



FORT FRANCES SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

P.O. Box 272, Fort Frances, Ontario, P9A 3M6

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 20, 2016 at the Fort Frances Library

Present: Ben Wiersema, Kerry Harper, Zack Manty, Bill James, Jesse Adair, Willie Anderson, Chris Bonner-Vickers, Rob Dokuchie, Crystal Gray, Henry Miller, Mike Veniot, Richard Boileau, and Brad Houghton.

Absent:.

Minute Taker: Jesse Adair

Guests: 14 Guests or Club members present

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 1800hrs. with the Ben welcoming everyone and leading the reciting of the:

2. Conservation Pledge.

3. The minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting were read by Jesse Adair:

Motion to accept (with amendment) by Jesse A. 2nd by Brad H. Carried

4. The 2016 Year End Treasurers Report (Receipts and Disbursements) was presented by Bill James. Our financials show a large sum in our account. this is due to the GICs (dedicated to conservation projects). We are not anticipating any major expenses this coming year. We already received sums from Canadian Border Services and the MNR for range rentals.

Update by Ben that we should be paid for seeding from Resolute but we don't anticipate any further requests for this as they are no longer being in operation in the area.

Motion to accept financials (copy to file) by Bill J., 2nd by Henry M.; Carried

5. Zone A Report: copy is in the Feb minutes. Henry M. gave a brief report on Elk: the Fort Frances Sportsman's Club has supported this initiative from the beginning. There are somewhere around 150 animals (this is after it hitting a low of 35 a few years back), there could have been more originally transplanted, but this was stopped by government restrictions on movement of animals.

6. Club Reports

- a) Fish - Richard B.: no report,
- b) OFAH - Richard B.: We made \$675 in profit last year. Tickets are still available for sale.
- c) Property and Ranges - Willie A.: reports ranges are in good shape. They were plowed over the winter months. Mr. Gray is to be down to conduct an inspection, date TBA.

Rob D. mentioned that there was a tree hanging down (a widow maker) over the 50 yard point on the rifle range. Glenn said he would help him take it down.

- d) Archery - Ben W.: club a bit stagnant, hopefully will pick up this spring.
- e) Junior Conservation and Youth - Henry M.: submitted a report on the 'Bluebird Project', the Ryckman Lake' project and Junior Conservation and Education (copy to file). He reported that our club had started the birdhouse project and that now it had moved throughout the province.
- f) Seeding - Ben W.: reports that the outstanding invoice is to be paid.
- g) Publicity - All Executive Members: no report.
- h) Big Game - Chris B.: fill out your Hunters Survey's. That is our voice. Bruce Hamilton reports that some tag numbers are down.
- i) Skeet - Brad H.: reports that attendance was down last year. Eight guys were regulars. Will start up as soon as it is dry.

7. Membership Report and Business - Rob D.: reports that our membership is around 300 currently. It did spike during the floods but that could have been due to us holding the only usable boat launch. Our costs have increased due to OFAH increasing their rates. Our major problem for us is that their website has been down for approx. 8 months. This is how we are able to follow our membership. This causes a administrative burden for us and leaves us with no real paper trail. They have given us no timeline as to when this will be fixed. Rob advised those in attendance, that the OFAH has tried to 'scoop' our members in the past. But if you purchase your membership direct, you are not a member of our club. Make sure you renew with us if you wish to keep utilize our facilities.

8. Old Business:

- a) Ryckman Lake project was a bit of a wash. Henry reported that club members went out on their own. The MNR was not cooperative. There were no walleye, they fished the entire lake, lots of 24" pike. Conclusion? The restock didn't work.
- b) Clubhouse renovations ongoing as well as work to the Rifle Range: we would like to solicit the membership as to what they desire. Some want covered shooting positions, some do not. Plan is to repair the concrete foundations at the benches.
- c) CBSA continuing to use range: \$3500 in user fees 2016.
- d) Bursaries: two \$1000 were given out in 2016. Mila Angus and Jacob Empy.
Requirements: A conservation or wildlife related course of study, membership, and worked with club or club related activities.

Last Call for New Business **short break**

Draw held by Brad: winners - Leo K. - \$150 towards Canadian Firearm Safety Course, and Zack M. - Wooden Carved Bowl, donated by Ken Noble,

New Business

- 1) **OFAH membership** increased again this year. Third increase in recent memory. Our cost is now \$41.20 for an adult (our adult fee \$60) leaving \$18.80 to meet our club expenses. Rob D. proposed a \$5.00 increase in our membership. FAMILY \$75.00, ADULT \$65.00 and MINOR no change.

