

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

July 8, 2021

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 7.p.m., by videoconference and livestreamed via YouTube.

PRESENT: **Lloyd Ferguson – in the Chair**
 Dan Bowman **Jim Cimba**
 Chad Collins **Susan Fielding**
 Tom Jackson **Cynthia Janzen**
 Santina Moccio **Esther Pauls**
 Maria Topalovic

Jennifer Stebbing – Foundation Chair

REGRETS: **Brad Clark**

STAFF PRESENT: **Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Gord Costie, Lesley McDonell, Scott Peck, Jaime Tellier and Nancy Watts**

OTHERS: **Jo-Anne Rzadki**

1. Welcome

Lisa Burnside welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Jo-Anne Rzadki, Business Development and Partnerships Coordinator for Conservation Ontario, as the Acting Chair for the purposes of the election of officers.

2. Election of Officers

Jo-Anne Rzadki welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised she would serve as Acting Chair for the election of officers.

Jo-Anne reviewed the election procedures to be as follows:

- Nominations only require a “mover”;
- Nominations will be called 3 times for each office;
- Closing of nominations will require a “mover” and a “second”;

- Each nominee will be asked if they are willing to serve;
- If more than one person is nominated and willing to serve, there will be a vote by anonymous electronic poll;
- Each nominee will be allowed to speak in support of his/her nomination with a time limit of 5 minutes;
- A vote will be held by the electronic polling feature within the Webex videoconferencing application. No member may vote by proxy.

Jo-Anne asked if there were any questions, and hearing none, declared all offices vacant.

2.1. Appoint Scrutineers

BD12, 2911

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

THAT, if more than one person is nominated, Jaime Tellier be appointed scrutineer; and further

THAT all electronic polling results be closed and not saved after each polling is concluded.

CARRIED

2.2. Election of 2021 Chair

Jo-Anne Rzdaki called for nominations for the 2021 Chair for the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Nominated: Lloyd Ferguson

By – Mover: Jim Cimba

Jo-Anne called for nominations twice more. Having no further nominations, the office of Authority Chair for 2021 was declared closed with the following resolution.

BD12, 2912

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

THAT nominations for the 2021 Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority be closed.

CARRIED

THAT Santina Moccio be confirmed as Vice-Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2021.

CARRIED

The newly appointed Vice-Chair commented on the honour to serve, the challenges and opportunities over the past year, and anticipation for the coming term.

2.4. Election of Chair to Conservation Advisory Board

Jo-Anne Rzdaki called for nominations for the 2021 Chair for the Conservation Advisory Board.

Nominated: Dan Bowman

By – Mover: Maria Topalovic

Jo-Anne called for nominations a second and third time. Having no further nominations, Jo-Anne declared the office of Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board for 2021 closed with the following resolution:

BD12, 2916

MOVED BY: Susan Fielding

SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen

THAT nominations for the 2021 Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board be closed.

CARRIED

Jo-Anne asked Dan Bowman if he would accept the nomination. Dan accepted the nomination. Jo-Anne declared Dan as Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board by acclamation.

BD12, 2917

MOVED BY: Lloyd Ferguson

SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio

THAT Dan Bowman be confirmed as Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board 2021.

CARRIED

3. Call to Order for Normal Course of Business

The Chair called the meeting to order and thanked Jo-Anne for her assistance with the elections. The Chair also thanked staff for their efforts to sustain programs and services throughout the pandemic, and accommodating record numbers of visitors.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts under the Board's Governance Policy. There were none.

5. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. Lisa Burnside advised of an additional item of correspondence regarding pedestrian safety at Fifty Point Conservation Area, to be added as item 7.12 on the agenda and an in camera legal update.

BD12, 2920

**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba**

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

6. Delegations

There were none.

7. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence

The following consent items were adopted:

- 7.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
- 7.2. Approved April 8, 2021 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only
- 7.3. Approved May 20, 2021 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – for receipt only
- 7.4. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – June 3, 2021

- 7.5. Letter from Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to City of Hamilton, dated May 17, 2021 re Exception Requests for Municipal Appointments
- 7.6. Letter from Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Jeff Yurek, dated June 3, 2021 re Minister Approval of Exception Requests
- 7.7. 33 Items of correspondence respecting 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster, labelled a) to ag)
- 7.8. 8 Items of correspondence respecting 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster, labelled a) to h)
- 7.9. Provincial news release dated June 18, 2021 re. cabinet changes with new Ministers for MECP and MNRF
- 7.10. Conservation Ontario's Comments on "Regulatory proposals (Phase 1) under the Conservation Authorities Act" (ERO# 019-2986), dated June 22, 2021
- 7.11. Conservation Ontario letter to David Piccini, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, re. Conservation Authorities Act regulatory proposals review, dated June 22, 2021
- 7.12. Email from Heather Campbell regarding Pedestrian Safety – Fifty Point Conservation Area, dated July 4, 2021

Susan Fielding inquired about any known biographical information on Minister Piccini. Lisa indicated inquiries have been made in this regard. Minister Puccini is from the Peterborough area. Any mandates that have been provided are not known at this time. Staff are aware that the new Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, is a formal federal member of parliament.

The Chair requested staff comments on item 7.12. Gord Costie indicated staff understand the issues raised, also noting they have been heightened due to increased visitation. The master planning process for Fifty Point Conservation Area is currently underway. In the interim, changes have recently been made to the entryway to better facilitate entrance. Staff are prioritizing modernizing access for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians, for safety and efficiency. Staff were directed to respond to Ms. Campbell and include the Board members on the response.

