

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date – Thursday September 5, 2013  
Time – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Location – Civic Centre, Biggings Room



*Present – Ron Prickett, Val Walker, Gail Jones, Dave Euler, Tony Walker, Don Hall  
Regrets - Donna Ryckman-Rooney, Carl Linhart, Robert Cohen*

- 1) Called to order – 7:02 p.m. Gail offered to record the minutes.
- 2) Additions to the agenda -
  - October meeting – no speaker yet, to be discussed with program committee report.
- 3) Last meeting's minutes approved as presented.
- 4) Business arising from the minutes
  - a) Don to email Carrie's comments to the executive
    - **Action:** Dave will send Carrie's report to Don, and he will forward to the executive.
  - b) Harvey to email past members to inquire about signing up (carried forward from June)
    - Done
  - c) Don to deliver Harvey's Gros Cap report to Great Lakes Watershed Conservancy.
    - Not yet completed, there has not been a recent meeting of the GLWC.
  - d) Don to contact Dave re: response to McGuffins concerning annual meeting
    - Done
  - e) Don will ask membership if a change to a 7 p.m. start time for general meetings would be possible if we were to move our meetings in Michigan to the Bayliss Library.
    - *Done, there were no objections to changing the time or venue. Only comment was that noise at the current (church) venue has been a problem at times.*
- 5) Committee and other reports
  - a) *Treasurer*
    - Canadian Acct (CIBC): \$1300.24
    - US Acct (Huntington Bank): \$256.71
    - GIC #1 (Nov. 22/13): \$3031.86
    - GIC #2 (June 17/14): \$4213.99
  - b) *Outings*
    - Fall outing list was emailed out today, Val will be delivering some of the hard copies.
  - c) *Programs*
    - 7:00 pm starting time of meetings was discussed, this was presented to the general membership at the June meeting, there were no objections.
    - Currently no speaker for October meeting.
    - **Action** - Dave will contact Fred Post (Essar Steel) and if possible Laura Wyper (Algoma University).
    - Dave requests ideas for speakers for future meetings.
    - Dave asked about films instead of speakers at general meetings. Excellent films are available. Some members felt it was a good idea, others said sparingly if at all.
  - d) *Membership*
    - No report

- e) *Michigan Audubon*
  - o No report
- f) *Ontario Nature & STAC*
  - o Tony will attend the September 28 fall meeting at Elliot Lake. We will email him if we have any issues to bring up.
  - o Moved by Gail seconded by Dave that we reimburse Tony for gas money, maximum \$99.99. Carried.
- 6) Old business
  - a) *Change of Michigan venue – Bayliss Library*
    - o Changing the Michigan venue to the Bayliss library and the beginning of all general meetings to 7:00 pm has been discussed for several months at the executive, and at the April and June general meetings. There have been no objections to the change, and most comments concern either noise at the current (church) venue or access issues at the church. Some non-members have expressed “I don’t want to go to church” concerns.
    - o There is no charge for the use of the library, but we must be out by about 8:45.
    - o If we move to the library, it is not clear whether or not the room will be available for the December 10 meeting.
    - o **Action** – Don to call Susan James to check on access to the meeting room prior to the starting time of 7:00 pm. Also check on possible publicity through library bulletin boards or newsletters. Also check on availability of the meeting room for the December 10 2013 meeting.
    - o Moved by Ron Prickett, seconded by Tony Walker that we change the Michigan venue to the Bayliss Library, and the start time for all general meetings to 7:00 pm. Carried unanimously.
    - o **Action** – Don to go to the library and (assuming no unexpected problems arise) fill out application forms and get acquainted with the venue. Try to set starting time at 6:30 pm to allow time for setup.
  - b) *Annual Meeting – 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, history, skits, historical photos.*
    - o **Action** – Don to announce change of venue and time at all general meetings this fall.
    - o Gail explained a proposed presentation for 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary annual meeting - dreamed up by Gail, Viv and Don. Non-stop slide show, skits, poems, etc.
    - o This would be a lot of work, so we would have to start immediately.
    - o Proposal requires a stage, Moose Hall in Sault Canada is suggested. This is a departure from normal U.S./Canada rotation. Moose requires a hall rental fee upon reservation. This might be covered by the silent auction.
    - o Dave mentioned that historical skits concerning long-ago members could be of little interest to those who don’t remember that far back.
    - o Moved by Tony, seconded by Val that the annual meeting venue be moved to Canada for one year, and the theme be a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Carried unanimously.
    - o **Action** – Ron to “do what he can” to write a suitable poem.
    - o **Action** – Gail, Viv and Don to meet with Gladys to search through archives, scan pictures, gather stories, etc.
    - o **Action** – Don to ask for photos, stories, etc, at general meetings.
    - o **Action** – Gail and Viv to further investigate the Moose Hall, and unless problems arise, go ahead and reserve it for February meeting.
    - o **Action** – Gail and Viv to present menu options at October executive meeting.
    - o Moved by Tony, seconded by Ron that we pay the Moose Lodge \$197 to cover the cost of reserving the hall for the February 11 2014 meeting. Carried unanimously.

