

**2022 Annual General Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, May 11, 2023
DRAFT MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

President, Glenn Tunnock, called the meeting to order at 2:33. 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. He gave a special welcome to those organizations that we have partnered with over the year which shows the strength of the partnership networks that are vital to our mutual interests. He thanked everyone who had renewed their membership with a special thanks to those who generously donated to the Friends. Glenn then explained the two components of the AGM: the business portion and the educational portion which will be our webinar on Shorelands Management presented by Robert Pye, Executive Director of Watersheds Canada. He then reminded participants of the protocols for a Zoom AGM meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda for 2022 AGM

Moved by Colin Stephenson, seconded by Carol Dillon, that the Agenda for the 2022 AGM be approved. **Carried.**

4. Approval of the Minutes of 2021 AGM

Moved by Taro Alps and seconded by Colin Stephenson that the 2021 AGM Minutes be approved. **Carried.**

5. President's Message and Annual Report

Although the past year has not been friendly to the environment, the Tay Watershed has not been affected significantly. However as our weather patterns are changing, municipalities in Lanark County are working in tandem with Climate Network Lanark to encourage adaptive and mitigative measures to offset impacts.

Bill 23, *The More Homes Faster Act* has significant negative implications which invoked our Association to respond to the province on the loss of site plan control in sustaining healthy shorelands as well as limiting the powers of conservation authorities in providing technical advice on planning applications. It appears that the Province has listened to our concerns and I am pleased to announce that a proposed Ontario Regulation under Bill 97 will provide an exemption, thus allowing municipalities to continue to use site plan control to govern

residential development within 120 meters of any shoreline. Friends of the Tay have worked closely with Watersheds Canada this past year in developing a resource package for municipalities to equip them with the knowledge and the tools to conserve and restore shorelands in the natural state. You will hear more about this in today's webinar. We will continue to work with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Watersheds Canada to provide educational materials of value to municipalities and the public, and our webinar today will provide you with the results of the work we are doing with Watersheds Canada.

A success story this year was the removal of toxic rail ties by CP Rail near Glen Tay through a joint lobby with Tay Valley Township and the Town of Perth. Our concern which we expressed several times over the last decade was the potential toxic impact of creosote on domestic drinking water supplies. Also, with respect to water supply, Friends of the Tay have provided input on water taking permits by OMYA and the Mapleview Golf Course to ensure that supply volumes do not exceed provincial environmental approvals.

A notable event this past year was an excursion by boat and by bus across the watershed with Parks Canada and RVCA. This provided an important opportunity to exchange information on common concerns for water levels, water volumes, wetland and wildlife conservation and the cultural heritage of the First Tay Canal. These partnerships improve our ability to inform the public along the watershed on water management such as potential flooding events.

Working with our youth continues to be an important focus. We continue to offer our Water Guardian Bursary to inspire eligible students to pursue post-secondary studies in the natural sciences. This year we were able to make not one, but two bursary awards of \$1,000 each. You'll hear more about these later in the Agenda. We have also worked with students in PDCI on two projects: investigating the impact of sewage effluent on the Tay River, and measuring tree canopy cover and the value of canopies to sustaining natural habitat. A new partnership with the Upper Canada District School Board has enabled Friends of the Tay Watershed yet another avenue to work with the youth of our community. We thank Mike Bell who is here today who struck this relationship with us.

Our annual Watershed Discovery Day in August provides an opportunity to raise the public awareness on measures to sustain a resilient and healthy watershed. This event is held in partnership with other organizations and in 2022, participation included local Indigenous communities. We hope you can attend this year's Watershed Discovery Day which will be held on Saturday, August 12th at the Crystal Palace. We thank the Farmer's Market for enabling us to share their space and we thank the Perth Library for providing a children's time component to this annual event.

