

**Couchiching Conservancy
2017 Annual General Meeting
February 4, 2017**

*****To be approved at the Annual General Meeting March 3, 2018*****

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. at Hawk Ridge Golf Club, Orillia with the attendance of around 120 members and guests.

Executive Director Mark Bisset welcomed the audience, recognized special guests and noted the passing of Tim Crooks and Gord Michener.

2. Minutes and highlights of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

Secretary Kailin Gratrix briefly highlighted items of note from the 2016 minutes.

There were no comments or questions.

Moved by Jamie Powell that the minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting be approved.

Seconded by Sue Deadman. Carried.

3. Outgoing President's remarks

Margaret spoke of the organization's success thanks to the work of so many individuals. She praised the board and noted the culture of the organization as a key element of its success. She also praised Doug Christie who is standing for election as the incoming president

Mark thanked Margaret for her commitment and hard work as president.

4. Treasurer's report

Treasurer Jack Booth presented the audited financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2016.

Moved by Ann Ross that the Financial Statements for the year ended October 31, 2016 be approved. Seconded by Jason Stewart. Carried.

Motion to appoint Hehn Trickey Professional Corporation Chartered Accountants as auditor for the year ending October 31, 2016. Moved by Janet Grand, seconded by Jamie Powell. Carried.

5. Past Presidents Council report

Gord Ball updated members on the success to date of the Heartwood Fund, led by the Past President's Council. He announced that pledges and cash donations amounted to just under \$2 million.

6. Executive Director's report

Executive Director Mark Bisset opened with comments about the political shift in the U.S. with the election of Donald Trump and what that might mean for hard-won advances global in conservation, but offered that there is catharsis in small actions. He said the Conservancy was a small organization in the big scheme of things, but that it has done amazing things. He showed a

drone video produced by Luke Hewitt and Tanya Clark that surveyed some of the Conservancy's holdings through various seasons. Then he showed how Conservancy properties fit into a larger picture of species migration using Migrations in Motion: Visualizing Species Movement Due to Climate Change, an animated map created by The Nature Conservancy in the U.S.

Next, surveying the power of small groups intent on changing the world a few acres at a time, Mark featured the Adams Nature Reserve, a 107-acre tract donated by Alec and Heather Adams in late 2016. Heather and Alec were asked to stand and be recognized.

Other highlights included:

Carden Alvar Provincial Park Stewardship Agreement signing

Habitat Offsetting update -- more than 400 acres enhanced under MNRFP program

Private Stewardship update

Bobolink research

Citizen Science projects -- Water Quality Monitoring and new programs

Completion of Grant's Woods office renovation

Creation of Advisory Council

Expansion of Passport to Nature

Engagement Organizing and the 17% pledge

Carden Challenge

Mark talked about next year's projects and thanked the board, staff and volunteers for a year of excellent work. Mark then took questions from the floor.

7. Recognition of volunteers

Two groups were recognized for remarkable contributions to the Conservancy:

a. The Ambassador Team: 44 volunteers attended 10 community events over the course of the year.

b. The Grant's Woods Renovation Committee: led by David Homer; Kristi McKechnie, Don Scott, Bruce Duncan, Ken Thomson, Dorteia Hangaard, and Mark Bisset. All recognized for their multi-year efforts to redevelop the Grant's Woods office.

8. Election of new board

Mark Bisset presented the slate of nominees for 2017-2018: Doug Christie (president), Margaret Pomeroy, David Homer, Robert Sullivan, Kailin Gratrix, Jamie Ross, Wendy Lowry, Jack Booth and Pam Fulford. He then asked three times for further nominations from the floor. There were none.

Moved by (name lost in computer crash) that the slate of candidates for the 2016-2017 Board of Directors of the Couchiching Conservancy. Seconded by (name lost in computer crash). Carried.

9. Incoming President's remarks and Recognition of departing board members

Doug Christie thanked the board, staff, volunteers and supporters for contributing to another great year for the Conservancy. He noted the importance of Membership as a financial engine for the organization. Doug thanked Margaret for her service as president and presented her with a gift on behalf of board and staff.

10. Guest speaker

Introduced by Jamie Ross. Steve Burrows, naturalist and author, provided a presentation about birding in different parts of the world. He also spoke about the creation of his "birder murder mystery" series. He fielded numerous questions from the audience. He was thanked by Mark Bisset.

11. Wrap-up and adjournment

Moved by Kailin Gratrix that the meeting be adjourned.