

MINUTES
Cobequid Eco-Trails Society
Meeting #14 Wednesday, December 9, 2009
Sobey's, Robie Street, Truro 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Present: Garnet McLaughlin, Norris Whiston, Mike Hansen, Gordon Benjamin, Kim McCallum, Sheila Wilson, Bettie Spence, Bonnie Waddell (Recorder)

Regrets: Art Ives

1. Approval of the Agenda:

Moved by Kim M., seconded by M. Hansen that the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2. Approval of the minutes of Meeting #13, June 23, 2009.

Moved by S. Wilson, seconded by G. Benjamin that the minutes be approved.

CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes:

Trail Management Agreement – update: We still need to have the Landowners' Agreements registered. It could be done by the County lawyer who reviewed the TMA for us and made this suggestion. Norris W. will provide one from Margaret MacLaughlin. Bonnyman is still pending. Bonnie will follow up when these are provided.

4. Officers' Reports:

4.1 Chair (G. McLaughlin) – Application for additional \$6,600 (NTC-CNS 2009/2010)

- a) Project Budget: Garnet has made application to NTC (at their invitation) for additional money. We have unmatched funds of \$14,400, if any projects are unable to be completed. Atlantic Representative is now Roger Mailman who contacted Garnet yesterday to say there are currently no funds left for non-motorized trails.

- b) Mountain Biking: Garnet presented at a conference in Chester with the Mountain Bike people needing advice on how to get bike trails funded. They are considering setting up an umbrella association for their community which is quite fragmented across NS. They would like to use our Memorandum of Association as a model. Gwen Mader and Sherry Huberts are contacts. The Board supports sharing information with them.

- c) Drawing trails on Crown Land maps: Robert Sarson, Pictou County Cape to Cape Committee was asked to start “drawing” potential trails on Crown lands. We need to request that we be allowed to do the same for our trail, past Nuttby toward Wentworth. If we can put lines on paper we can start negotiating with the other big landowners.

4.2 Treasurer (KM) – CE-TS Financial Statement:

- a) Kim presented a Statement of Revenue and Expenses as of Dec 9, 2009.

b) Colchester County Council votes on December 10, 2009 on our application for support for trail and directors’ insurance. In reply to a question from Norris, he said it is based on 6.2 km of completed trail (Rogart Mountain).

Note: new trail is automatically covered by our NS Trails Federation policy as soon as completed. We will be billed for new trail in 2010.

Note: The status of various grant monies is summarized on back of the Agenda.

Note: Colchester County “Community Trail Funding Program” has annual trail maintenance grants. The deadline for applications is Friday January 29, 2010 at 4:30 pm. Application form is at <http://www.colchester.ca/rec-grants>.

Moved by N. Whiston, seconded by B. Spence that the Treasurer’s report be approved.

CARRIED

A brief discussion followed about the complexities of dealing with Revenue Canada in applying for the HST rebate to which we are eligible.

Moved by K. McCallum, seconded by S. Wilson, that the Board grant the Treasurer permission to handle all correspondence and contact with Revenue Canada.

CARRIED

4.3 Secretary (BW) – Membership & renewals

Sheila felt that it was time to send membership renewal notices. It was suggested that we use our logo to make an xmas tree ornament which will be sent with a membership renewal form. The secretary offered to do this, to general agreement.

As an aside, it was suggested that Norris find out the cost to have “Do-Rags” made with the CE-TS logo and other information, for trail volunteers and members, as a fundraiser. Contact at Fundy Textiles is Trish Bailey.

5.0 Committee Report: Gully-Nuttby Trail Development

5.1 Volunteer contributions & planned activities (NW)

- 82 people have helped to build trail this year compared to 62 last year.
- Ken and Layton Lynch have been helping behind the scenes with preparation of trail markers.
- Other groups using Rogart include the Moncton Outdoors Club
- Programming Schedule for Winter is shaping up:

January 16, 2010	Hike Nova Scotia snowshoe program. Sandy Cope Trail
January 23, 2010	Earlton Lakes & Portage Trail – XC Ski Club will bring extra skis to rent. Hilary Paquet offered 40 pairs of snowshoes for a refundable \$45, Sheila is coordinating.
January 24, 2010	Fran Wyman snowshoe with Pictou County and the Scotsburn Recreation Department on the Cape to Cape Trail (date not final).
February 6, 2010	Oliver Maas “Parks are for People” – cross country skiing Sandy Cope Trail in the Gully Lake Protected Wilderness.
February 20, 2010	VolksSport Snowshoe on the Earlton Lakes & Portage Trail & possibly Rogart Mountain.
February 21 or 28	Economy River cross-country ski

- The Chair commended Norris on his efforts to publicize trails events in our area and asked him to submit receipts for hospitality expenses.

- Norris is preparing brochures (5 field guides one page each on: lichen, mosses, history) and is continuing to do historical research, most recently on Pictou County landowners. He would like some support for these.

Garnet suggested that we have a signage committee to set some standards for signage, interpretation and notices.