2023 promises to be a busy year for Friends of the Tay Watershed as we plan to continue our webinar series with topics to include the emerging role of conservation authorities under

amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act as well as a webinar on the Tay Net River Watch. We are also planning a paddle day and are continuing to encourage and work with the community on a river clean-up. On a policy note, we are looking towards the long overdue update the Tay Watershed Management Plan with our RVCA partner.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a sincere thank you for the time and effort those partners extend to us, such as the RVCA, Watersheds Canada, the Otty Lake Association, the Christie Lake Association, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association, Parks Canada, Climate Network Lanark and our area municipalities, Tay Valley Township, the Town of Perth, the Township of Drummond/North Elmsley, and the County of Lanark. We also thank all our members who inform us of watershed concerns they have or who take personal initiative to keep our watershed healthy.

Friends of the Tay is an association that thrives on input from its members and in this regard I would encourage you use our Facebook page. This social medium provides an opportunity for Friends and others to post photos and send us messages of wildlife and landscapes throughout the watershed and beyond. I would like to close by extending a sincere thanks to my Board members who spend countless hours working on our mandate and I would like to also extend a sincere thanks to all of our Advisory panel and our members who support Friends of the Tay Watershed in many ways, be it financially by helping us plan and implement our programs and helping us with our river clean-up. Thanks and thanks again.

One final note, you can find more details of our Association's program by reading our Annual Report which is available on our website at www.taywatershed.ca

Glenn then read a message from Rob Rainer, Reeve of Tay Valley Township thanking the Friends for their persistent and selfless efforts to help ensure a healthy Tay River and watershed. Steve Fournier, Reeve of Drummond, North Elmsley then spoke briefly on the issues and events being undertaken in DNE.

6. Presentation: Shorelands Stewardship, Robert Pye, Executive Director, Watersheds Canada and Glenn Tunnock

Glenn has worked with Robert over the past year in a joint partnership to produce a resource package for municipal planners, municipal councils and indeed the public on Shorelands Management. Robert provided the meeting with the details and indeed the significance of protecting and conserving our shorelands. Glenn then followed with some perspectives on land use planning tools to achieve our mutual conservation objectives.

7. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Marion Letts, reviewed the audited Financial Statements for 2022, which were shown on the Zoom screen (details also available in the Annual Report). The report included *2022 Financial Summary* and the *2023 Budget*. John Gibb Carsley was also appointed as our financial reviewer for 2023. Colin moved that the Treasurer's report of April 2023 be approved as circulated. Seconded by Carol Dillon. Carried.

8. Bylaw Revisions

The Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010, S.O. 2010, c. 15 (ONCA) was proclaimed on October 21, 2021. The Act indicates that not-for-profit Corporations previously governed under the Corporations Act have a three-year transition period from the date that the Act came into force to make the necessary changes to their incorporating and other documents to bring them into conformity with the Act. The Friends of the Tay Watershed Board has reviewed the proposed changes to the by-laws to ensure compliance with the Act and are recommending the revisions to the membership at large. The suggested amendments do not have any significant consequence on our current operation nor any financial implication. Summarizing the changes proposed in the by-laws:

- Board of Directors must ensure financial and operational stability of the Board and ensure that the purposes of the Board are carried out
- Board members must act honestly, diligently and declare any conflict of interest including any contractual arrangements and must adhere to the by-laws
- Board members cannot be bankrupt or found incapable of managing property
- Meetings may be held electronically
- Members are entitled to receive and review financial records, and receive copies of by-laws at no charge. They or their solicitor can review the membership role but not for the purposes of exerting any influence of a vote, requisitioning a meeting or any other matter.
- A member is entitled to vote and to vote by proxy and votes can be arranged to include mail-in ballots, by telephone or electronically
- Members can only attend a Board of Directors meeting if permitted
- An auditor or financial reviewer must be qualified to do so under the Public Accounting Act

Marion Letts moved for the approval of the bylaw amendments; seconded by Annie Dalton. Carried.

