

CROWE VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY

15 April 2010

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bonnie Danes	Municipality of Marmora and Lake
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
Barry Rand	North Kawartha

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gerald Phillips	Tudor & Cashel Township
Brian Cofell	Limerick Township
Bob Ireland	Wollaston Township

ALSO PRESENT:

Friends of Crowe Bridge
Judy Backus, Marmora Harold
Mark Holt, Community Press
Ken Phillips, CAO, Conservation Halton
Hassaan Basit, Director of Marketing & Communications, Conservation Halton
Hector MacMillan, Mayor of Trent Hills
Mike Rutter, CAO, Municipality of Trent Hills
Tim Pidduck, General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, CVCA
Amanda Donald, Recording Secretary, CVCA
Shannon McCracken, Regulations Officer, CVCA

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair, Suzanne Partridge, called the meeting to order at 12:28pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

FA Motion G 22/10

Moved by: Jim Martin

Seconded by: Bob Stiles

Approve agenda as presented.

Carried

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

There were no conflicts declared.

WELCOME:

Suzanne Partridge welcomed Ken Phillips and Hassaan Basit of Conservation Halton, the Mayor and CAO from the Municipality of Trent Hills and the media to the meeting. She also welcomed Amanda Donald back to work from her maternity leave.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

FA Motion G 23/10

Moved by: Bonnie Danes

Seconded by: Bob Stiles

That the minutes and motions of the Full Authority meeting, 18 February 2010, be approved as circulated.

Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

None.

APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET:

The Committee reviewed the accounts as presented.

FA Motion G 24/10

Moved by: Bonnie Danes

Seconded by: Jim Martin

That the accounts in the amount of one hundred and forty five thousand, three hundred ninety seven dollars and fifty two cents (\$145,397.52) representing cheques 2129 to 2239 be approved as presented.

Carried.

KEN PHILLIPS OF CONSERVATION HALTON:

Suzanne introduced Ken Phillips, CAO of Conservation Halton and Hassaan Basit Director of Marketing & Communications of Conservation Halton, to the board. Ken expressed that he was excited to be back at the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority and explained that his presentation will be on a larger Conservation Authority and how the challenges of the larger Authority are similar to that of a smaller one. He also let the board members know that there are several members of the Conservation Halton board who have cottages within the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority's watershed. He also stated that within Conservation Halton's watershed there might be fifty environmental groups within the watershed but only three know what the Authority actually does.

Ken gave a slide show presentation to the board. Conservation Halton's watershed is approximately half the size of Crowe Valley's watershed, with a population of approximately 450,000. The population is rapidly growing in the watershed especially in Milton. He compared Conservation Halton's budget of 20.6 million dollars to the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority's budget and where they receive all of the money for their budget. He stated that Conservation Halton has 4 dams within the watershed 3 of which the Authority owns all of the land around. He briefly discussed the departments of the Conservation Authority.

Conservation Halton has a good working relationship with the OPP in the area and gave an example of an enforcement issue which occurred where they had to work closely with the OPP, MNR & MTO.

Ken discussed some of the challenges that the Authority faces, including the rapid growth of the population, parks and legal fees for generic regulations. He reminded the board members that they cannot get involved with property owners and their generic regulations applications as it is a conflict of interest and could compromise any hearings that could occur in the future.

Hassaan then went over some educational and communication work that the Authority does. They spend thousands of dollars every year on signage that is all completed in house. They also put up billboards for Glen Eden ski resort for advertising. He stated that they try to be proactive and try to foresee any

problems that could occur in the future to better prepare themselves. Conservation Halton runs several education programs. People in the city really want to introduce their kids to the environment. They run some tree planting programs, Children's Water Festival, Day Camps, Stream of Dreams Program and a Raptor Centre. The Conservation Authority also runs programs at their Conservation Areas.

At the end of the presentation Suzanne asked Ken about getting involved with property owners and generic regulations. Ken emphasized the fact that it is really important to not get involved with them. If the board members did get involved they could be seen as being bias and those members may not be able to participate in the hearing if one were to occur. Bob Stiles asked Ken about Conservation Easements and Ken told him that Conservation Halton has one Conservation Easement, which was put in place as a partnership with the people who gave the land to them. Ken feels that municipal partnerships are a good way to go. Ken thanked the board for their time.

MIKE RUTTER, CAO OF MUNICIPALITY OF TRENT HILLS:

Suzanne welcomed and introduced Mike Rutter, CAO of the Municipality of Trent Hills. Mike Rutter introduced the Mayor Hector Macmillan and Scott Rose of the Municipality of Trent Hills to the board. They have been working hard over the past six months preparing the agreement for Crowe Bridge Conservation Area. In February they presented a work plan to council, which included a one year agreement that would include some signage, garbage disposal, blue loo rentals and general maintenance of the property. The council of Trent Hills supported the work plan and assigned \$5000.00 for the plan. Council also met with Friends of Crowe Bridge Park to discuss the details of the plan with them to gauge if they too would be satisfied with it. They are hoping to have Crowe Bridge Conservation Area open by the May long weekend. Mike asked the board if they had any questions.

Jim Martin stated that this has been going on for a long time and its nice to finally see that it is starting to move forward. Bonnie asked if they were going to charge a fee for users and Mike replied that there will be no user fees for this season.

Mayor MacMillan then took over and thanked the board the invitation to the meeting today. He read the Conservation Authority's mandate and goals to the board. The Mayor focused on the goal that the Authority will provide the opportunity for the public to enjoy the environment. He stated that he feels that the Authority has done what they can to keep Crowe Bridge Conservation Area open in the past and Trent Hills is here to help with the financial burden of the park. He wants to be able to work together to keep the park open and have a good working relationship with the Authority. There is a lot of work to do and only a few weeks before they would like to have the park open. This one year agreement is a good opportunity to see how the two organizations work together. The Mayor would like to leave today with an agreement reached.

