

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

December 12, 2019

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at Woodend Auditorium, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Lloyd Ferguson – in the Chair	
Dan Bowman	Jim Cimba
Brad Clark	Chad Collins
Susan Fielding	Tom Jackson – arrived late
Cynthia Janzen	Santina Moccio
Esther Pauls	Maria Topalovic

Margaret Reid – Foundation Chair

REGRETS:

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Gord Costie, Matt Hall, Bruce Harschnitz, Neil McDougall, Scott Peck, Jaime Tellier and Nancy Watts

OTHERS: Richard Leitner – Media

1. Call to Order

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and conveyed possible regrets from Tom Jackson who was coming from another meeting. The Chair also expressed condolences on behalf of the Board to Scott Peck on the passing of his father in November. Scott expressed sincere appreciation for the flowers sent by the members of the Board.

The Chair provided the members with an update regarding his recent attendance at the HCA staff annual general meeting, where he was able to congratulate staff on a great year, and assist with recognizing 9 staff for service awards.

The Chair also advised the members of details of the Conservation Ontario Council meeting on December 9, which was attended by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks. While no key announcements were made, the Minister thanked all Conservation Authorities for presenting to MECP

staff about their watershed programs and services and funding. The Minister did affirm that programs and services may continue, as long as there is municipal support. The Minister also confirmed that Conservation Authorities can continue with self-generating revenue activities. Therefore, HCA can continue to operate our Conservation Areas and maintain Confederation Beach Park through our management agreement with the City of Hamilton.

There will be further consultation with stakeholders in early 2020. It is anticipated after these regional meetings that the Province will release any updates to the Conservation Authorities Act.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were none.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes.

BD12,2718

**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

CARRIED

THAT the agenda be approved.

4. Delegations

There were none.

5. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes, and Correspondence

5.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses

5.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – November 7, 2019

5.3. Approved September 19, 2019 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – for receipt only

5.4. Letters to Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority from Township of Springwater regarding Conservation Authority Levies and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Levy, dated October 21, 2019

5.5. Letters to Hamilton Conservation Authority from Township of Amaranth regarding Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority levies and Conservation Authority Exit Clauses, dated November 22, 2019

BD12,2719

MOVED BY: Brad Clark

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the Consent Agenda be approved.

CARRIED

6. Member Briefing

There was none.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

8. Other Correspondence

There was none.

9. Reports from Budget & Administration Committee, Conservation Advisory Board, and the Foundation

9.1. Budget & Administration Committee – November 21, 2019

Santina Moccio presented the following recommendations from the Budget & Administration Committee.

Resolution Number BA1935 from Budget & Advisory Committee Minutes November 21, 2019 – Mileage Rate

BD12, 2720

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

THAT the Budget and Administration Committee recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT the current mileage rate increase from 53 cents to 54 cents per kilometre effective January 1, 2020.

CARRIED

Resolution Number BA1937 from Budget & Administration Minutes November 21, 2019 – Honorariums and Per Diems

BD12,2721

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls**

THAT the Budget and Administration Committee recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT HCA's honorarium rates for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors be changed to match those of Conservation Halton and the per diem rate for Board of Directors and Advisory Board and Committee members be increased to \$75.00 per meeting, effective January 1, 2020.

NOT CARRIED

Councillor Clark sought clarification from staff that the motion should be corrected to remove the reference to the per diem rate being applicable per meeting, as the per diem rate applies per day.

BD12,2722

**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba
SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls**

THAT the motion be corrected to state HCA's honorarium rates for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors be changed to match those of Conservation Halton and the per diem rate for Board of Directors and Advisory Board and Committee members be increased to \$75.00, effective January 1, 2020.

CARRIED

The amended motion was approved with Santina Moccio abstaining from the vote, after having declared a conflict of interest on the motion as Vice-Chair.

Lloyd Ferguson clarified that City of Hamilton Councillors are not permitted to receive honorariums or per diems. Susan Fielding advised that she was permitted to receive the honorarium and per diems when she was a Councillor with the Township of Puslinch. Policies regarding receipt of honorariums and per diems are specific to member municipalities.

The members directed staff to review the per diems and honorariums annually.

9.2. Foundation Chairman's Report

Margaret Reid presented the report.

