

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

COPELAND FOREST FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

DATE: February 20, 2016
TIME: 3:00 pm
VENUE: W.R. Best Memorial Public School

No.	Item	Details
1	Elections	David Kennedy, President of the CFFA welcomed everyone to the meeting. The AGM was preceded by individual user group meetings at 1:00 pm where the five delegates representing each group were chosen. Two of the user groups, Hikers and Residents also had to choose their Director to represent them on the CFFA board. Ingrid VanderMarel (Resident rep) and Bob Marshall (Hiker rep) were chosen to represent their respective groups for the next three-year term. David asked all of the delegates from the 9 user groups to stand at the meeting and Ingrid and Bob were congratulated on returning to the Board. MOTION: To accept the full slate of Board of Directors of the Copeland Forest Friends Association for the 2016-2017 term. So moved by Scott MacPherson and seconded by Sandy Agnew. Motion passed.
2	Confirmation of the Constitution	Tedd Duncan gave an overview of the Constitution. All paid members as of January 24, 2016 were e-mailed a copy of the Constitution by their respective User Group Board representative. MOTION: To confirm the Copeland Forest Friends Association Constitution. So moved by Pat Woodford, seconded by Pat Gotlieb. Motion passed.
3	Financial Statement	Sandy McLoughlin reviewed our financial statement for the 9 month period ending December 31, 2015 as we were incorporated in March, 2015. Our net income as of December 31, 2015 was \$5,709.32. It was noted that our insurance costs are not included in the income statement. They were about \$1400 and were covered by a grant from the Ontario Government. Our proposed map and signage project costs will be covered by a payment from Casino Rama. MOTION: To accept our financial statement as of December 31, 2015. So moved by Bob Douglas and seconded by Bob Marshall. Motion passed.
4	Membership Report	Ingrid VanderMarel reported that we have 124 paid members whose memberships are valid until the end of 2016. She also gave an explanation of the various ways you can pay for a membership, all of which are explained on our website www.copelandfriends.ca
5	Work Plan & Committee Reports	An overview of the work plans for the Trails Committee as well as the Ecology And Sustainability Committee was presented. David noted there will be plenty of opportunity for volunteer involvement. Plans are in the works for a forum on invasive species, An Ambassador program, in partnership with the Couchiching Conservancy is in the works to take on the research project of monitoring streams and water quality. Also there will be the Trails Committee projects that will include sign installation, trail diversions and maintenance. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is the landowner. We have entered

		<p>into a Memorandum of Understanding with them and the term of the agreement is until September 30, 2018. As part of that agreement, we need Ministry approval for doing physical projects in the forest, but we do not need their approval for education and research. It was a suggestion from the floor that we engage high school students (looking for community service hours) and also Georgian College Environmental Studies program students in our forest activities. The Ministry has already offered the services of their Junior Ranger program during the summer months.</p>
6	<p>Open Discussion Questions and answers.</p>	<p><u>Are we a charitable organization?</u> No, not yet. We will be exploring that in the very near future as it opens up many more opportunities for funding.</p> <p><u>Do we charge for the map?</u> The map is free to members, and will be sold to non-members.</p> <p><u>How do non-board members get involved in the sub-committees?</u> When you filled out your membership application, you indicated what area of interest you have. Your user group representative has a copy of this. Please contact your user-group rep. If you need their e-mail address, it is on the web site, under contacts, director profiles. Our website is www.copelandfriends.ca</p> <p><u>Is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry supportive of the CFFA?</u> Yes. The CFFA is a very unique group in that we represent a large diverse group of users. The Ministry is in full support of our mandate to give equal representation to all user groups with a common goal to conserve the natural integrity of the forest while facilitating compatible recreational use.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.</p>

Minutes prepared by Mary Anne Greatrix – February 23, 2015