

**FRIENDS OF WABAKIMI
MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS**

Date: Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 9:00AM CST

Location: Superior Room, Clarion Hotel
Alliant Energy Center
2110 Rimrock Road
Madison, Wisconsin USA

Also conducted online via ZOOM

Present in Person (20): Vern Fish (President), Dave McTeague (Chair), William Pyle, Doug Blount, Mary Jean Blaisdell, Ray Tallent, Bruce Hyer, John Sinclair, Dan Otto, Don Baumgartner, Andy Boddy, Scott Pirsag, Tom Mertens, Beth Rausch, Berlin Nelson Jr, Bill Conner, Vince Fiorito Terry DeFraties., Jim Kerler, Liesa Kerler, Hank Ostwald, Jeff Schimpff, Scott Spink, John Rodthe, Trevor Twose

Present on ZOOM meeting (16): Ken Babinchak, Brian Beney, Dave Scheie, Laurence Mills, Maurice Poulin, Cindy Dillenschneider

Present by Proxy and Represented by the President (46):

The President, having determined a quorum of one-fifth (20% or 58) of the 289 members in good standing and eligible to vote was present in person (20+) or represented by proxy (46), called the meeting to order at 9:02 PM CST.

FOW Overview.

Vern Fish (president) gave an overview of the organization.

Adoption of Agenda

Resolved That: The Agenda proposed in the *Notice of 2023 Annual Meeting* be adopted.

Moved by: Bruce Hyer

Seconded by: Mary Jean Blaisdell

Carried

Adoption of 2022 Annual Meeting of Members Minutes

Resolved That: The Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of members be adopted.

Moved by: Bill Conner.

Seconded by: Andy Boddy

Carried

Election of Directors

Resolved That: The following persons be elected to serve as Directors of Friends of Wabakimi for the 2023 to 2026 term; Mary Jean Blaisdell, Rany Trudeau, Maurice Poulin, Beth Rausch, Trevor Twose.

The following persons be elected to serve as Directors of Friends of Wabakimi for the 2023 to 2025 term; Laurence Mills, Brian Beney

Moved by: Bill Pyle

Seconded by: Doug Blount

Carried

Approval of 2021 Financial Statement

Resolved That: The *Financial Statement* prepared by John Holmes, FOW Secretary Treasurer for the period ending December 31, 2022 be approved.

Moved by: Bill Connor

Seconded by: Scott Pirsag

Carried

Updates

Outdoor shows. In addition to CanoeCopia, FOW was present at the Minneapolis Outdoor Adventure Expo and the Toronto Outdoor Adventure Show. The Toronto show was our first attendance since Phil Cotton passed away, and was a resounding success.

The FOW planning map has been updated by Go-Trekkers. This project has allowed us to have control of the master file, allowing us to make changes and updates as needed. The update was done in close collaboration with the Wabakimi Park staff.

The five FOW map volumes are being ported to a new mapping system used by Laurence Mills. He is combing the FOW developed information with his and other sources in order to update and make corrections to the map volumes.

The Conservation Committee continues to work with the LCC, MNRF, Wabakimi Park and other stakeholders to monitor Crown land activity with a view to protecting Crown land canoe routes and campsites. Our preferred roading route for forestry access into the Armstrong Forest has been adopted.

FOW fundraising has allowed the Park to buy 6 bird recording meters with funds directly contributed by the FOW, and 5 more through direct contributions to Ontario Parks.

A photo and video contest was run in order to engage with paddlers in Wabakimi Park. This media can be used for our posters, website and social media to further engagement.

The Wabakimi Rendezvous has held in the Armstrong area in September, and was a resounding success. Approximately 50 to 60 persons attended.

Kevin Belmore was commissioned to create a print for FOW. Proceeds from the print go to Indigenous Friendship Centre in Thunder Bay in order to support their programs. The print can be purchased at our booth at Outdoor Shows, or online from the Creative Company in Thunder Bay.

The FOW Board has approved the creation of a quasi-endowment fund. The creation of the accounts, and regulations and policies for the operation of the fund, are a project for 2023.

The Phil Cotton Legacy Award for 2023 is awarded to Bruce Hyer. Bruce Hyer was instrumental in the creation of Wabakimi Provincial Park, and continues to advocate for the wider Wabakimi Area.

Strategic Plan. The FOW continues to pursue its Strategic Plan through involvement with the Park Management Plan, collaborating with Park management on specific park projects, fundraising for Park projects, helping paddlers plan and conduct trips in the Wabakimi Area and being a voice for the protection of Crown Land.

Resolved That: The 2023 Annual Meeting of Members is adjourned at 9:54 am CST.

Moved by: Don Baumgartner

Seconded by: Dan Otto

Carried



Signed:

Dated: March 12, 2023.

Vern Fish, President