- Garnet, Norris, Bonnie, Bettie and Sheila volunteered to serve on this committee. First meeting will be immediately prior to the next Board meeting, open to any Board member who is interested. Some issues to be decided:

- a) Trail head design, main trailhead, trailheads within the protected area to be negotiated with Oliver Maas.
- b) Where the signs will be placed: i.e. junctions, decision points, crosspoints, intersections etc. on-map and on-ground experience.
- c) How many interpretation signs
- d) Materials for durability – easily replaced, to minimize vandalism.

5.2 Contractor's Progress Reports & Current Status (GM)

a) Garnet presented a financial and progress report with completed and proposed trail marked and maps. He has 32 km GIS completed of 36 km proposed. The overall budget is on target. With parking lots and signage it will be close, depending on volunteer commitment. There is approx. \$17,000 left for labour cost i.e. \$1,000 per day on labour or one month of work when ground thaws in spring.

b) Bonnie presented a plan for the main trailhead to general approval. It is adapted from one example in the resource materials provided by Holly Woodill, Coordinator for the construction of the Crobar Lake Trail.

Moved by S. Wilson, seconded by B. Spence that we proceed with planning and construction of the Trail Head presented, provided it first receives approval of Sugar Moon Farm owners.

CARRIED

Moved by B. Waddell, seconded by G. Benjamin that David Baxter, a local carpenter from the Balmoral area, be hired for up to two days to prepare drawings and materials list.

CARRIED

5.3 Trail building Plans

- to March 31, 2010
- April 1, 2010 and onwards (Wish List / ideas)
- Main Trail Head Design

6. Risk Management Plan - Protected Wilderness Area TMA:

One or two people are needed to develop our Risk Management Plan required by the Trail Management Agreement with NS Environment. Oliver Maas has supplied a very practical plan that can be adapted for our use. There were no volunteers, for the moment.

7. CE-TS Web Site

Bonnie reported that a full copy of the Web site has been done through a back-up and that it is being suggested that we register a new domain name for when we begin work revising the site. Annual cost is \$49.00.

Norris suggested that we abandon the CE-TS web site and help to finance the Cape to Cape site instead. Both the Cape to Cape web site and Hike Nova Scotia have very useful features for listing activities. The feeling of the Board was that CE-TS should have a web site separate from the Cape to Cape web site.

Moved by M. Hansen, seconded by G. Benjamin that the Secretary be authorized to register a domain name www.cobequidecotrails.ca

CARRIED

Moved by S. Wilson, seconded by M. Hansen that N. Whiston investigate the cost to CE-TS of supporting the Cape to Cape web site financially.

CARRIED

8. Open House / Annual General Meeting:

The Board agreed to select a date for an Open House Reception to be followed by the AGM in Stewiacke. Trail planning in the area is proceeding for trails in-town linking to the Shubenacadie Canal Trail.

Note: Registry of Joint Stock Companies is flexible on the scheduling of AGM. Our by-laws state that AGM: Fiscal year is April 1- March 31 and that the AGM shall be held within two months after the end of each fiscal year.

Theme for the meeting: *Gully Lake from Start to Finish (GM)*

Community Inventory (GM)

Slide Show (NW)

9. Correspondence – Hike Nova Scotia

Norris provided detailed information on Hike Nova Scotia action plan, winter promotions, discount sponsors, Safe Hike Program (education), Reward program etc.

10. Other business: none

11. Date & Agenda of next Board meeting:

January 13, 2010 Wednesday 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Sobeys', Robie Street, Truro

To be preceded by a Signage Committee meeting from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

12. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Status of Various Grants

Grant Applications: Glen Road (Gully Lake Area) to Rogart Mountain trail system:

TOTAL: \$136,849.20 (\$45,616.80 is in-kind)

- North Shore and Area Community Health Board (Tatamagouche)

Wellness Fund Grant Program

Requested: \$2,000 Approved: \$2,000. **Rec'd \$800**

Received \$1200 June 2009

- Municipality of Colchester County

Community Trail Funding Program

Requested: \$50,000

Received: \$50,000

- Nova Scotia Health Promotion, Sport and Recreation

Recreation Facility Development Program

Requested: \$39,232.80; Approved **\$29,000 over 2 yrs**

Received: \$15,000 Oct. 2009

- National Trails Coalition 2009/2010

Federal infrastructure program

Requested: \$66,600. Approved \$60,000.

Received: \$30,000

a) 50% upon signing (rec'd)

b) 20% based on cash flow projections (not rec'd)

c) 20% based on Solemn Statement of Substantial Completion (submitted but not yet received)

d) 10% upon acceptance of GC acceptance of final audited report for entire NTC funding program.

Grant Applications for Trail Workshops Summer/ Fall 2008

- Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection

Trails Leadership Fund (Contact Steve Vines, New Glasgow)

Requested: \$4,948 rec'd \$3,959 (\$989 withheld until final reporting March 2009)

COMPLETED

- Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection

Capital Grant / Leadership Training / Engineering (tools)

Requested \$800 (withheld until final reporting Mar. 2009)

COMPLETED

Since CE-TS now has Trail completed, grants for maintenance will be available to CE-TS from the Municipality of Colchester County and Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection.