

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

Date: Sunday, February 25th, 2024 at 9:00AM CST

**Location: International Center
6900 Airport Rd, Mississauga, ON L4V 1E8, Canada**

Also conducted online via ZOOM

Present in Person (11): Vern Fish (President), Brian Beney, Mhairi McFarlane, Maurice Poulin, Bruce Hyer, Boris Skoropadsky, Michaela Ferguson, Petra Nikolau, Marcin Kunka Jordan Hill

Present on ZOOM meeting (12): Dave McTeague (Chair), Doug Blount, Ray Tallent, Jeff Schimpff,

Present by Proxy and Represented by the President (85):

The President, having determined a quorum of one-fifth (20% or 68) of the 342 members in good standing and eligible to vote was present in person (11) and represented by proxy (85), called the meeting to order at 9:02 PM CST.

FOW Overview.

Vern Fish (president) gave an overview of the organization, including our Vision and our Mission.

Adoption of Agenda

Resolved That: The Agenda proposed in the *Notice of 2024 Annual Meeting* be adopted.

Moved by: Maurice Poulin

Seconded by: Boris Skoropadsky

Carried

Adoption of 2023 Annual Meeting of Members Minutes

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

Moved by: Brian Beney

Seconded by: Maurice Poulin

Carried

Election of Directors

Resolved That: The following persons be elected to serve as Directors of Friends of Wabakimi for the 2024 to 2027 term; Vern Fish, John Holmes, Dave McTeague, Kristen Setala, Jeff Schimpff

Moved by: Maurice Poulin

Seconded by: Boris Skoropadsky

Carried

Approval of 2023 Financial Statement

Resolved That: The *Financial Statement* prepared by John Holmes, FOW Secretary Treasurer for the period ending December 31, 2023 be approved.

Moved by: Brian Beney

Seconded by: Maurice Poulin

Carried

By-Law Amendments

Resolved That: Under section 5.2 Banking of the FOW By-laws, remove the term “Ontario Branch of a Canadian Bank” and add “or institutions”.

This allows us to temporarily deposit monies earned at US based outdoor shows into a US based banking institution when using US based POS services.

Under section 9.10 of the FOW By-laws, change the term “one-fifth (20%)” to “one-tenth (10%)”. This refers to the level of representation required in person, or by proxy, to be considered a Quorum for the transaction of business at an Annual Meeting of Members.

Under Section 9.11(b) Voting, add voting shall be “first by a voice vote, and if in doubt” by a show of hands. Add subsection (d) “A vote of the Board of Directors, 21 days before a membership meeting, may allow eligible members to participate in a membership meeting by an electric means. A designated board member should monitor the chat to ascertain the eligibility and assist in the vote count. A member is deemed present and in person provided all persons participating in the meeting are able to communicate adequately with each other at the same time.”

Section 9.11(e) and 9.11(f) be removed from the By-Laws.

These changes were approved by the FOW board on February 18th, 2024.

Moved by: Bruce Hyer

Seconded by: Maurice Poulin

Carried

Updates

Outdoor shows. In addition to Canoeopia, FOW was present at the Minneapolis Outdoor Adventure Expo and the Toronto Outdoor Adventure Show.

The FOW planning map continues to be updated by Go-Trekkers. This allows us to have control of the master file, allowing us to make changes and updates as needed. The updates are done in close collaboration with the Wabakimi Park staff.

The five FOW map volumes have been ported to the new mapping system used by Laurence Mills. He combined 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 have 36 more days of canoe ranger work in the park. Additional time was needed due to the damage to portages and campsites from the Flint River fire.

FOW fundraising has allowed for two Otter flights to remove a large amount of debris from a site on North Shabuskwia Lake.

A photo and video contest was run again this year 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 FOW Board has created a quasi-endowment fund. The creation of the accounts, and regulations and policies for the operation of the fund, are complete.

The Phil Cotton Legacy Award for 2023 is awarded to Doug Blount. Doug was a trip participant and trip leader for the Wabakimi Project for many years. Doug was FOW President when Phil Cotton passed away in 2018, and was instrumental in ensuring that the trip schedule was completed that year. He ensured that the FOW continued on in time after Phil passed, and continues to contribute to the growth of the FOW,

A Board retreat will be held in Thunder Bay, September 6-9th.

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.

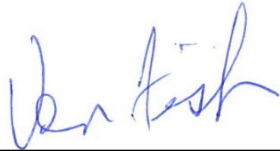
Moved by: Boris Skoropadsky

Seconded by: Maurice Poulin

Carried

Signed: _____

Vern Fish, President



Dated February 25th, 2024.