. Tim will send the Cheticamp River Association process and job description to Chris. Nick pointed out that Rene said the important item is continuity, but it is a unique personnel situation in their community. Would Allison or replacement be interested in long term seasonal? There could be some potential contract work involved as well with the position. Tim asked about the prospects of long-term federal funding. Nick reported that the current federal funds ended in March. There is a 4-year fund now but funding is low in year one. There should be money next year. Gerry asked if there is any money available for rehabilitation from the water pipe work on the Lakeville road. Nick said not as far as he knew.

Tim updated the Town's new drainage system. So far it seems to be working. This weather forecast should provide a test. Gerry suggested that we approach the town and offer to plant some trees etc. Dan will reach out to the K of C who owns the filed.

Sandy asked about the design. Discussion followed on the long term effects which we will need to monitor

Charitable Status: Gerry reported that Jim has several large donors who will donate if there is a charitable deduction. Nick asked about the benefits of gaining Charitable status. We need the books completed in order to proceed. Don pointed out that regular CRA audits will be a part of the process. Dan pointed out the additional costs of upgrading the audit to professional standards. Chris asked if Allison could research the process.

Trail Clearing: Gerry and crew did the trails on the lower West. Gerry has plans to expand the trails.

Other: Don showed a sample Lifetime Member plaque .Some discussion followed and all members felt that it was a good idea to have a plaque and perhaps to do the presentations at the Biennial Dinner. Moved by Chris Hanlon that the ARA purchase and present Lifetime Membership plaques. Seconded by Gerry Doucet. Motion carried.

Gerry is having discussions with NS Inland Fisheries Steve Thibodeau regarding broodstock collection this fall.

Nick reported that he and Allison has applied to the Environmental Damages Fund which is valued at \$114 000 .

Updates to website: Tim reported that Highland Multimedia ad update the websites and that any new changes/requests could be forwarded to him. Gerry had guiding requests via the website and there is room for more listings.

Seasonal Crew Update emailed out to members.

Motion to adjourn: Gerry Doucet 7:17