



Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY

Annual Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2018
Evergreen Resort, Red Bay, ON

1. Welcome from the Peninsula Bruce Trail Club

- Walter Brewer, President of the Peninsula Club, welcomed membership and guests to the 2018 BTC Annual Meeting
- Walter introduced Milt McIver, Mayor of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula
 - Mayor McIver thanked the BTC for the invitation to speak and also thanked the volunteers who maintain the Bruce Trail for the wonderful work that they do
- Walter introduced Tom Friesen, Hike Ontario
 - Tom mentioned that the Bruce Trail Conservancy is a member of Hike Ontario and vice versa and thanked the BTC for their support. Tom referenced the Niagara Escarpment as the backbone of Ontario and how Hike Ontario works with the BTC to encourage people to get out to enjoy this space
- Walter introduced John Festarini, Acting Superintendent of Bruce Peninsula National Park
 - John mentioned his desire to work with the BTC to better understand our challenges and opportunities and his excitement over the recent Driftwood Cove acquisition
- Walter introduced Warren Bell, Chair of the Bruce Trail Conservancy Board of Directors

2. Remarks from the Board Chair

Call to order at 9:20 am

- The Board Chair highlighted the order of events for the Annual Meeting
- The Chair mentioned we will be proposing a new Board member and thanked Sue Simons for her contributions to the Board in the past as well as thanked the BTC staff for advancing the mission this past year
- The implementation of the new mission, vision, and values has begun and this strategy allows us to accelerate our land acquisition to secure the full length of the Bruce Trail Conservancy by 2040
- Last year we celebrated having total revenues over \$5M for the first time and this year we were able to achieve that again
- There are still nearly 800 properties to acquire to complete the trail. This is estimated to cost approximately \$80M and our members and donors have given us future pledges of nearly \$28M already – more is clearly needed
- This past year the BTC has seen more properties with a buy, sever, sell acquisition plan and we have accepted financial support from lenders for this purpose
- The Chair highlighted the Driftwood Cove acquisition and the 8km of trail that this will secure. This property was incredibly important to maintain access to the trail so the BTC worked with

Parks Canada to allow permanent access. The BTC is in an agreement with Parks Canada who is expected to release the transaction details post-closing which is expected in November 2018. Parks Canada has put the BTC in the spotlight as the acquisition would not have been able to move forward without the BTC's assistance.

- The Chair introduced CEO Beth Gilhespy

3. Report from the CEO

CEO, Beth Gilhespy, reviewed the recent changes to the mission, vision, values contained in the 2025 Strategy and presented on activities from the past year and a few highlights were noted

F2017-2018 Activities:

- Fundraising: The BTC received donations from nearly 4,000 donors in F2017 and fundraised over \$5M towards achieving our mission. The majority of donations came from individuals supporting the BTC. The BTC received a \$2M pledge from the Patrick McNally Foundation that could turn into a \$3M pledge if the BTC meets certain targets
- Membership: Beth highlighted that our members are ambassadors for the organization and that in F2017 we had more new members join than ever before. The BTC reached a new all-time high with 10,374 members
- Volunteers: The BTC volunteers provide the work of 85 full time staff at a value of over \$3.5M in donated labour
- Trail Development and Maintenance: Many trail reroutes occurred in F2017 and there has been an ongoing review of the Optimum Route with ongoing data collection on how many people are using the trail
- The Bruce Trail by Club: Current main Trail length is 907km with the Optimum Route being 882km
- Landowners: Currently have permission from 691 landowners to cross their property through handshake agreements
- 2016-2017 Conservation Corridor Facts: We now manage 10,617 acres of land and percentage of trail secured is 66.2%
- Land Stewardship: Many unique projects took place this past year including bat and Loggerhead Shrike surveys
- Species at Risk: There are 74 species at risk found on Bruce Trail managed properties
- F2018 Financial Information: \$22M in assets at the end of F2018 with the majority in land holdings
- Nature Reserves: This past year the BTC acquired 14 parcels and 1 easement of permanently protected Niagara Escarpment including:
 - Overton Nature Reserve (Sydenham Section): 12.5 acres
 - St. Paul Nature Reserve (Niagara Section): 10 acres securing 247m of Optimum Route
 - Red Oak Nature Reserve (Iroquoia Section): 19 acres securing 547 of Optimum Route
 - Kemble Wetland Nature Reserve (Sydenham Section): 141 acres securing 2km of Optimum Route

- Big Bay Nature Reserve (Sydenham Section): 24 acres securing 475m of Optimum Route
- Vandaleur Nature Reserve (Beaver Valley Section): 46 acres securing 485m of Optimum Route
- Maple Ridge Nature Reserve (Toronto Section): 70 acres securing 557m of Optimum Route
- Quarryside Nature Reserve (Caledon Hills Section): 34 acres securing 279m of Optimum Route

4. Report from the Board Chair

The Board Chair presided over the formal portion of the agenda including the following proposed motions

The Chair thanked our members, volunteers and stakeholders for their efforts to support the Bruce Trail Conservancy

2017 Annual Meeting Minutes:

AM19/09-01	Moved: Anjlee Patel	Seconded: Rich Coons
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That the minutes of the September 23, 2017 Annual Meeting be approved

Motion Carried

Financial Reports

AM19/09-02	Moved: Brian Johnston	Seconded: Don Richards
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That the Bruce Trail Conservancy Financial Statements for the 2017/2018 fiscal year be approved.