Suzanne asked the board if they even need to have a closed session. Tim stated that they need to discuss a few issues that were brought up by the solicitor. He also mentioned that there needs to be another board meeting in May, so if necessary they could approve the agreement in principle today and formalize the agreement at the next meeting.

Shirley Patterson stated that it has been a long journey and she wanted to ensure the board that the Friends of Crowe Bridge Park are very dedicated to this proposal and are taking it very seriously.

MOTION TO MOVE IN CAMERA:

FA Motion G 25/10

Moved by: Barry Rand

Seconded by: Bob Stiles

That the Full Authority Board move in camera.

Carried.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO OPEN SESSION:

FA Motion G 26/10

Moved by: Bill White

Seconded by: Bob Stiles

That the Full Authority Board move into open session.

Carried.

There was some brief discussion on some concerns for high water issues and Mayor Macmillan said they would have to rely on the Authority to let them know what the flows were at. If high flows were encountered, then the park would be closed or they would put up signage throughout the park.

FA Motion G 27/10

Moved By: Barry Rand

Seconded by: Jim Martin

That the Board approve in principle the agreement as proposed and that the Board authorize the Authority's solicitor, Mr. Dave Demille of Templeman Menninga to negotiate and prepare an agreement with the Municipality of Trent Hills to authorize the use of the Crowe Bridge Conservation Area by Trent Hills with an annual rental fee of \$2.00.

Carried.

At 2:20pm the board took a 10 minute break.

The meeting was called back to order at 2:34pm.

ORTHOPHOTOGRAPHY PRESENTATION BY JEFF MEYER:

Jeff introduced himself to the board. He has had the opportunity to work with GIS and the orthophoto maps for the Authority. Jeff informed the board that the aerial photos are completed for the watershed, and that we are waiting to receive the final third of the photos which should be arriving within a week or two. Jeff showed an index map of the watershed where he has listed every street, waterbody, settlement, and areas of interest to help pinpoint the location quickly. He showed board members a sample map that will be made available to their municipalities to assist generic regulations applicants. Some members asked if the Authority was going to charge for this service and Tim replied that the mapping fees were approved at the annual meeting of the board in February for the public, mapping will be provided to member municipalities free of charge. There was some discussion comparing our mapping to Peterborough Counties mapping. Tim informed the board that they are planning on delivering the hard copies of the maps to the municipalities and making digital copies available as well. These maps will be a valuable tool for municipalities to help determine whether or not the land owner will need to obtain a generic regulations permit.

Jeff then gave a brief demonstration of the digital photos on the projector. He showed how the photos will even show 3D visuals and buildings. The program is very user friendly and has already been installed on Lou's computer and it has been a positive improvement. This technology will help modernize the Authority and its capabilities for the future.

REVISED OVERTIME POLICY:

Tim informed the members that the overtime policy that is currently in place was included in their agenda packages. Tim talked to Neil about the overtime accumulation and both agreed that an eighty hour limit seems reasonable and would help prevent high levels of overtime being accumulated. A brief discussion ensued and Tim is going to ask the staff to see how they feel about it and it will be discussed again at the next board meeting.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Water Report

Tim informed the board that this spring has been unusual, with a peak water flow of 71.6cm/s on March 23 compared to last years peak of 161cm/s on 9 April 2009. All of the lakes have filled to their summer levels and Tim commends staff for their hard work. A used boat trailer has been purchased, well under budget, to replace the one that was stolen. The rock that was trapped under the logs at Belmont Dam was removed during the spring freshet due to the force of the water and the relief of the removed logs. This saved the Authority thousands of dollars in expensive maintenance operations.

Ortho Photos

The remaining 25% of the orthophotos have not been delivered yet, but should be here within a week or two. Jeff has created a system of files which are now accessible to Lou and Shannon at the front desk. This is already increasing the efficiency of getting applications completed quicker. Time is also saved for Jeff as his work schedule has been streamlined.

Low Water Response Team Meeting

A Low Water Response Team (LWRT) Meeting was held on March 17. There was a good turn out for the meeting and lots of positive responses. It was good to have this meeting early in the year, especially since water levels and flows are well below the norm for this time of the year.

Building Maintenance

We had to have the plumbers back due to some blockage in the pipes. If this happens again, we may have to have them back again to install a pump. There was some discussion on the cost of this pump and the amount of maintenance that may have to be done to the building in the future.

MCA/Foundation

Work is continuing at McGeachie, the trails are almost completed and gates are being built at the Bancroft District High School. Nicola is temporarily laid off and will continue to work on a business plan for the McGeachie Conservation Area once back to work. Dave Golem has expressed an interest in sitting of the Foundation as well as Vivian Collver. Tim would like to see a board member or two sit on the foundation as well. The McGeachie cottage has been completely booked for the summer with the exception of one week in July.

Human Resources

There have been regular meeting at Lower Trent on the joint health and safety committee and they are making progress on the revised health and safety policy. Recent information regarding Bill 168 - harassment in the workplace, will mean a policy must be in place by the end of June.

GENERIC REGULATIONS:

Shannon began her report by thanking Jeff and Lou for all of their help. She thinks that there may be close to 300 applications this year. There was some discussion on how long it takes to get an application completed and out to the applicant.

FA Motion G 28/10

Moved by: Bill White

Seconded by: Jim Martin

To approve Generic Regulations report as presented.

Carried

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

MEDIA SESSION:

None.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting of the Full Authority Board will be 20 May 2010 at 12:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Bonnie Danes, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.

Amanda Donald
Recording Secretary

Suzanne Partridge
Chair