

MEETING NO: # Conservation Halton Board of Directors Meeting 01 21

MINUTES

A meeting of the Conservation Halton Board of Directors was held on Thursday, February 18 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom Webinar.

Members Present:

Hamza Ansari
Rob Burton
Mike Cluett
Rick Di Lorenzo
Joanne Di Maio
Cathy Duddeck
Allan Elgar
Steve Gilmour
David Gittings
Zeeshan Hamid
Moya Johnson
Gordon Krantz
Bryan Lewis
Marianne Meed Ward
Rory Nisan
Gerry Smallegange
Jim Sweetlove
Jean Williams

Absent:

Zobia Jawed

Guests:

Peter Pickfield, Partner, Garrod Pickfield
Rod Northey, Partner, Gowling WLG

Staff present

Kim Barrett, Associate Director, Science & Partnerships
Hassaan Basit, President & CEO/Secretary-Treasurer
Adriana Birza, Manager, Office of the President & CEO
Garner Beckett, Director, Conservation Halton Foundation
Niamh Buckley, Administrative Assistant, Office of the President & CEO
Chitra Gowda, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning & Source Protection
Craig Machan, Associate Director, Park Operations
Kellie McCormack, Associate Director, Planning & Regulations
Marnie Piggot, Director, Finance
Plezzie Ramirez, Senior Manager, Human Resources
Jill Ramseyer, Director, Corporate Compliance
Pavan Seth, Procurement Specialist

Barb Veale, Director, Planning & Watershed Management
Mark Vytvytskyy, Director, Parks & Operations/Executive Lead, Digital
Transformation

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. Roll Call

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest for Conservation Halton Board of Directors

There were **NONE**.

3. Acceptance of AMENDED Agenda

CHBD 01 01 Moved by: Gordon Krantz
Seconded By: Jim Sweetlove

THAT the Amended Agenda **be approved as distributed**

CARRIED

4. Presentations

- 4.1. Conservation Halton Planning and Watershed Year End Presentation (Barb Veale, Director, Planning & Watershed Management) (CHBD 01 21 03)
- 4.2. 2021 Parks Fees and Cost Recovery Presentation (Mark Vytvytskyy, Director, Parks & Operations/Executive Lead, Digital Transformation) (CHBD 01 21 11)

5. Consent Items

- 5.1. Approval of Conservation Halton Board of Directors Meeting Minutes dated November 26
- 5.2. Purchasing Memo - November 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021 (CHBD 01 21 01)
- 5.3. Emergency Purchase - Memo (CHBD 01 21 02)
- 5.4. Conservation Halton Planning and Watershed Management Year End Report (CHBD 01 21 03)
- 5.5. Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System Wildlife Corridors Mapping Project CH File No.: 353 (CHBD 01 21 04)

- 5.6 A Proposal under the Endangered Species Act to enable the use of the Species at Risk Conservation Fund and to streamline authorizations for certain activities that impact species at risk, while maintaining protections for species at risk
(CHBD 01 21 05)
- 5.7 Proposed implementation of provisions in the Planning Act that provide the Minister enhanced authority to address certain matters as part of a zoning order
ERO No. 019-2811 CH File No.: PPO 062
(CHBD 01 21 06)
- 5.8. Proposed Implementation of Updates to Ontario's Water Quantity Management Framework ERO No.: 019-2017 CH File No.: PPO 059
(CHBD 01 21 07)
- 5.9. Permits & Letters of Permission issued under Ontario Regulation 162/06 from September 1 to December 31, 2020
(CHBD 01 21 08)
- 5.10. Glen Eden Closure and 2021 Parks Financial Projection
(CHBD 01 21 09)
- 5.11. Update on Proclamation of Various Provisions of Conservation Authorities Act
(CHBD 01 21 10)
- 5.12. Morrison Wedgewood Floodplain
(CHBD 01 21 15)

6. Action Items

- 6.1. 2021 Parks Fees and Cost Recovery
(CHBD 01 21 11)

CHBD 01 02 Moved by: Moya Johnson
Seconded by: Mike Cluett

THAT the Conservation Halton Board of Directors **approves the 2021 Conservation Halton Parks Cost Recovery Fee Schedule.**

Carried

7. CEO Verbal Update

CEO Hassaan Basit noted that Glen Eden season began on February 16.

The Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2024 is making good progress and will be presented to the CH Board at the March Board meeting. The CEO noted that a public engagement campaign will

be launched in the coming weeks. Board members will receive an email prior to this with information on supporting and promoting the new strategy engagement.

