

Cobequid Eco-Trails Society (CETS)
Annual General Meeting #3
June 22, 2011
Colchester Historical Museum, 29 Young Street, Truro, NS

MINUTES

Present: Ineke Bakker, Duncan English, Peggy English, Brenda Halverson, Michael Hansen, Bill Hill, Anne Hill, Kim McCallum, Garnet McLaughlin (Chair), Dianne Powell, Boulos (Paul) Soliman, Bettie Spence, John Sullivan, Bonnie Waddell (Secretary), Norris Whiston, Sheila Wilson, Dave Wood

Regrets: Gordon Benjamin, Gordon Hickman, Art Ives, Gwen Mader

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

1. Quorum: A quorum was confirmed with 15 members of CETS. Two more arrived after the meeting began for a total attendance of 17.

2. Agenda: Moved by Michael Hansen, seconded by Bill Hill that the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of AGM #2: Moved by Norris Whiston, seconded by Sheila Wilson that the minutes of CE-TS Annual General Meeting #2, March 24, 2010 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Business arising from the minutes: None.

5. Consideration of the annual reports of the directors and committees:

5 (a) Report of the Directors (Garnet McLaughlin, Chair)

Garnet noted that this was the 5th report he had presented as Chair of the Society.

Highlights of the year include:

- Web Site: A first rate Web Site has been created, thanks to the efforts and coordination by Director, John Sullivan and his associate, René Wall, both IT Specialists. René completed the restructuring and continues on a retainer for special projects related to the web site architecture.
- Risk Management Plan was completed by Bonnie Waddell. She noted that it was prepared to satisfy the requirements of the Trail Management Agreement between Environment Nova Scotia and CETS for the Gully

Lake Protected Wilderness Area. According to the agreement it was to be completed within a year. It has been distributed to Search and Rescue, First Responders, RCMP in Truro and Tatamagouche, EMH offices and various others who might help in a rescue. If anyone asks for a copy it is on the web site as a pdf file. Anyone may copy and use it, provided the source is noted in a citation.

- Kiosk Planning: This work is on-going, thanks to Kim McCallum, Layton Lynch, John Sullivan, and Bonnie Waddell and with Norris Whiston working on developing content.
- Regional Development is on-going in talks with Town of Stewiacke, and Cape to Cape (Cumberland Region).
- Open Space Access: This remains a significant challenge.

1) CETS Board members have been working strategically, advocating that government and large landowners allow access to property for trail development by registered trail groups.

2) CETS members have met with both Cumberland and Colchester political leaders to introduce them to open space issues. Maps were prepared by Cumberland and Colchester County staff showing all the owners of very large tracts of land.

3) CETS Board members met with Wagner Forest NS Ltd (April 14, 2011) to discuss the development of a formal trail from Rogart Mountain Trail to the Nuttby Look-off. Next steps are for a lawyer hired by CETS (June 7, 2011) to provide Wagner NS General Manager with an unbiased overview of the trail development model – risk management and liabilities under Nova Scotia law.

- Wentworth Summit – Cape to Cape Trail:
A successful Cape to Cape Summit Meeting was held in Wentworth, hosted by CETS, to discuss the vision of a long distance trail, to develop next steps and to share ideas. Stakeholders from Antigonish to Cumberland participated, including members of trail groups as well as both provincial and municipal government representatives for recreation and health for four counties. There is now 70 km of trail completed.

As a result of the summit, NS Health and Wellness has committed staff time to the project to assist with broad level planning.

Next step is to activate an informal working committee to provide leadership and consistency as the trail develops.

- Future Plans and Initiatives:

Work is continuing ...

- 1) to enable CETS to sponsor the development of an engineering plan for a pedestrian (AT) bridge across the Salmon River at the former Palliser location.
- 2) to have access to the Nuttby Mountain Look-off, and to extend the Cape to Cape from Nuttby to Wentworth.
- 3) to explore the potential of opening Gitten's Lodge property to a year-round multi-use trail under the umbrella of CETS.
- 4) to develop a Route Concept Plan for the Historical Trail (Belmont/Debert to Tatamagouche)

5 (b) Report of the Gully Lake – Nuttby Mountain Trail Committee (Norris Whiston)

- Building new trail with 105 volunteers assisting professionals:

Beginning May 14, 2010 – building Juniper Head Trail

Fall 2009 – December 2010 volunteers put up trail markers for Sandy Cope, Juniper Head, Portage, and Gully Lake Trail between Gully Lake and Juniper Brook.

Beginning June 13, 2010 building trail from former xmas tree farm on Kemptown Rd to Salmon River.

Beginning July 13, 2010 building Portage Trail from Salmon River Crossing to the Sandy Cope Trail.

October 9, 2011 volunteers built the entry spur from Gully Lake Fire Road to Portage Trail.

November 16, 2011 Risk Warning signs put up as well as directional and interpretive signs for beginning of Portage and of Juniper Head Trails.

Two parking lots were also constructed on the Kemptown Rd and Glen Road.

- After Environment NS Inspection:

Based on John Glynn-Morris and Oliver Maass' suggestions during final inspections on October 10 and October 20, 2011, volunteers removed flagged stumps, rerouted trail farther from heritage tree roots, adjusted trail markers, put up map and look-off signs. All work was completed on June 10, 2011.

- On-going Maintenance:

May 2010 volunteers began winter clean-up of trails (removing fallen trees) on Sandy Cope, Rogart, Juniper Head Trails.

September 4, 2010 Hurricane Earl passed through. CETS reacted quickly with inspections and within a few days volunteer crews were removing fallen trees from the trails.

November – December saw quite a bit of wind damage resulting in volunteer crews working 17 sessions. January – June saw additional wind damage resulting in a 9 person effort on April 24 continuing to June 6, 2011.

