

**2020 Annual General Meeting (Zoom)  
Wednesday, March 24, 2021  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

President, Glenn Tunnock, called the meeting to order at 2:35. Explaining that the Friends of the Tay have met the requirements for announcing our AGM, we established that we had a quorum.

**2. Opening Welcome**

Glenn welcomed all participants to the meeting with a special welcome to those organizations that we have partnered with over the year.

Glenn introduced Steve Fournier, Reeve of Drummond North Elmsley. Steve thanked the Friends for protecting our lakes and rivers and complimented them on the production of the Tay Times and the Annual Report. Sommer Casgrain Robertson, General Manager of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, commented on the long history of the key partnership between FofTW and RVCA.

Thanks to everyone who had renewed their membership with a special thanks to those who generously donated to the Friends.

Glenn then gave a brief overview of the Agenda, introduced our guest speaker, Meaghan McDonald, RVCA, and reminded participants of the protocols for a Zoom AGM meeting.

**3. Approval of the Agenda for 2020 AGM**

Moved by David Taylor, seconded by Carol Dillon, that the Agenda for the 2020 AGM be approved. Carried.

**4. Approval of the Minutes of 2019 AGM**

Moved by Marion Letts and seconded by Karen Hunt that the 2019 AGM Minutes be approved. Carried.

**5. President's Message and Annual Report**

This is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friends of the Tay Watershed and we have reason to celebrate as our watershed is in better condition than ever.

Due to the pandemic more people are moving to a rural setting and they may not be aware of the impacts of their lifestyles on the environment around them. We are under pressure to be even more vigilant in conserving the attributes and amenities of our watershed. These changes have emphasized the role that the Friends play in environmental education, in raising public awareness about sustainable environmental practices. As a result, we have partnered with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to provide webinars on topical subjects such as trees and climate change, the role and use of conservation areas for outdoor education and shoreline naturalization. Education is still our focus as we go into year two of the pandemic. Our next webinar will be at 2:30 on April 22, Earth Day, where we will learn about invasive Phragmites in our area. We are also hoping to get some work parties together to remove some of the Phragmites.

We are also working with Watersheds Canada in the development of online resources to assist municipal land use planners, councils and the public on best practices for shoreland development and redevelopment. This partnership has also enabled us to bring Planners together to share their experiences in processing applications for minor variances, rezoning and consents.

Members of the Board also sit on several advisory panels where we bring the experience and knowledge of our Board members to the benefit of decision makers.

We have a number of property owners who live along the shoreline of the Tay River and act as river watchers. The Tay Net Program is an on-the-ground surveillance program which monitors water level conditions, water flows and pollution. It is also an opportunity to provide useful data and information to the RVCA.

Glenn noted that details of what we have accomplished in 2020 can be found in our Annual Report which is on our website.

2020 was a busy year in all these respects, but not without the partnership with conservation authorities, lake associations, environmental NGOs, municipalities and maybe most importantly, the public. The Friends need the support of members - financial and human resources in order for us to continue our ambitious menu of activities. In this regard, Glenn noted that we continue to look for members to sit on our Board of Directors. At the moment we need a person who can assume the role of membership relations and we also need a vice-president. He encouraged participants to step forward to give the Friends a hand.

## **6. Environmental Awards**

As part of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Friends have added two extra awards – Category 4 – Contribution to the Friends of the Tay Watershed Association, and a Special Environmental Awards. The recipients of these awards are:

Category 1: Contribution to the Tay Watershed – Irv Dardick, Eagle Lake;

Category 2: Contribution to Water Resources at the provincial, national and international level – Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) and Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) representing all 36 conservation authorities in Ontario;

Category 3: Contribution to the General Environment – Paul Lehman, retired, Executive Director, MVCA

Category 4: Contribution to the Friends of the Tay Watershed Association: Carol Dillon, Annie Dalton.

Special Environmental Award: Don Sherwin

#### **7. RVCA Presentation – Shoreline Naturalization – Meaghan McDonald**

Glenn gave a brief introduction to Meaghan highlighting her education and work with the RVCA. She then gave an interesting PowerPoint presentation on the importance of shoreline naturalization, showing many before and after photos and concluding with the resources available from the RVCA to help property owners improve their shoreline.

#### **8. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer, Marion Letts, reviewed the audited Financial Statements for 2020, which were shown on the Zoom screen (details also available in the Annual Report). The report included *2020 Financial Summary* and the *2021 Budget*.

Marion moved that the 2020 Financial Statements be accepted as presented. Seconded by Richard Schooley. Carried.

Marion moved that the 2021 Budget be accepted as presented. Seconded by Richard Schooley. Carried.

#### **9. Election of 2021 Board of Directors**

Karen Hunt proposed the Board of Directors slate for 2021:

President, Glenn Tunnock Otty Lake;

Vice-President – Vacant;

Past President, David Taylor Tay River Glen Tay;

Director Taro Alps GB&CLA and Upper Watershed;

Director, Judy Buehler Perth;

Director, Carol Dillon Tay River Glen Tay;

Director, Annie Dalton Perth;

Director, David Kroetsch Perth;

Director, Marion Letts Upper Tay River;

Director, Richard Schooley Scotch Line;

Director, Donna Walsh Christie Lake Association;

Director, Colin Stephenson, Tay River, Glenn Tay.

There were no nominees from the floor. Karen moved that the Board of Directors slate be accepted. Seconded by Richard Schooley. Carried.

#### **10. Acknowledgement of Sponsors**

David Kroetsch thanked our sponsors for their support over the years which has enabled us to continue our work and give a Water Guardian Bursary to a worthy student. Our sponsors are:

Little Stream Bakery, H&R Block, Maximilian Restaurant, The Factory, Top Shelf Distillery, Stor-N-Lock and Lake 88 radio.

**11. Water Guardian Bursary**

Carol Dillon gave a brief overview of the bursary and how important it is to support students who are going to university to study in fields that will benefit the environment. As we are lucky to have received a very generous donation this year we will be able to offer two bursaries if there are worthy students.

**12. New Business**

Annie Dalton suggested that as part of a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project we could create a timeline for all our events and activities that the Friends have done over the years. She offered to head up the project with Carol and David assisting with their corporate memory and file cabinets full of documents.

Glenn thanked everyone for attending and looks forward to working with the Board and partners in the coming year.

**13. Motion to adjourn**

Moved by Glenn that the 2020 AGM be adjourned at 4:18