Motion Carried

AM19/09-03	Moved: Brian Johnston	Seconded: Jim Wright
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That Pettinelli Mastroluisi LLP Chartered Accountants of Hamilton be appointed Auditors for the Bruce Trail Conservancy for the 2018/2019 fiscal year, and that their remuneration be fixed at a maximum \$21,000 plus HST.

Motion Carried

Nominations:

- Sue Simons will be stepping down and John Dickason has been nominated to join the Board

AM19/09-04

Moved: Michael McDonald

Seconded: Frank Schoenhoeffer

That John Dickason be approved as a Director of the Bruce Trail Conservancy for a three-year term commencing September 22, 2018.

Motion Carried

Discussion from the floor:

- A discussion ensued regarding accepting or declining the proposed slate to approve John Dickason to the Board
- A question was raised if the slate was declined how the BTC would proceed. No further nominations were brought forward by the May 31, 2018 deadline. Further discussion ensued to clarify the subject.
- The Chair noted that the proposed Director is fully supported by the Dufferin Club

5. Club Reports

Peninsula Club- Walter Brewer presented

- Walter noted the hard work of the Peninsula Club volunteers and Laura Browne and Tom Hall were highlighted
- A cheque was presented to the BTC on behalf of the Peninsula Club

Sydenham Club- Frank Schoenhoeffer presented

- Membership up by 10%
- Frank mentioned the changes in the Sydenham Club Board over the past year
- Three new properties in the Sydenham Section this past year
- Frank thanked the Sydenham volunteers for all their hard work
- A cheque was presented to the BTC on behalf of the Sydenham Club by Ron Savage

Beaver Valley Club- Jill Smith-Brodie presented

- 63 volunteers have contributed to trail work in Costa Rica and Jill promoted this work project
- A cheque was presented to the BTC on behalf of the Beaver Valley Club

Blue Mountains Club- Michael Treuman presented

- The southern portion of the Blue Mountains Club has seen many trail reroutes to move trail off of roads

Dufferin Hi-land Club- Sue Bate presented

- A new school outreach program was created this past year for grades 3-5 to hike on the trail
- In 2020 a 25k challenge will be implemented
- Sue highlighted Tom Thayer and his work on the unified hike system

Caledon Hills Club- David Lamb presented

- David mentioned the reopening of the Badlands and the contributions of Jean Kerins and Peter Leeney towards this project

Toronto Club- John Grandy presented

- John highlighted that 14% of BTC total revenues were spent on fundraising and administration costs and this is one of the lowest numbers of any charity in all of Canada
- John thanked several Toronto directors for their assistance this year including Marlis Butcher, Lucy Leung, and Peter Leeney
- A cheque was presented to the BTC on behalf of the Toronto Club

Iroquoia Club- Michael McDonald presented

- Michael mentioned that Iroquoia will be hosting the 2019 Annual Meeting
- A cheque was presented to the BTC on behalf of the Iroquoia Club
- Michael highlighted the recent start of the Junior Hiking Program

Niagara Club- Debbie Demizio presented

- Debbie highlighted the work of volunteers to support trail reroutes and the robust hiking program
- The Niagara Club will be creating a Youth Hiking Program next year
- A cheque was presented to the BTC at the Niagara AGM

6. Committee Reports

- Reports posted on-line prior to AGM and in packages
- No further discussion ensued

7. Business from the Floor

- A member asked for clarification on the call for nominations to the Board. The 2017 nominations period finished at the end of May. In 2018 both of these provisions were removed. The date was changed from the end of May to the beginning reducing the nominations time by a month.
 - The Board meets on the first Saturday in June and must recommend the slate ahead of the fall Annual Meeting so the nomination was moved ahead to give the Board more time to review applicants.
- A member asked for clarification regarding compliance with provincial legislation.
 - This speaks to Bill 54 which was brought in by the government in fall 2017 and Ontario Non-profit Corporations Act. The Board hired external counsel to review the Bruce Trail Conservancy's position in regard to these changes. Although the Bill has not come into effect yet, the BTC was advised to follow the spirit of the law. Clause 56-allows individual members of the corporation to submit matters of concern to the Board

ahead of the Annual Meeting. The Chair highlighted that any member is welcome to present any issues to the Board at any time throughout the year as we are all trying to achieve the same mission.

- A question was raised regarding trail maintenance and the important changes and updates to the chain saw policy-to what extent has this been disseminated?
 - A trail accident prompted the BTC to review the chain saw policy and create an updated version but this has been slow to be rolled out. All trail workers are supposed to review this policy and sign off but the process has been slow to be implemented. Ideally this will be done within the next month.

8. Meeting Adjournment

AM 19/09-05

Moved: Tony Hopkins

That meeting adjourned at 11:01 am