



Copeland Forest Friends Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2025

The Heights Ski Club

General Session

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement – Len Cater
2. President's Report – Len Cater
 - a. Len welcomed members and started the meeting at 6:36 pm
 - b. Len noted that 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the Copeland Forest Friends Association. Len acknowledged founding member and past President David Kennedy.
 - c. The Association's many volunteers and supporters were acknowledged. Margaret Kennedy has led the Garlic Mustard pull for years and is ready to pass the baton, anyone interested is encouraged to connect with Margaret or a Board member.
 - d. The ice storm damage in the Forest is significant. Len acknowledged Rob Butler's efforts to clear trails thus far. It will take a significant amount of time and effort to clear the trails and remove hazards.
 - e. GovernWell implemented this year, the web based tool helps to ensure good Board governance and document retention.
 - f. Trail plan implementation started and lumber was purchased to be used for trail improvements.
 - g. Invasive Species grant was used to remove a section of Wild Parsnip.
 - h. Quarterly newsletter launched
 - i. Continue to partner with Horseshoe Resort on events like moonlight snowshoe/ski
 - j. Looking ahead: Bob Bowles will conduct a biological and invasive species inventory over next year or two.
 - k. Aiming to develop hiking/snowshoe loops with ecological and historical points of interest.
 - l. Membership averages 200 people. Planning to do more education and promotion aiming to increase membership.
 - m. Len introduced keynote speaker Robert (Bob) Bowles - founder and coordinator of the Ontario Master Naturalist Certificate program at Lakehead University in Orillia. He is an award-winning writer, artist, photographer and naturalist.

3. Bob's presentation – Life in the Leaf Litter. Forest ecology – diving into the leaves.
 - a. Bob emphasized the Copeland Forest is a jewel of ecology given its vast biodiversity. He explained the different levels of the forest and how these thrive in the Copeland. Bob enumerated the value of trees and how we must work to protect the 4,400 acres of the Copeland.
 - b. Bob is looking for volunteers to help inventory the vernal pools. Bob made a case for the incredible volume and diversity of life living in leaves on the forest floor and importance of not disturbing it.
 - c. Bob touched on Invasive Species and innovative approaches to mitigating their impact with biological solutions such as certain moths that eat Phragmites now starting to appear in the Copeland. There is evidence of beech leaf disease in the Copeland too.
4. User Group Meetings
 - a. User Group Directors facilitated discussions, noted member feedback for review at an upcoming Board meeting. Three members put their names forward to join the Board and fill existing user group vacancies.

15 Minute BREAK

CFFA AGM Business Meeting

1. Call to Order, Quorum and Agenda Review – Len Cater
2. Review of 2024 AGM Meeting Minutes – Lisa Banks
 - a. Presented summary of 2024 AGM meeting highlights as noted in the minutes.
 - b. **Motion to approve** 2024 Minutes as presented;
 - c. Moved by Rob Butler
 - d. Seconded by David Kennedy
 - e. Passed by Membership
3. Treasurers Report – Len Cater
 - a. Len outlined the association revenue and expenses and provided the following details:
 - b. The Association is awaiting several grant applications decisions to help offset the projected budget deficit due in large part to the biological inventory and invasive species work.
 - c. The Association is cash positive and can cover the projected expenses if required.
 - d. **Motion to approve** the report as presented:
 - e. Moved by Rob Butler
 - f. Seconded by Carol Strickland
 - g. Passed by Membership

- h. **Extraordinary Resolution** – Given the annual revenue of the CFFA is well below \$100,000 annually, the Board of Directors recommends this extraordinary resolution to not appoint an auditor or a person to conduct a review engagement for the coming year.
- i. More than 80% membership in attendance in favour

4. Election of New Directors and Directors at Large

- a. There are three Director positions, Anglers & Hunters, Businesses and Residents. The following new user group director and directors at large were nominated:
- b. Meghan Duell - Businesses
- c. Lillian Brown – Anglers and Hunters
- d. Kelly Drope - Residents
- e. Don McKinnon; David Myles and Len Cater (extension) – Directors At Large
- f. **Motion to approve** the election slate
- g. Moved by Lori Howard
- h. Seconded by Rob Butler
- i. Passed by Membership

5. Question and Answer

- a. Bob Bowles answered several questions related to his presentation.

6. Meeting Adjournment

- a. **Motion to adjourn** the meeting at 8:49 p.m.
- b. Moved by Carol Stickland
- c. Seconded by Mark Zielinski
- d. Passed by Membership