

**Cobequid Eco-Trails Society
Annual General Meeting #1
December 9, 2008. 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Colchester Historical Museum
29 Young Street, Truro, NS**

MINUTES

Present: Garnet McLaughlin (Chair), Bonnie Waddell (Secretary), Kim McCallum (Treasurer), Mike Hansen, Gordon Benjamin, Peter Grant, David Huelin, Norris Whiston, Hilary Paquet, Mike Moyles, Jim Vance, Sheila Wilson

Regrets: Ellen Wilcox, Bettie Spence, Kevin Fitch

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

1. The presence of a quorum (10 members of CE-TS) was confirmed.
2. Moved by J. Vance, seconded by M. Hansen that the agenda be approved.
CARRIED
3. Minutes of the preceding annual general meeting: This being the first AGM there were no minutes.
4. Consideration of the annual report of the directors and committees:

Report of the Directors was presented by G. McLaughlin as Chair of the Board of Directors:

- a) Main focus of activity for the first year was the development of a Memorandum of Association and By-Laws and incorporation as a non-profit society. This was done with the valuable advice and assistance of Hilary Paquet, Parks and Trails Coordinator for the Municipality of Colchester County and Jim Campbell, Fundy Regional Representative of the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection (HPP), working over a number of months with Garnet McLaughlin as a committee of three. These were submitted March 30, 2007 and the Cobequid Eco-Trails Society was officially registered as an incorporated non-profit society on June 7, 2007 with the payment of an annual fee. [Fiscal year is April 1 – March 31].
- b) In addition, it was decided that any community group who wanted to develop a trail or trail system in the Cobequid area could join CE-TS and submit a proposal following a standard template. If the project is accepted by the Board of Directors, the community group is automatically established as a Trail Committee of CE-TS. Terms of Reference for Trail Committees were developed. CE-TS, as an incorporated non-profit

society, is eligible to apply for grants on behalf of trail building committees.

- c) Terms of Reference for the elected officers and for standing committees were developed. To date only the Gully-Lake to Nuttby Trail Committee is active. Kenomee Trail Society joined CE-TS in December 2008.
- d) The first Open House was held at the Colchester Historical Museum on January 23, 2008. 50 people attended the event. Moderator was G. McLaughlin. N. Whiston presented a slide show on the proposed Gully Lake to Nuttby Mountain Trail system.
- e) Kevin Fitch and Hilary Paquet worked on developing an attractive and professional quality brochure with input from the Board.
- f) B. Waddell worked with artist Joy Laking to develop the logo.
- g) Rob Michitsch volunteered to develop and maintain the CE-TS web site.
- h) CE-TS joined N.S. Trails in November 2007.
- i) The structure of CE-TS as an incorporated non-profit society which can act as an umbrella group for smaller community groups wishing to develop trails, is being studied by others. The main advantage is that the community groups do not have to incorporate individually, or to be insured separately. The structure appears to be very efficient, judging by the speed with which the Rogart Mountain Trail was developed. In addition, volunteers are able to participate and contribute in important ways, without being required to attend meetings or deal with administrative decision-making. CE-TS can provide leadership and management oversight.

Report of the Gully Lake – Nuttby Mountain Trail Committee was presented by N. Whiston, Chair of the Committee.

- a) Since all those attending the AGM had been on the Rogart Mountain Trail, the written report was tabled with a discussion of highlights.
- b) N. Whiston, a historian, with assistance of B. Waddell prepared the initial concept & project descriptions and grant applications for the trail committee.
- c) Two grants were received supporting the development of the Gully Lake to Nuttby Trail system from the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection (HPP) and from the Municipality of Colchester County. G. McLaughlin has estimated that without the support of volunteers, the cost of constructing the Rogart Mountain Trail would have been approximately \$35,000.
- d) The trail within the Gully Lake Protected Wilderness area has been selected and flagged and its GPS location recorded.
- e) Rogart Mountain Trail (6.2 km) was completed with 1058 hours of labour. The trail is mostly on land not previously constructed. Doug Oliver (Parks Debert) has noted that the trail hardening techniques used could be a model for other trails.
- f) The uniqueness of the project was highlighted in a general discussion:
 - extensive historical research published prior to trail marking
 - community group established as a committee of CE-TS