- Moved by Ron, seconded by Tony that we have a silent auction at the annual meeting, and proceeds go toward the costs of the annual meeting. Carried.
- c) *VTA 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, September 28*
  - This is on the outings list.
  - Gail mentioned that we should have brochures on hand
  - **Action** – Viv will assemble a display, but Viv and Don may not be able to attend if the event is moved to the September 29 “rain day”.
  - **Action** – Val will try to borrow gear needed to run a children’s aquatic invertebrate event at Crystal Creek.
- d) *Publicity – poster template, etc.*
  - Donna was to talk with a friend about making up a poster template – we could change it each month to reflect guest speaker, etc. Donna is out of town, no report.
  - **Action** – Don will contact Donna to see if any progress has been made.
  - Ron was running ads in the 3-day planner and such, but feels they were not accomplishing anything, there was no apparent response. Some executives feel that they did help generate community interest.
  - **Action** – Ron will resume sending ads to Sault Star, Sault This Week, etc.
- e) *Fall newsletter*
  - Bill Purnis will compile the newsletter, but he is currently occupied with family health concerns.
  - No deadline has been set.
  - **Action** – Don will write articles about the Hub Trail Festival and Desbarats Green Expo.
  - **Action** – when appropriate, Don will contact Bill about a deadline for submissions.
  - **Action** – Dave will write an article about “how to use your computer to go birding”.
  - **Action** – Val will write a piece about the Beaver Island trip.

- **Action** – Gail and Don to send Beaver Island photos to Val.
- 7) Updates and reminders
  - a) *Gibboney Marsh Biological Survey – postponed until spring or summer*
    - Don has informed Edith Orr of the postponement
  - b) *Brief reports – Hub Trail Festival and Desbarats Green Expo*
    - Don’s reports were circulated by email.
- 8) New business
  - *Budget for 2014*
  - It is felt that we should have an annual calendar-year plan for income and expenses, to allow for more informed decisions when unexpected money-related decisions arise. This would hopefully take some of the pressure off the treasurer.
  - **Action** – Gail to provide projected expenses and income for the next executive meeting
  - *Club T-shirts or hats*
  - There is agreement that we should have some sort of club hats, T-shirts or vests. They would be really useful at events like the Hub Trail Festival and Desbarats Green Expo, and would also be a good thing on outings.
  - Gail says memoirs charges \$65 to make a template, then embroidering on most anything costs between \$4.50 and 7.50 per item
  - **Deferred** to a future executive meeting
  - *Purchase of walkie-talkies – Ron*
  - Ron says these would be a handy safety feature, allowing outing leaders to keep in touch with the sweep. VTA has expensive GPS units.
  - **Action** – Ron to get prices for solid, non-GPS walkie-talkies
- 9) Adjourned – 9:03 p.m.