

**The Friends of Presqu'ile Park
34th Annual General Meeting
Draft Minutes
June 11, 2022
Park Amphitheater**

Board Chair Phil McRae called the meeting to order at 10:40 am. 51 people were in attendance. Parliamentarian Bev Cook declared a quorum was met.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Fred Helleiner and seconded by Linda Alkenbrack that the agenda be approved as presented. Carried.

Opening Comments

The Chair welcomed the attendees, noting the great weather conditions. After two years of COVID, Zoom, Skype and email communication, it is great to see everyone and communicate in person. There were few volunteer opportunities in 2021, but we anticipate many volunteer opportunities in 2022, especially with anticipated Nature Centre renovations. Three Board members resigned in the Fall and one in the Spring, a loss of four valued members. No Board member volunteered to be Chair and so we tried to run the board with a three-person Executive Committee. It was like three people trying to steer a car at once. I reluctantly volunteered to become Chair and was elected by the Board. The Board of Directors held two retreats, one in the late Fall and one in the early Spring, to prioritize activities and determine future direction. We have recruited three great prospective Board members and are very excited with our future board.

Minutes of previous meeting, June 17, 2021

There was one outstanding item of business from the 2021 AGM. The Chair addressed member Steve Sinclair's concern that Environmental funds had not been fully used in 2020. Steve requested that a note appear on the Financial Statement regarding Designated Funds. All but \$200 from the 2020 Environmental Fund was used in 2021, to hire park staff, to plant trees and the requested notes appear on the 2021 Financial Statement. Moved by Bev Cook that the draft 2021 Minutes be approved, seconded by Don Davis. Carried.

Greetings From Brighton Mayor Brian Ostrander

Mayor Ostrander introduced attending council members Mary Tadman, Ron Anderson, and Doug Leblanc, as well as Amy McQuaid-England who was representing Bobbi Wright of the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Ostrander outlined the many accomplishments the Brighton council had achieved over the past year.

2021 Accomplishments & 2022 Plans

Communications

Bev Cook, Janine McClintock, Shirley Brown, and Bjorn Jacobson were a very busy team in 2021. Facebook and Instagram posts were made weekly. A quarterly ENewsletter was distributed to members and supporters. The Friends four-page section of the Park Tabloid was prepared. The Communications team organized a photo contest for the fundraising calendar and arranged for online sales. A major project was the redesign and updating of content for the Friends website. The Committee also collaborated with other committees, BBQ, Raffle, and Gift Shop for the promotion of sales and events with posters, signs, and website and social media advertising. The committee is looking for new members who enjoy writing or are tech savvy.

Education

Student Bursaries – Four \$500 bursaries were awarded in 2021, one for each park department. These were nominated by members of the public. The \$1,000 J. Beverlie Cook Career Bursary (self nomination) was also awarded. The chair reviewed the names of the winners. In 2022 there will be one \$1,000 student bursary (public nomination) and one \$3,000 career bursary (self nomination).

Kids'n Nature Virtual Field Trip Films – Six videos and teachers' notes were created for grades 1 through 6. These were meant to replace our in-school and in-park visits that were cancelled due to COVID restrictions. This project was funded by a Canada Summer Jobs grant, the Brian Todd Memorial Community Fund, and Friends member Audrey E. Wilson's generous donation. The Chair acknowledged past Chair Chris McIvor's successful mentoring of this project. The videos and related materials are posted on our website and are being marketed to teachers, libraries, schoolboards, and the general public. We hope to offer showings in the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre this summer.

Nature Centre – The Friends paid the salary of the Nature Centre coordinator as well as a six-week salary contribution for the Discovery student. In 2022, we will pay the salary of the Nature Centre coordinator-in-training and seven weeks salaries for the Nature Centre interpreter and the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre interpreter.

Environment

There were no volunteer opportunities in 2021, but financial contributions were made for several projects.

Habitat Regeneration – Park staff collect seeds from park trees in the Fall and nurture them to saplings in the park nursery and then replant them in the park. Presqu'ile has one of the few park nurseries in Ontario.

Tree Planting – We hired park staff to remove Buckthorn and plant trees in the park. We extended the tree planting season to use Environmental Program funding not used in 2020.

Bird Seed Supply – We budgeted for the cost of bird seed for the three park feeding stations. The Bird House Nature Store generously donated seed, which we and the park appreciated. We have again budgeted for bird seed for 2022, but for only one feeding station at the park camp office. Kristen Osborne monitors this station and records and reports the species seen weekly. I encourage you to talk to her about this activity.

Common Tern Research – We again financially supported this program. Because of border restrictions, Jennifer Arnold and Stephen Oswald directed the activity through Don Tyerman and his staff. They built and monitored the protective grids, bought, and installed monitoring equipment and hired licenced Bird Banders. Several chicks successfully fledged. We will be financially supporting this project in 2022.

Monarch Butterfly Banding– Don Davis moved the fall monarch butterfly banding to the Amphitheatre in 2021 due to COVID restrictions. It is amazing where the tags have been found in the USA and Mexico. Take time to talk to Don and learn more about this.