8. Foundation Briefing

Jennifer Stebbing reported on the following:

The Foundation received a total of **\$9,508** in donations from June 1 to 30, 2021. They break down as follows:

- \$5,500 for our Planting Fund
- \$2,518 for our Area of Greatest Need Fund
- \$1,025 for the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program
- The remaining \$465 was donated to the Dundas Valley Trails Fund, Westfield Heritage Village, the Land Securement Fund and the Trail Development Fund.

This brings the fiscal year-to-date (Dec 2020 to June 2021) fundraising total to **\$124,166**.

The Election of Officers was held at the June Board of Directors. Jennifer Stebbing was elected as Chair, Graham Reid as Vice-Chair and Justin Taravski as Secretary-Treasurer until the next Annual General Meeting.

BD12, 2921

**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

THAT the Hamilton Conservation Foundation briefing be received as information.

CARRIED

9. Member Briefing

There was none.

10. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

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

11.1. Budget and Administration Committee – June 17, 2021 (Recommendations)

Santina Moccio summarized discussions by the Budget & Administration Committee regarding meeting procedures when Section 28 hearings are held. It was noted Section 28 hearings will be limited to one per Board of Directors meeting, that hearings would remain on the regular Board meeting schedule with consideration for

an earlier start date of 6pm if quorum can be achieved so that meetings do not run late into the evening.

11.1.1. BA 2122 Minimum Wage Increase to Casual Wage Rates

BD12, 2922 **MOVED BY: Santina Moccio**
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the Budget & Administration Committee recommends to the Board of Directors: THAT the revised October 1, 2021 Casual/Seasonal wage grids for Hamilton Conservation Authority, Confederation Beach Park/Wild Waterworks and Construction/Millgrove as outlined in the June 17, 2021 report be approved.

CARRIED

11.2. Conservation Advisory Board – June 10, 2021
(Recommendations)

11.2.1. CA 2122 HCA Conservation Area Pay & Display Parking Lots – Parking Enforcement Support

BD12, 2923 **MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic**
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

WHEREAS HCA has limited resources to enforce paid admission at non-gated Conservation Area parking lots with only pay & display systems; and

WHEREAS HCA is currently working with City Parking Bylaw Enforcement in discouraging roadside parking near Conservation Areas through their enforcement of No Parking signage or Special Enforcement Area signage across the city where deemed unsafe or where causing vehicle congestion around communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT City of Hamilton Parking Bylaw Enforcement Officers be authorized to enforce all unauthorized parking on private property at Conservation Areas for non-payment of daily permit or non-display of HCA membership access at selected parking lots; and

THAT HCA staff undertake the steps necessary to obtain an agreement between City of Hamilton Parking Bylaw Enforcement and HCA to enforce Unauthorized Parking – Private Parking at non-gated Conservation Area parking lots; and further

THAT the agreement be for an initial pilot period of 6 months, from July to December 2021, and staff report back on the experience to the Conservation Advisory Board and Board of Directors

CARRIED

12. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

12.1. Gypsy Moth Monitoring and Management – Verbal Presentation

Lesley McDonell provided a presentation with an update on the LDD (Gypsy) moth monitoring program and management practices, including a summary of Fall/Winter egg mass survey results and egg mass scraping and burlap banding control methods undertaken. At Valens and Christie, 1500 egg masses were scraped from trees and over 3000 caterpillars were removed. Lesley showed photos of trees experiencing defoliation in contrast to trees that are not affected. Defoliation monitoring is also being undertaken at the west end of the Dundas Valley, Westfield, and Borer's Falls – Rock Chapel. Lesley commented on natural controls for gypsy moth, the NVP virus and a fungus, and summarized the details of the aerial spray of btk pesticide undertaken in 2018. Egg mass surveys will continue this Fall/Winter. Defoliation forecasts from the monitoring will help to inform management options in the Spring.

BD12, 2924

**MOVED BY: Tom Jackson
SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls**

THAT the verbal presentation on Gypsy Moth Monitoring and Management be received.

CARRIED

12.2. Watershed Conditions Report

Scott Peck presented a summary of the report, advising the members that the Hamilton Low Water Response Team recently declared a Level 1 Low Water Condition for the watershed. Recent rains are expected to help alleviate these conditions. Christie Lake is now at summer operating levels as a result of the rain. There have been no recent or current observations or reports of significant watercourse flooding, public safety concerns, or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding, and none are expected in the coming 1-2 weeks.

BD12, 2925

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

THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.

CARRIED

12.3. Conservation Areas Experiences Update

Gord Costie provided a verbal update highlighting that the Conservation Areas continue to see high visitation. Staff monitor attendance at all areas, major and smaller parkette areas. Some areas like Valens Lake are nearing capacity for day use visitation, particularly on weekends, resulting in temporary closures and diversion of visitors to nearby areas with capacity, like Westfield Heritage Village and Christie Lake. The smaller parkette areas, such as Devil's Punchbowl, Tiffany Falls and Artaban Road continue to grow in visitation. Staff continue to manage all areas with this high demand and are prepared to continue through the rest of the summer season.

BD12, 2926

**MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic
SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

THAT the verbal update on the Conservation Areas Experiences be received.

CARRIED

13. New Business

There was none.

14. In-Camera Items

BD12, 2927**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen****THAT the Board of Directors moves *in camera* for matters of law, personnel and property.****CARRIED****During the *in camera* session, one legal matter was discussed.****14.1. Confidential Verbal Update – BD/Jul 01-2021**

Scott Peck provided the members with a verbal update regarding a legal matter and answered the members questions.

BD12, 2928**MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding****THAT the confidential verbal update entitled BD/Jul 01-2021 be received.****CARRIED****BD12, 2929****MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen
SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls****THAT the Board of Directors moves out of *in camera*.****CARRIED****15. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

16. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.



Neil McDougall
Secretary-Treasurer