

Upton Farm Trust 9th Annual General Meeting

November 10, 2020
The Carriage House, Beaconsfield

Present: Heidi Hyndman (Chair), Scott Burke, Grant Johnson, Marie Ann Bowden, Susan Frizzell, Jessika Corkum-Gorrill,
Missing: Todd Dupuis Beth Hoar

(7 members present)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the membership and introduced the Board.

2. Approval of the Agenda

It was agreed that the Agenda be accepted.

3. Approval of the 2019 AGM Minutes

In the absence of changes, the Minutes were accepted.

4. President's Report

a) Fitzgerald and Snow, relying on an older survey inadvertently paved 2000 square feet of Upton property off Regis Duffy Drive. To remain in accordance with NAPA, we asked that the pavement be removed. The land has now been restored.

b) The off leash area project began with enhancement of the trails by Albert Flavell and volunteers to make more usable trails. Although interrupted by a nesting owl during nesting season, the trails were completed through the woods and along the waterfront. In the early fall the off leash fencing was completed, in spite of some initial vandalism. Part of the problem was that we were not able to install signage until a few months later which explained the proper property use. All is now well.

c) The multi-use trail proposal, initially introduced at our AGM last year is still under consideration. As of last January 2020 Upton was asked to provide input to an existing committee of government charged with moving the project forward. At the initial meeting we learned that the proposal, as it was then drafted, included asphalt pathways through the trust property. The paving proposal runs contrary to our NAPA restrictions. The Board has unanimously supported our desire to uphold and maintain the agreement as presently drafted. and our position was passed on to the Committee. Within these parameters we remain participants in the ongoing discussion for the Multi-use Trail Project.

d) The Pay Pal giving fund has been established. Any donations that through PayPay are subject to fees. That said, we have not done any fund raising as to date we have not needed money for capital projects. We have received both in-kind contributions and some provincial funding contributions as a result of the bypass project. The city's in-kind contributions are also very helpful vis a vis garbage, dog poop bags and some road maintenance. The province pays an annual stipend to the Trust for ongoing expenses including our annual insurance. The biggest infrastructure expense (signage, fencing etc) this past year was paid for by the province.

d) The Carbon Capture tree planting and forest enhancement programs will provide 12,000 free trees as well as further funding to Upton. Some sites have been chosen already (along the 5.7 acre North Trans Canada field has already been planted and along the bioCommons is soon to come) and further sites are being chosen. We have managed to secure both deciduous and coniferous trees for the site. The carbon capture program will provide not only trees but \$1000/acre will be forwarded to Upton for the planted trees.

ACTION ITEM

It was suggested from the floor that a hedge row be run along Maypoint Road to replace the original hedgerow that was there.

d) We received 100 trees from CN last fall which flank the hill up the transCanada. The timing of the planting has led to some challenges but efforts are underway to secure some maintenance efforts by the city.

e) Tree Canada received funding of \$3000 from Telus for us to plant three species of deciduous trees. These were planted three weeks ago. There was also provided an additional cash gift of \$500.

ACTION ITEM

It was raised from the floor that the tree wraps from the 2014 tree plants should be removed. It was suggested that this be a volunteer activity.

f) The carbon capture program will provide not only trees but \$1000/acre for the planted trees.

g) The pump will not be forthcoming. The estimated cost of \$10000+ is prohibitive and is expected to drop when adjoining lots are serviced. It was decided we would wait til that occurs.

Moved and Seconded that the report be accepted.

5. Treasurer's Report

The major expenses this year were the fencing, 5 benches, and costs for website maintenance.

Memberships are on track with the new option of a \$100 life membership.

The mowing this summer was done by a volunteer.

Insurance costs (paid by the province) increased this year as we raised out coverage due to increased use.

Moved and Seconded.

6. Infrastructure Report

a) 5 benches were installed this year

b) Signage was installed on the north side last fall and recently on the south side.

ACTION ITEM: It was raised from the floor that there is signage needed for no bikes in the Off Leash area.

c) The gate/parking lot path entrance of the off leash area is incredibly muddy. We have asked the province for some crushed asphalt to first scrape and then infill the muddy area from the parking lot to, and through the gate. We will ask the province to supply the materials and we will pay for the labour (approx. \$600).

e) South side trails need some attention. We are hoping to introduce some additional walking trails in the future to this area.

Moved and seconded.

7. Nomination of Directors (2 terms expiring)

We wanted to thank Nancy Pierce, particularly for her work on signage content and presentation, and Beth Hoar, on the Board since its inception, for their contributions to the Board. Both have been dedicated supporters and promoters of Upton throughout their respective tenures.

Jessika Corkum-Gorrill is the new City of Charlottetown appointment. She has an expertise in Urban Forestry which we are thrilled to have her join us.

Heidi's and Scott's term is expiring and they have both agreed to serve again. In the absence of nominations from the floor there was a motion to elect Heidi Hyndman and Scott Burke to the Board of Upton Farm Trust.

Moved and seconded. Unanimously passed

8. New Business

a) NAPA

The desire to include an asphalt surface on the Multi-purpose Trail has proven problematic. The province was willing to amend NAPA to facilitate this end. The Board unanimously agreed we would not consider reopening NAPA to permit such a use. But the discussion highlighted the possible vulnerability of the hard fought terms which we were able to incorporate into our initial NAPA agreement. The Board is now considering whether we require further reinforcement in the Upton Bylaws to prevent an amendment to NAPA without clear Board AND Membership approval. The members discussion at the meeting reinforced the view of the Board that we should further investigate such an amendment to the bylaws.

b)Memorial Forest

The Board has discussed this idea and hopes that we might move forward with it. We are considering such issues as : a one time planting per year, determination of species choices, plaques(?) , site location, etc. The Board would appreciate any input or suggestions from the membership as we further investigate this idea.

9.Question and Answer Period

There was a question about a possible skating path on the south side of the transCanada. Heidi asked that a specific request be put in writing for submission to the Board to determine whether or not it falls within our mandate.

10. Adjournment