

CROWE VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**FULL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD AT THE MCGEACHIE CONSERVATION
AREA COTTAGE**

30 September 2010

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Partridge	Municipality of Highlands East
Robert Stiles	Stirling-Rawdon Township
Jim Martin	Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Townships
Bill White	Municipality of Trent Hills
Bob Wilson	Faraday Township
Dan Boyd	North Kawartha
Brian Cofell	Limerick Township
Bob Ireland	Wollaston Township
Bonnie Danes	Municipality of Marmora and Lake

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gerald Phillips	Tudor & Cashel Township
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ALSO PRESENT:

Tim Pidduck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, CVCA
Amanda Donald, Recording Secretary, CVCA
Shannon McCracken, Generic Regulations Officer, CVCA

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair, Suzanne Partridge, called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

FA Motion G37/10

Moved by: Bob Wilson

Seconded by: Bob Stiles

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

There were no conflicts declared.

WELCOME:

The Chair, Suzanne Partridge, welcomed everyone to the McGeachie Cottage. She stated that it is a good opportunity for the board members to see the facility.

Dan Boyd arrived at 12:32pm.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

FA Motion G38/10

Moved by: Bill White

Seconded by: Dan Boyd

That the minutes and motions of the Full Authority meeting, 20 May 2010, be approved as circulated.

Bill White updated the board on the lease of Crowe Bridge Conservation Area for the summer of 2010. He stated that everyone in the Municipality of Trent Hills is satisfied with the results of the summer. He wouldn't be surprised if the municipality looked to the board for another lease for 2011. On one of the hot summer days, 92 people were counted at the Conservation Area. The park has proven to be a real asset to the community.

Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Jim Martin asked about the administrative building expenses and there was some discussion on what could be done at the office to help reduce operational costs.

Brian Cofell asked Tim about receiving funds from the Trillium fund for the administrative building. Tim informed him that it looks like some of the rules have changed for the Trillium Grants and that Conservation Authorities are now allowed to apply for grants.

APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET:

The Committee reviewed the accounts as presented.

FA Motion G39/10

Moved by: Jim Martin

Seconded by: Brian Cofell

That the accounts in the amount of five hundred and fifty eight thousand two hundred and four dollars and thirty five cents (\$558,204.35) representing cheques 2297 to 2570 be approved as presented.

There was some discussion on the insurance increase as well as the Conservation Ontario Levy increase.

Carried.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION:

FA Motion G40/10

Moved by: Bill White

Seconded by: Brian Cofell

That the Full Authority Board move in camera.

Carried.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO OPEN SESSION:

FA Motion G41/10

Moved by: Brian Cofell

Seconded by: Bonnie Danes

That the Full Authority Board move into open session.

Carried.

GENERIC REGULATIONS:

Suzanne stated that from what she has been hearing, Shannon has been doing an excellent job. Bob Ireland says that the mapping that was provided to the municipalities has been very helpful, but he feels that some of the contractors are still not adhering to Ontario Regulation 159/06.

Suzanne says that some of the comments that she has had have been with regards to submitting the application and how mailing in the cheques takes too much time. Shannon informed her that we do accept Visa cards for payment. Shannon noted that we do accept faxes but they are sometimes hard to read. Suzanne wondered if dropping off the applications at their municipal office would make the process quicker. Shannon didn't think it would because even if she picked them up weekly, some of them could be sitting at the offices for a week or more.

Bob Ireland mentioned that the Township of Faraday passed a motion to dispose of Ontario Regulation 159/06 and merge them in with the building permits. However, staff stated, there is no one in their municipal offices that would be qualified to do the generic regulations. Shannon informed the board that she has the educational background for the job and if the municipalities decided to merge the regulation with their building permits, may be faced with additional expenses.

Suzanne also talked about the fees that are charged for generic regulations and how they are almost double the building fees. Bonnie Danes asked Suzanne why their building permit fees are so low and maybe they should be adjusted. Jim Martin stated that the Reeve of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen also has some concerns regarding the generic regulation fees. Tim mentioned to the board that if you reduce the fees there is a good possibility that the levy will have to be increased to cover the cost of operating the generic regulation program. If the levy goes up to cover the costs, then all of the watershed residents will be paying for a service that is only used by certain residents. Dan Boyd stated that the problem with their township is that a large portion of the township is not governed by the Authority, therefore some of the residents do not have to apply to get the generic regulations approval. This results in some confusion and frustration for residents in his municipality.