Donations

We received a total of **\$21,477** in donations in November. They break down as follows:

- \$17,774 for Area of Greatest Need Fund
- \$820 for Westfield Heritage Village
- \$745 for Outdoor Environmental Education
- The remaining \$2,138 came in donations for Land Securement, Stewardship, Tree Planting, Species at Risk, Eramosa Karst, Saltfleet CA and Trail Development.

This brings our total for the fiscal year (Dec 2018 to Nov 2019) to **\$595,107**

Events

The Foundation hosted a fundraising event at The Westdale on November 13th featuring Adam Shoalts, Modern Day Explorer. The event drew 293 attendees, raised \$4,743 for the Area of Greatest Need Fund and helped create a significant buzz around the Foundation and the Authority projects and programs we support.

BD12,2724

**MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen**

THAT the Foundation Chairman's Report be received as information.

CARRIED

10. Other Staff Reports/Memorandums

10.1. Current Watershed Conditions as of December 2, 2019

Scott Peck presented a summary of the report, indicating there are currently no riverine flooding concerns or flood or erosion concerns for Lake Ontario. The Lake Ontario water level continues to be 49cm higher than normal for this period. The Christie reservoir water levels are being managed to facilitate repairs to the dam gates. Valens Lake level will be lowered slightly to reach the winter levels.

The members inquired about staff concerns with the Lake Ontario water level. Scott advised that the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board continues to manage for lowering the water levels in Lake Ontario, however the time required to reach the average levels is to be determined.

BD12,2725

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

THAT the memorandum entitled Current Watershed Conditions as of December 2, 2019 be received as information.

CARRIED

10.2. Upcoming HCA and Partner Events

Gord Costie presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting that we are coming to the close of another successful year. He added that HCA's Conservation Areas are open all year round and closed only for Christmas Day.

Gord also shared that the annual Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority (HWHA) deer harvest has concluded. No concerns were brought forward to staff. A report with the final number of deer harvested is expected soon. In follow up to earlier staff direction, Gord advised the members that staff have followed up with the HWHA regarding their request to receive firewood from felled trees in the Dundas Valley.

Gord further noted there were no issues with parking on Highway 56 for the first weekend of the 'Twas the Night Before Christmas program at Westfield Heritage Village. The City of Hamilton provided pylons which were effective on preventing traffic on the highway. Staff will continue to implement parking deterrence measures for the remaining weekends of the event.

With regard to the proposed pilot project to transition 'Twas the Night Before Christmas to a ticketed event, Gord advised the members that a staff working group has been assembled. They are currently reviewing options to improve traffic and parking to provide safe and enjoyable events at Westfield. Staff anticipate these measures may be applicable to other HCA facilities/events.

The members inquired about whether or not any members of the public were turned away as a result of the parking measures. Gord advised that to his knowledge no cars had been turned away.

BD12,2726

**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic
THAT the memorandum entitled Upcoming HCA
and Partner Events be received as information.**

CARRIED

11. New Business

There was none.

12. In-Camera Items for Matters of Law, Personnel and Property

BD12,2727

**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen**

**THAT the Board of Directors moves *in camera* for
matters of law, personnel and property.**

CARRIED

12.1. Confidential Report – BD/Dec 01-2019

Scott Peck provided a summary of the report regarding a property matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12,2728

**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls**

**THAT the confidential report entitled BD/Dec 01-
2019 be approved and remain in camera.**

CARRIED

12.2. Confidential Memorandum – BD/Dec 02-2019

Scott Peck provided a summary of the memorandum regarding a property matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12,2729

**MOVED BY: Brad Clark
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba**

**THAT the confidential memorandum entitled
BD/Dec 02-2019 be received and remain in camera.**

CARRIED

12.3. Confidential Report – BA/Nov 01-2019

Santina Moccio provided a summary of the report regarding a personnel matter.

BD12,2730

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

**THAT the confidential report entitled BA/Nov 01-
2019 be approved and remain in camera.**

CARRIED

12.4. Confidential Memorandum – BD/Dec 03-2019

Lloyd Ferguson provided a summary of the memorandum regarding a personnel matter.

BD12,2731

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

**THAT the confidential memorandum entitled
BD/Dec 03-2019 be received and remain in camera.**

CARRIED

BD12,2732

**MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen**

**THAT the Board of Directors moves out of *in
camera*.**

CARRIED

13. Next Meeting – Thursday, February 6, 2020

14. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.



Neil McDougall
Secretary-Treasurer