Motion to raise our fees by Henry M. 2nd Crystal G. - Carried

***Motion to make that effective 7 May 2017, after the Gun Show by Rod D. 2nd Brad H. - Carried ***

- 2) Ben gave an update on the ongoing **Boat Launch** issue. There was some discussion. Lawyers and police have been and are involved. Both Ben and Brad state that the executives primary concern has been the safety of our membership (as the family to the south of the property have been belligerent and have even tried to physically block boat access). Ben reported that our lawyer says we own the property, but the family south of the property also have documents showing they have ownership, however, at this time they do not have legal counsel. Some members in attendance stated words to the effect that this had been dealt with in the seventies. Ben and Brad agreed that it could have been, but there is no documentation and no one has come forward with even a name of a lawyer or some-such that could show this. The lawyer states it will all come down to an 'interpretation'. He is fairly confident that it will come down in our favour. There was also some discussion as to a 'reference line' vice a 'property line' and the stated fact that you cannot own land under water. It was concluded with the executive assuring our members to please be patient, that if it rules in our favour, we will acquire a 'cease and desist' order for the family to the south, and a copy will be issued to the OPP for enforcement. It was also concluded that if the 'interpretation' were unclear, then we would need to get a new survey completed. At this time our lawyer thinks this is unnecessary.

- 3) **Streamlining of Firearms Safety Course:** Doug Langtry and Willie Anderson announced that they have re-done the old course which had been a requirement for issue of 'an authority to transport' into a 'Entrance' (Range Safety) Course for use of our pistol range with Restricted and Prohibited class of firearms. They have also decided to continue the old course (to be run once per annum) if there is an interest. The course will be approx. four hours. Attendees will need to produce club membership and a RPAL. Price will be \$80. Contact numbers: Rick Socholotuk 274.5133, Willie Anderson 274.6702 and Doug Langtry 274.7163. Course dates: 29 April, 09 September and 28 October (outline copy to file). The points to be covered on the new course are:

- a) Safe Handling,
- b) Range Rules and Club Rules,
- c) Live Fire,
- d) Transportation and Storage,
- e) Commands,
- f) Shooting Procedures,
- g) Observation of person during Live Firing.

- 4) Boat launch Upgrade: Was completed this year. Brad reports that a whole lot of junk was pulled out and a crushed gravel bed was put in. During discussion it was noted that the folks to the south had also demanded that we remove all of the improvements.
- 5) The lock combination should be changed tomorrow. The executive members will be contacting our membership with the new code.
- 6) Henry M. reports that \$100K was raised this year for the Bog Walk. We hold approx. \$20K in funds that are to be dedicated to conservation. It was decided to table this for the new directors to decide.
- 7) Woodcock and Owl Survey: Mike V. reports that he has done the survey at his own expense (he has been retired for a couple years. Last year he was reimbursed fuel.
Motion to cover fuel expense for survey in 2017 - Henry M. 2nd Mike V. - Carried

Nomination of Directors

Ben Wiersema and Henry Miller have stated that they will be stepping down from the Executive. The remainder: Rob Dokuchie, Crystal Gray, Bill James, Richard Boileau, Willie Anderson, Jesse Adair, Brad Houghton, Mike Veniot, Kerry Harper, Chris Bonner-Vickers and Zack Manty will re-stand.

Motion to close nominations: Ben W. 2nd Brad H. Carried***

Martin Keller (274.6485), Marc-Andre Michon (807.355.2696) and Marc Sabourin (274.9907 and 486.3550) have agreed to join the Executive as Alternatives.

The board was authorized at the last annual meeting to hold 10 Directors and have 4 Alternate Directors to ensure that we have a quorum at all Directors meetings. Welcome back all Directors, and welcome aboard Martin, Marc-Andre and Marc!

The next Directors Meeting will take place on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at North American Lumber.

Meeting was adjourned at approx. 8:45 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Richard B. 2nd Crystal G. Carried

Attendance Sheet: Henry Miller, Crystal Gray, Ed Gray, Mike Hammond, Rob Dokuchie, Richard Boileau, Nathan Sawatzky, Jesse Adair, Ben Wiersema, Brad Houghton, 'Unreadable', Kerry Harper, Joseph Willcott, Leo 'unreadable', 'Unreadable', Len Noonan, Nancy Noonan, Mike Viniot, Zac Manty, Nick Donaldsen, D. Langtry, Chris Bonner-Vickers, Bruce Hamilton, Willie Anderson, Bill James, Marc-Andre Michon and Marc Sabourin.