

Copeland Forest Friends Association Meeting Minutes

Annual General Meeting – May 7th, 2022

Heights of Horseshoe



copeland forest
friends association

1. Welcome – David Kennedy

2. Copeland Forest Presentation – Dave Hawke

Dynamic and intrinsic values of the Forest

- Environmental services and ecological sustainability (carbon sequestration, oxygen production, wetland functions (storage/filtration of water), species diversity).
- Social opportunities and benefits (escape, community, healthy lifestyle, aesthetic values, history of use).
- Economic values (user fees, community benefit, tourism, historically-forestry, SAR, peripheral real estate).

3. 2021-2022 Overview – David Kennedy

- Importance of Copeland during the pandemic, recognizing increase use by local residents and newcomers.
- CFFA undertook projects to address the issues that arose from increased use including: improvements to the parking lots, regular winter maintenance, information signage, website updates, trail moratorium until development of a Trail Committee which will lead to a Trail Plan, new membership software, code of conduct, water monitoring & garlic mustard programs continued...).
- Next projects, continue to improve access for all users, development of new parking lot on 5th, continue maintaining parking lots, improvements to visitor experience, Trail Plan and Vision.
- Continue with conservation minded developments.

4. Trail Committee – Don McKinnon

- MOU between CFFA & MNRF to act as caretakers of the forest, including single track trails.
- Vision – under development: “Supports a network of multiuse recreation trails that are environmentally sustainable and provide a variety of user experiences”.
- Components of the Trail Plan includes: History, vision, rational, ecological sensitivities, trail plan (assessment, recommendations, network, map), trail maintenance, public communications, implementation & schedule, monitoring.
- Draft release late 2022.
- Trail user survey – coming soon.

5. Discussion – Questions for User Groups – Don McKinnon
 1. From the perspective of you user group, do you have any comments or suggestions on the draft vision statement and desired experiences?
 2. What are the top 3 trail issues facing the Copeland forest?
 3. What improvements or changes could the friends make to the Copeland trails to address issues you listed in Q 2?
 4. How would this user group like to be involved in the coming months as we develop the Trail Plan?

11:15- user group breakouts

CFFA AGM Business Meeting

6. Review of the 2021 minutes- David Kennedy
 - a. Motion to approve: Peg Albrecht
 - b. Seconded by: Sandy Agnew
 - c. Passed by membership
7. 2021 Fiscal – Sandra McLaughlin
 - a. General update: increase in membership, grant – Healthy Communities
 - b. Motion to approve: Kris Puhvel
 - c. Seconded by: Dorthea Hangaard
 - d. Passed by membership
8. Membership report – Len Cater
 - a. Automation of membership, allows for better membership tracking, trend- significant growth in hikers (previously was bikers), increased membership by equestrian.
 - b. 316 members in database, 219 are current.
 - c. New banking services, changes coming for additional membership payment methods.
9. Retiring Directors
 - a. Kris Puhvel- resident representative & communications
 - b. Sandra McLaughlin – horse representative & treasurer
 - c. Sue Benjafeld – hiking representative
 - d. Ray Gringas – Director at large
10. Election of Directors
 - a. Resident user group – Lisa Banks
 - b. Hiker group – Jenn Copeland
 - c. Directors at large
 - i. David Myles (treasurer)
 - ii. Don McKinnon (trail)
 - iii. David Kennedy (president)

- d. Motion to approve: Sandra McLoughlin
- e. Seconded by: Dorthea Hangaard
- f. Passed by membership

11. By-law Amendments

- a. Two types of memberships, individual and family
 - i. Will be in place for the 2022-2023 membership
- b. Reduction of the number of user groups from 9 to 8, increase the number of directors at large. Horseshoe Valley will no longer have a representative on the board, but will have ex-officio membership
- c. Horseshoe rep will be ex-officio advisor
- d. Quorum will change from 7 to 6
- e. Removal of the external advisory committee
- f. Removal of month membership
- g. CRA Charitable bylaw changes upcoming, 2 years
- h. Passed by membership

12. User group reports

- 1. Naturalist- Density, poop and erosion
- 2. Hunter & Anglers- Density, Trout pond
- 3. Horseback riding- ecology first for the mission, trail maintenance- how can they help, education, trout pond- watering horses
- 4. Mountain bike- concerns with managing organized events, trail maintenance education, multi-use trail; erosion.
- 5. Hiking- awareness of hunting season, not too many signs, increased education on etiquette
- 6. Residents- vision statement 'of the trail committee', protection and preservation of the forest; highlight lower impact trails, close trails to 'recover', understand significance or historical remnants, overuse.
- 7. Snow sports- messaging about hanging poops, promotion about safety (re. conflict), scope of the Horseshoe Resort use. Trail improvements at Line 3 @ pond, balance of too much signage.

13. Other Business Q & A

- a. Timber Ridge update? Draft approved plan of condominium, no new developments. A proposed development would include notification to landowners as per Planning Act.
- b. Tree marking in Horseshoe/Copeland? Not in Copeland Forest.
- c. Trail committee – should also be sure to hear entire list of issues from user groups.
- d. Minutes & AGM info to be sent out prior to meeting.