There was a discussion on the mapping that the Authority has provided to each municipality and how they are benefiting the municipalities. Shannon mentioned that some of the building inspectors are approving some permits without referring them to the Authority. Shannon stated that there have been a large number of building violations this year. Suzanne wants to hold some educational sessions for contractors, municipal staff and councils. Bob Ireland feels that the only contractors that might come are the ones that are already complying with the regulation. Jim Martin asked Shannon if information sessions have already been held and if they helped. Shannon replied that yes there were information sessions held and they proved to be useful for those who attended. Suzanne stated that it doesn't hurt to do it again, communication is the key to getting

people to comply. Bonnie Danes suggested having the information sessions after the election in the New Year with the new council members.

Tim stated that generic regulations are still an educational process and will be for years to come. Each municipality is different with different issues to be dealt with. Hopefully by having these educational sessions will help bring this all together.

FA Motion G42/10

Moved By: Bonnie Danes

Seconded By: Brian Cofell

That the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority hold two Generic Regulations educational sessions for the municipal staff, council members and contractors during the winter months.

Carried.

FA Motion G43/10

Moved by: Brian Cofell

Seconded by: Bill White

To approve the Section 28 permits issued between 20 May 2010 and 30 September 2010 as circulated.

Carried.

2011 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:

Tim walked the board through the budget expenditure options for the 2011 budget. There was a lengthy discussion on the 2011 budget expenditures and revenue options that Tim provided to the board in their agenda packages.

Bob Ireland asked Tim if he anticipated any change to the MNR grant. Tim informed him that going by the past years trend he did not expect any increase from the government. Jim Martin stated that a 0% increase for the budget would be unrealistic. We may need to be more creative and look into getting funds from the trillium grants or summer student grants. Jim feels that the administrative building is a huge cost to the Authority and that it is a money pit. Brian Cofell asked what the value of the property is if the property was to be declared surplus. Suzanne asked if the property was sold how much would the Ministry of Natural Resources take. Tim stated that there is a good possibility that the Ministry could take up to 85% of the money. Bob Ireland stated that the Authority needs a large area and a garage for storage and feels that the current office should be fixed up and made more efficient. Bonnie feels that the building is still sound and that we

need to play catch up with the building maintenance because of a lack of maintenance in the past.

There was a brief discussion on making the building wheel chair accessible in the near future and this should be kept in mind when doing any repairs or maintenance to the building.

BILL 168:

Tim stated that at the last board meeting he handed out three policies that need to be approved so that he can proceed to train staff.

FA Motion G44/10

Moved By: Bill White

Seconded By: Jim Martin

To approve the Bill 168 policy as presented.

Carried.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Tim informed the board that the fall draw down has been slightly delayed due to recent precipitation. The lakes that are being affected the most are Paudash and Wollaston Lakes. Jim Martin mentioned the conflicts on Belmont Lake regarding the water levels. Tim informed the board that Belmont Lake is complicated, as staff can be consistent on that lake, but once the water levels drop beyond a certain point, in a normal year, it is virtually impossible to maintain the summer recreational water level. If levels drop significantly, then, virtually everyone on the lake will be calling, not just a few of the lake residents.

Jim Martin asked Tim about the Nissan that was hit by a deer. The Nissan is getting fixed at Wells Ford in Stirling.

Tim let the board know that Marmora and Lake has approached him and wants to share the repairs to the lights at the Marmora Dam. The total of the invoice is \$7,400.00. There was some discussion on who pays for the hydro and how much it costs the Authority to run the lights. Tim is going to go back to Marmora and Lake to find out how much they are willing to pay for the repairs and look into getting an estimate on how much it will cost the Authority in hydro to operate the lights.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Bob Ireland stated that he asked Tim to write an article for their fall newsletter. Tim wrote a four page article on the Authority and Bob said he tried to edit it to make it smaller for the newsletter, but he couldn't. So he handed it in the way it was and the whole article was published. He asked Tim to email it out to everyone because he did an excellent job and feels that everyone should read it.

Tim mentioned to the board that he is going to come up with a retention policy for them to consider as the office space is becoming limited. The policy will be sent out to the members for their review when it is completed.

MEDIA SESSION:

None.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting of the Full Authority Board will be 4 November 2010 at 12:30pm at the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority's office.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Brian Cofell, the meeting was adjourned at 3:28pm.

Amanda Donald
Recording Secretary

Suzanne Partridge
Chair