5 (c) Report / update on Web Site development (John Sullivan)

- The web site restructuring is designed so that we can build on it. It reflects CETS as it is now, but can grow to accommodate new Trail Committees and new trails. Home page has been kept quite generic – not specific to the Gully Lake to Nuttby Trail System. The restructuring freed up a lot of space so that there is now significant space for pictures as well as links to other Trail systems not managed by CETS such as the Cape to Cape, Wentworth Valley, Cumberland County, and Kenome Trail System.
- Pictures will have captions including which trail. Pictures are not organized by trail, but there is a folder for each trail.
- CETS members can make a valuable contribution by testing the web site and reporting errors. This is very important!
- The Blog, demonstrated to the Board of Directors and used by them, is now ready to be opened up to CETS members
- Please send suggestions to John Sullivan [agritech@eastlink.ca]
- It is hoped to have a small working group to act as a steering group for web site development.

5 (d) Report of the Events Committee (Sheila Wilson)

- Events Committee Report was presented by Sheila Wilson on behalf of the event planning group (Sheila, Bettie and Ineke).
- 1) ***Event Planning Guidelines and Policies***: A model developed by this group seems to work very well, and is based on a wealth of event planning experience within the VolksSport Association. These guidelines and policies are posted to the web site. First Aid Kits and Walkie-Talkies were purchased to improve communication and safety on longer hikes.
 - 2) ***The public opening of the Gully Lake Wilderness Trail System*** was celebrated in October 2010 followed by guided hikes on several trails (Rogart Mtn, Sandy Cope, and Earltown/ Portage) with 100 people.
 - 3) ***Snowshoe events*** were also well attended – 63 hardy souls on January 22, 2011 in -17 degree temperatures (excluding the wind chill). It was beautiful and still in the woods. Three different hikes were offered with varying lengths and difficulty.
 - 4) ***Juniper Trail and Gully Lake Trail***: A guided hike on these new trails took place on May 28, 2011 with 14 participants who completed the hike in 6 hours.
 - 5) ***Next CE-TS sponsored event***: Please mark on your calendars the date of the next trail event: October 16, 2011.

6. Consideration of financial statements: (Kim McCallum)

Kim presented a Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the Year ending March 31, 2011. It included, in summary, Total Revenue of \$25,470; Total Expenses of \$24,135.40 (of which \$17,012.80 was materials for trail building, parking lot and kiosk). The cash flow analysis indicated Cash on hand March 31, 2010 \$26,097.96 and Cash on hand March 31, 2011 \$27,432.56.

Moved by Norris Whiston, seconded by Michael Hansen that the Treasurer's Report be approved.

CARRIED

7. Nominating Committee Report (Michael Hansen)

Michael presented the report of the nominating committee made up this year of Michael Hansen and Kim McCallum. Current Board members were canvassed and have agreed to serve for another year, except one member who resigned from the Board of Directors effective June 23, 2011, which means there is one vacancy.

Moved by Michael Hansen, seconded by Kim McCallum that the following nominations for the Board of Directors, Gordon Benjamin, Michael Hansen, Gordon Hickman, Art Ives, Gwen Mader, Kim McCallum, Garnet McLaughlin, Bettie Spence, John Sullivan, Bonnie Waddell, Sheila Wilson, be approved for the period April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012.

CARRIED

Moved by Michael Hansen, seconded by Kim McCallum that Dianne Powell of Cumberland County be appointed to the Board of Directors.

CARRIED

Moved by Michael Hansen, seconded by Kim McCallum that Garnet McLaughlin be approved as Chairperson of the Cobequid Eco-Trails Society for the period April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012.

Garnet was asked if he would accept the nomination. He replied that he would. Michael called for further nominations. There being none, the motion was approved.

CARRIED

Moved by Garnet McLaughlin, seconded by Kim McCallum that Michael Hansen be approved as Vice Chair of the Cobequid Eco-Trails Society for the period April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012.

Michael was asked if he would accept the nomination. He replied that he would. Garnet called for further nominations. There being none, the motion was approved.

CARRIED

Moved by Michael Hansen, seconded by Kim McCallum that Bonnie Waddell be approved as Secretary of the Cobequid Eco-Trails Society for the period April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012.

Bonnie was asked if she would accept the nomination. She replied that she would. Garnet called for further nominations. There being none, the motion was approved.

CARRIED

The current treasurer submitted his resignation effective June 23, 2011, but offered to continue through the summer until his successor is identified. Kim was thanked by the Chair, to general applause, for his work as treasurer, and for his financial analyses which greatly facilitated the work of the Board.

ACTION: Dianne Powell offered to call Gordon Hickman to see if he will assume the mantle of treasurer.

8. Feedback from the membership:

For the purposes of discussion by members of the Cobequid Eco-Trails Society present at the meeting, the following agenda items were consolidated:

- Establishing the Cumberland County Trail Group as CE-TS Trail Committee.
- Discussion of plans and initiatives for 2011 -2012, and approval of a budget for these activities.

There was a discussion with general agreement that the Board should continue on its present course. Duncan English enquired about the Board's feelings with respect to designating certain trails as bike trails. There was some discussion, and much encouragement for him to come forward with a proposal or suggestions. There is a need for someone to actively represent the bikers in northern Nova Scotia.

Dianne Powell asked for clarification, wondering if it would be acceptable for Dave Wood to attend Board meetings with her as a resource person for Cumberland County. The Chair replied yes, although Dave would not have a vote, since the by-laws do not allow proxy voting.

9. Other Business – comments and suggestions from the members: None

10. Motion to adjourn: Moved by Dianne Powell that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Waddell, Secretary