The CEO provided an update on grants that CH have received and won which include:

- \$116,625: Conservation Halton Winter Experience, funded by Reconnect Events and Festival Funding (Provincial government)
- \$5,000: Hiring Subsidy for one new seasonal staff, funded by Youth Job Connection
- Great Lakes Local Action fund application requesting \$49,875 was approved but the final grant amount provided is TBD

Value of **outstanding** grants for 2020-2021: \$4,912,218 which include

- Crawford Lake Boardwalk Construction: \$1,581,924 grant request from the ICIP
- Milton Newcomer Climate Action Virtual Platform Project: \$1,524,334 grant request from the Federal Government; we expect to hear back in the next few weeks
- EDI Capacity Building and Community Engagement at Conservation Halton: \$165,000 grant request from the Federal government; we expect to hear back in early spring
- Conservation Halton Indigenous Advisory Council: \$466,633 grant request from the Federal government; we expect to hear back in early spring
- Community Climate Action: \$293,561 grant request from RBC Tech for Nature; we expect to hear back in early spring
- East Burlington Creeks- Floodplain mapping: \$475,000 grant requested from the Federal government; we expect to hear back in March

The CEO provided an update on Glen Eden and winter operations:

- Park visitor numbers have increased in 2021 by over 33,500 visitors from the same period in 2020 which generated a gross revenue of \$476,000 from January 1 to February 16.
- Over 8000 people attended the Winterlit experience resulting in a gross revenue of \$120,000 and almost 5000 people attended Snowshoeing at Kelso which resulted in a gross revenue of \$126,000
- Maple at Mountsberg will start on March 4, 2021

The CEO shared an update on the progress of the CAA working group which was formalized in January to advise the MECP on proposed regulations which will implement change to the Conservation Authorities ACT. Two groups are participating in the process and include some great talent from across multi sectors. The groups meet every 2 weeks with regular updates being shared with the Hon. Jeff Yurek and MECP staff.

8.0 CHF Chair Update (Jim Sweetlove)

CHF Chair Jim Sweetlove provided an update from the Foundation meeting which took place on February 10. CHF Board members were presented with the Draft Unaudited Financial Statements for 2020 and the 2021 – 2024 Strategic Plan.

CHF Chair shared highlights from the Draft Unaudited Financial Statement for 2020 which included an increase in revenue of \$691,236 in 2019 to \$713, 969 in 2020 and a surplus of \$62,800 despite the challenges of COVID 19.

9. Other Business

There was **NO** other business

10. IN CAMERA

CHBD 01 04: Moved by: Jean Williams
Seconded by: Marianne Meed Ward

THAT the Conservation Halton Board of Directors **convene IN CAMERA.**

Carried

- 10.1 Legal Matter
(CHBD 01 21 12)
- 10.2 Legal Matter
(CHBD 01 21 13)
- 10.3 Legal Matter
(CHBD 01 21 14)
- 10.4 Personnel Matter
- 10.5 Legal Matter
(CHBD 01 21 16)

CHBD 01 05: Moved by: Cathy Duddeck
Seconded by: Rob Burton

THAT the Conservation Halton Board of Directors **reconvene in Public Forum.**

And

THAT CH Staff **proceed as recommended by CH Board of Directors In Camera.**

Carried

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- 10.5 Postponing the 2021 Inaugural meeting of the Conservation Halton Board of Directors
(CHBD 01 21 16)

CHBD: 01 06 Moved by: Allan Elgar
Seconded by: Steve Gilmour

Whereas on February 2, 2021, specific provisions in the Conservation Authority Act (CAA) were proclaimed to initiate changes to conservation authority governance;

Whereas according to the communication received by Conservation Authorities from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) staff these changes are aimed to provide consistency in administration across all conservation authorities, increase transparency and financial accountability, as well as increased municipal and provincial oversight of conservation authority operations;

Whereas the Chair and Vice-Chair position is now required to rotate amongst municipalities;

Whereas limiting the term of the chair/vice-chair to not hold office for more than one year or two terms, or a member to succeed an outgoing chair, vice-chair, appointed from the same participating municipality (Bill 229, 2020);

Whereas implementation of this provision will begin at the first meeting of the year following the February 2nd proclamation, meaning for Conservation Halton the February 18, 2021 Inaugural meeting.

Whereas a participating municipality or conservation authority may apply to the Minister to request an exception to the Chair and Vice-Chair term limits and rotation amongst members by including the alternative proposed and the rationale for the request;

Whereas Conservation Halton fully supports the provincial objective to provide consistency in administration across all conservation authorities;

It is Resolved that the Conservation Halton President & CEO be directed to postpone the Inaugural meeting of the Conservation Halton Board of Directors to March 25, 2021 to ensure that the Conservation Halton Board of Directors is in full compliance with the newly proclaimed s.17 of the Conservation Authorities Act prior to holding elections for the Chair and Vice Chair for the 2021 term;

It is Resolved that the Conservation Halton President & CEO be directed to write to the Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to advise that the Conservation Halton Board of Directors is requesting an exception to the two-year term limit for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conservation Halton Board of Directors as prescribed in s.17 of the Conservation Authorities Act to ensure business continuity, stability, and adequate time for succession planning.

11. Adjournment

CHBD 01 07 Moved by: Bryan Lewis



February
2021

THAT The Conservation Halton Board of Directors meeting **be adjourned at 5:17 p.m.**

Carried

Signed by:  Hassaan Basit, President & CEO

Date: March 25, 2021