9. Election of 2023 Board of Directors

Proposed list for the Board of Directors slate for 2023:

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. Richard Schooley moved that the Board of Directors slate be accepted. Seconded by Taro Alps. Carried.

Appointment of Advisory Panel for 2023

The Advisory Panel for 2023 will be:

Susan Brandum, Climate Network Lanark; Past Board Member

David Crowley, Perth; Past Board Member

Doug James, Perth; Past Board Member

Robert Pye Watersheds Canada

Karen Feeley, A/External Relations Mgr., Ont. Waterways Unit, Parks, Canada, Peterborough

Derek Matheson, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Frank Roy, Perth; Past Board Member/Vice President

Annie Dalton moved; seconded by Donna Walsh that the Advisory Panel be accepted. Carried.

10. Environmental Awards

Judy Buehler presented the *2022 Environmental Award for Contribution to the Tay Watershed* to **The PDCI 2022 Grade 8 Science Students under the leadership (mentorship) of Mr. Bell, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Barr for their project evaluating the water quality of the Tay River, both up and downstream from Perth's sewage treatment lagoon.** Mike Bell spoke on the project and how meaningful it was for the students to be part of the project and to be able to be on the water in canoes.

There were no awards for other categories for 2022.

11. Acknowledgement of Sponsors

Richard thanked our sponsors who have supported the Friends for many years: Little Stream Bakery, H&R Block, Maximilian Restaurant, The Factory, Stor N Lock, and Lake 88.1. Maximilian are celebrating their 50th Anniversary and have donated two \$50 gift certificates to the Friends. The winner for the AGM draw is Sadie Brulé. The second gift certificate draw will take place at Watershed Discovery Day.

12. Water Guardian Bursary

Carol Dillon reported that 2022 was not a great year for the Water Guardian Bursary. After preparing the application materials, contacting the guidance teachers at the four watershed high schools, posting details about the bursary on the Friends website, putting up posters, receiving coverage in the local press, and extending the deadline, no applications were received.

Investigation revealed that other organizations had also noted bursary and scholarship applications were down in 2022. This outcome was attributed to the effects of Covid and at-home schooling where the connection to school-based information was more difficult to access and the general incentive was lessened. Some students also chose to take a gap year between high school and further education.

It was decided to carry over the 2022 bursary money, and to present two bursaries the following year – 2023 – which we have done. The Water Guardian Bursary protocols for 2022 were reviewed and two changes were made further to this reflection. First, through the artistic work of Annie Dalton, a more colourful and eye-catching poster was designed and distributed to local high schools and other youth-centered places. Second, the dates for the application period were changed and shortened to better reflect the timing of applying to post-secondary institutions and receiving acceptances. These changes were instituted in 2023 and seem to have been successful as two splendid candidates applied and were awarded bursaries. Gillian Szijarto, of St. John Catholic High School, is planning on attending Western University to study Anthropology. Faith Marsh is a student at Perth and District Collegiate Institute. She is enrolled at Metropolitan University in Toronto and hopes to continue her interest in the environment through studies of sustainable fashion.

The Friends acknowledge the contribution of Graham Beck and the Little Stream Bakery in Glen Tay. It was Mr. Beck's commitment to donate \$1000 a year that provided the incentive and wherewithal to create the Water Guardian Bursary. Its purpose is to encourage and support a new generation of water guardians. We thank Mr. Beck for his foresight and generosity.

Carol then thanked the members of the bursary committee: Judy Buehler for her continued support in so many ways and especially her excellent work with the press releases. Colin Stephenson for his work in making the bursary notices and applications easy to access through the Friends' website. Annie Dalton for her excellent creative work in designing the posters. Frank Roy and David Kroetsch for reading and assessing the submissions.

13. New Business

There was no new business.

Glenn thanked everyone for joining in the 2022 AGM. He also thanked Robert Pye of Watersheds Canada for his excellent presentation.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Richard Schooley, seconded by Annie Dalton, that the 2022 AGM be adjourned at 4:20. Carried.