Operations

There were few volunteer opportunities in 2021, however we have some exciting plans for 2022, involving major renovations to the Nature Centre which Kristen Osborne will outline in more detail. Trail monitoring will restart. We have already repaired damage to one of the Lighthouse viewing stations. Additional repairs are planned. New Marsh Boardwalk interpretive signs have been designed and will be installed shortly.

Fund Raising

Memorial Tree Planting Program – 42 trees were planted in October of 2021. We will continue to offer this program in 2022 on the 3rd Saturday in April and the 3rd Saturday in October.

BBQ – We were allowed to restart the Saturday BBQs in late June last year. Bob Engley and his BBQ team replaced equipment, developed a supplier network, and had a very successful season. The BBQs were well received and well attended by the campers.

Lighthouse Gift Shop – Lise Beauchamp and her team reorganized the shop, bought new inventory, and displayed the items for sale. The shop was opened on weekends in July and August and was very successful. Flooring and cabinets are to be replaced by the park due to a mold situation. We will not be running the Gift shop in 2022 because we have no team leader at this time.

Fund Raising Calendars – A beautiful calendar was produced for the 2022 year with photos from the park, however marketing was a challenge. Thanks to the Communications committee, we were able to sell calendars online. The park gate and park store also sold our calendars. This support was much appreciated.

2020 Raffle – Because of COVID, we were not able to hold our raffle draw, and it was still on our books. Doreen Cable volunteered to take this on, found and organized the sold and

unsold tickets, and organized the draw for August 28 at a Saturday BBQ. We had children from the audience draw the winning tickets and were able to remove this item from our books. I want to acknowledge Doreen's contributions to the Friends Board. She has always been willing to jump in, take on a project and see it through to completion.

2021 Raffle – Wayne Meyers took this project on with very little raffle experience and did a great job. He organized the prizes: 6 nights in the Clark – Denson cottage, 6 nights in an Explorer Shelter and 6 nights in a Campsite. Wayne and his wife, Sandy, sold tickets at the BBQs and the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre through the summer and fall. The draw was held at the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre on October 31 and was well attended. Wayne's goal was to sell 2,000 tickets at \$10 each. While he didn't quite meet his goal, he did sell over 1,300 tickets, quite an accomplishment.

Donations – In addition to our normal donations, we received two generous donations, one from an estate and another from an anonymous donor.

2021 Financial Statements

The Chair reviewed the draft statements that were posted on the Friends website and as indicated earlier, advised we had used Environmental funding from 2020 in 2021 for tree planting and had notes 5 and 6 to cover Dedicated Funds. Friends' member, Steve Sinclair, advised he was satisfied with the report and moved that it be accepted. It was seconded by Fred Helleiner. Carried. The Financial Report will be submitted to the CRA for charitable status review and will be posted on the CRA website and the Friends website for public review.

Appointment of Accountants - Welch LLP

It was moved by Janice McRae and seconded by Beth Sheyan that we engage Accountants Welsh LLP for review of the Friends 2022 Financial Statement. Carried.

Park Update

Kristen Osborne introduced herself as the new Park Naturalist and representative of the park for the AGM. Kristen indicated that it was through the Friends supporting her for several years as the Nature Centre coordinator, that she had the opportunity to apply for the Park Naturalist position. Kristen indicated the park was fully booked and very busy. Four new Explorer shelters have been erected and they have proved to be very popular.

2022 is the 100th Anniversary of Presqu'île Provincial Park. The Discovery Team are planning several special events throughout the season to commemorate this milestone. The Park Tabloid also features articles outlining the long history of the park.

Kristen also outlined plans for the Nature Centre renovations; both outside and inside require significant repair and updating. A third-party consultant's report did indicate the building is sound, though in need of repair. The park will be submitting a detailed plan for a potential

fund-raising drive.

Board of Directors -

Incumbents – The Chair introduced Larry Paradis, Wayne Meyers, and himself (Phil McRae)

Nominees – Parliamentarian Bev Cook advised that Linda Alkenbrack had agreed to stand for a second term. Bev introduced Terry Buchkowsky, Ian Manson, and Cindy Richards. Cook called for nominations from the floor. Phil McRae nominated Amy McQuaid- England, who gave a brief bio to attendees. Bev called for a vote from the members and all four nominees were elected.

Special Presentation

Don Tyerman is retiring this year. He has been supportive of Friends projects and has given us good advice over the years. Don plans to volunteer in the park following his retirement, working on environmental projects. We will miss Don. Unfortunately, Don was unable to attend our meeting today. We have a card and a Lee Valley gift certificate which we will present to him soon.

Questions

There were no questions.

Final Comments

Chair Phil McRae offered thanks to former board members Chris McIvor, Lise Beauchamp, Cindy Anthony, and Doreen Cable for their service to the board. He also thanked current board members and newly elected board members, for pitching in to make this AGM a success. A special thank you went out to Kristen Osborne for her help in modifying the Power Point presentation, The chair also thanked everyone for coming out today and supporting the Friends with your memberships. Enjoy your box lunch.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Doug Zinnicker.