- speed with which the trail was constructed. One trail completed in 16 months (one season of construction) compared to other jurisdictions with no trail after 3-4 planning years.
5. Consideration of the financial statements, including balance sheet and operating statement.
- a) Treasurer's report was presented by Kim McCallum, who was appointed interim treasurer by the Chair on the resignation of Sharron Brown.
 - b) The total amount of the trail grants received in fiscal year one was \$9530. Other fundraising included the sale of N.S. Trails 2008 Calendars and membership dues. Since June an additional grant was received from HPP for a Trail Building Leadership Workshop in July.
 - c) Expenses included professional consulting fees and shared tools for Rogart Mountain Trail construction as well as both Director's Liability and Trail Users' Liability insurance.
 - d) CE-TS also maintains a web site (<http://www.ce-ts.ca>).
- In the discussion that followed J. Vance noted that any group member of N.S. Trails Federation automatically has insurance coverage (Directors and Commercial General Liability) as soon as their membership is recorded. N. S. Trails Federation pays approximately \$50,000 - \$60,000 per year and each member is billed their share, with a basic price plus an amount calculated on total kilometers of trail completed and open to the public. As more groups join the Federation, the premiums drop. This insurance does not cover accidental death and dismemberment for volunteers building the trail.
 - The Treasurer recommended that three members of the Board of Directors be approved as signing authority for CE-TS, with the Treasurer required to be one.

Moved by M. Hansen, seconded by G. Benjamin that the Treasurer's Report be approved.

CARRIED

6. Election of directors for the year April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009

After some discussion it was agreed that the following CE-TS members be appointed to the Board of Directors. These will be confirmed by email when all are contacted.

Mike Hansen (confirmed)
Gordon Benjamin (confirmed)
Kim McCallum (confirmed)
Garnet McLaughlin (confirmed)
Bonnie Waddell (confirmed)
Norris Whiston (confirmed)

Bettie Spence (confirmed)
Arthur Ives (GB will contact)
Terry Murphy (confirmed)
Kevin Fitch (confirmed)

7. Election of officers (Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary)

Moved by N. Whiston, seconded by M. Hansen that Kim McCallum be appointed to the position of Treasurer.

CARRIED

Moved by N. Whiston, seconded by Sheila Wilson, that Bonnie Waddell be appointed to the position of Secretary.

CARRIED

Moved by N. Whiston, seconded by K. McCallum that Garnet McLaughlin be appointed to the position of Chair.

CARRIED

G. McLaughlin raised for general discussion, the issue of a possible conflict of interest between his role as chair and his role as paid consultant for the Gully Lake to Nuttby Trail. He reported that he had discussed this at some length with Steven Vines representing HPP, Hilary Paquet, representing the Municipality of Colchester County, and also had met with Jim Campbell. They had recommended that if there was a perception of a possible conflict, it would be acceptable for him to remove himself from the room.

It was suggested that signing authority be separate from the Chair and from Chairs of Trail Building committees. Moved by K. McCallum, seconded by G. Benjamin that two among Mike Hansen, Gordon Benjamin and Kim McCallum act as signing authority for CE-TS.

CARRIED

H. Paquet suggested that it might be helpful to fill the Vice-Chair position to make it easier for the Chair to step aside on certain issues. Moved by N. Whiston, seconded by S. Wilson that Mike Hansen be appointed to the position of Vice-Chair.

CARRIED

8. Appointment of Auditors, if required. (KM).

It was recommended by the members that two Directors sign off on the financial statement in lieu of appointment of an auditor, until such time as the number of transactions warrants oversight by an external auditor.

9. Other business.

- a) N. Whiston addressed a question to J. Vance. He had heard of a new committee of N. S. Trails to deal with non-motorized trails. He wondered what the mandate of this committee was.
- As background J. Vance reported on discussions at the last N.S. Trails Committee meeting. A group had been formed of proponents of “Active Transportation” which the media picked up as “anti-ATV”. The N.S. Trails Federation supports both motorized and non-motorized trails, so a N.S. Trails Federation “Active Transportation” Committee would be a more neutral forum. Active transportation refers to hiking, walking, bicycling, xc-skiing and other self-propelled modes of transport. The terms of reference for the committee are still under development.
- b) B. Waddell initiated a general discussion of the Cape to Cape concept and how CE-TS might endorse this vision. After some discussion it became clear that getting an easement from the large landowners’ is becoming increasingly difficult, and that the large landowners’ have a wide variety of issues and business perspectives that are quite foreign to us.
- Two strategies were generated by the discussion.
- 1) H. Paquet suggested that CE-TS Board write to N.S. Trails requesting their help with a process for approaching the large landowners and to help open up a relationship. N.S. Trails or some other provincial organization to come to the table representing any of the incorporated trail building community groups, including CE-TS. This suggestion was met with general approval.
 - 2) Moved by B. Waddell, seconded by S. Wilson, that the Board of Directors develop a statement that supports the Cape to Cape vision in principle and our wish to partner in this initiative.

CARRIED

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm on a motion from S. Wilson.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Waddell, Secretary
CE-TS