

St Margaret's Bay Area Rails to Trails Association

Annual General Meeting, June 21, 2021, 7 - 9 pm

Agenda

Welcome from Anne Patrick. The meeting will be recorded for verification purposes only for minute-taking. Thanks to Ken Donnelly for being webmaster/Zoom host. Use the Raise Hands feature for discussion and take your turn. Use the chat to get Ken's attention.

18 participants

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Tom Arnold

Second: Suzanne Berryman

Approved

2. Approval of Minutes of 2020 AGM

Motion: Sue Bethune Second: Neil Mooy

Approved

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

4. Report of the Chair - Anne Patrick

Attached. Briefly, very busy year with Covid. There is a necessity for awareness of and courtesy for all users. Significantly more enforcement present than past years, for which we are appreciative.

5. Report of the Treasurer - Andrea Flight

Attached. Thanks to Bluenose Accounting for preparing the Financial Statements.

Statement of Financial position to March 31, 2021. Assets \$70884. Liabilities \$9194. Net Assets 61690.

Statement of Operations. \$100,095. Grant income, membership and donations, Bay Treasure Chest revenue significantly reduced. Expenditures signage, equipment \$78358 leaving \$21737. General expenses \$14901 leaving \$6836. Various upcoming bills.

Upcoming revenue sources, BTC, grants, membership, HRM (\$10000 approved), Communities Culture Heritage (\$17,000 approved), Trans Canada Trail (\$1000 for brush trimming approved, \$5000 applied for resurfacing.

No questions

6. Approval of Financial Statements

Motion: Andrea

Second: Sean Beaulieu

Approved

Anne - Thanks to Andrea for all her work from the Board.

7. Report of the Operations Committee - Neil Mooy

Attached. Started regrading, parking lot, PortaPotties, tree-trimming. Upcoming work includes regrading to Vinegar Lake access road. TIR will complete through to Hubbards. Regrading of Ingramport bridge area will be done soon by SMBARTA aHopefully TIR will pay next year. NS Power access road completed. Access lane over the ditch between access road and end of Indian River ATV track completed and paid for by TIR. Ditching in fall. There are two new contacts at Dept. Lands and Forests - Nathan Pick and Ben Buckwold.

Anne – Thanks for all your hard work. No Questions.

8. Election of Directors

Resigning from Board -

Rick Muzyk

Sue Bethune

Denise Hicks

Carolyn Doucette

Jill Pulsifer unconfirmed

Anne thanked Rick, Sue and Denise on behalf of SMBARTA

Re-offering for Board seat -

Tom Arnold

Caren Batchelor

Suzanne Berryman

Venessa Downing

Amanda Dowding

Andrea Flight

Dan Flinn

Shelley Glover

Neil Mooy

Anne Patrick

Jacqui Tupper

Other Nominations

Nomination for Mike Marriott and Sean Beaulieu by Neil Mooy

Second for Mike: Tom Arnold

Second for Sean: Amanda Dowding

No other nominations

Election of Officers:

Nomination for Chair

Anne Patrick

Moved: Neil Mooy Second: Tom Arnold

Anne accepted by Acclamation

Nomination for Vice Chair
Nomination of Neil Mooy
Moved: Sean Beaulieu Second: Venessa Downing
Neil accepted by Acclamation

Nomination for Secretary
Suzanne Berryman
Moved: Neil Mooy Second: Shelley Glover
Suzanne accepted by Acclamation

Nomination for Treasurer
Andrea Flight
Moved: Neil Mooy Second: Venessa Downing
Andrea accepted by Acclamation

9. Appointment of Auditor

Reappointment of Bluenose Accounting to prepare the Financial Statements
Motion: Andrea Flight Second: Neil Mooy
Approved

10. New Business

Rick Muzyk. What is the status of HRM negotiations? Anne said there have been no further discussions. Board needs to discuss this. Most users are from outside our community and do not help out or support the trail financially and it is beyond the scope of a volunteer association to maintain and operate a 32.5 km gravel trail. After the first season, Neil and Anne will make a proposal to HRM and Province (CCH, OHVIF) for a 3-year sustainable maintenance funding model involving a commitment from funding partners and SMBARTA. SMBARTA will provide an annual review, SMBARTA will provide all the usual due diligence, financial details. SMBARTA is not asking for more money than in the past, just stability in funding. Neil has been estimating the cost of maintaining the trail each year but not including if there is a natural disaster (storms, bridge replacement, etc.). HRM has no desire to maintain this trail itself. The province is not interested in transferring the trail property to HRM. However, they are better at enforcement of some of the rules this year. Anne – we have a good track record with the funding partners and we are looking for stability in funding. This is a work in progress.

Rick Muzyk – Are there any new developments with RumRunners? Anne – there has been a meeting about enforcement issues and improving safety and courtesy on all constituent trails. There has been discussion on a uniform signage but we already have more than enough signage on our trail. Consistent provincial trail signage on awareness, courtesy and safety would be valuable however. Implementation strategy for provincial trail signage has not been completed.

Rick Muzyk thanked Anne for her continued involvement and leadership on the Trail Association.

Dan Flinn – He has received no complaints, only positive feedback from the customers at the Bike and Bean

Neil Mooy – Meeting with Councillor Pamela Lovelace and Board and there was discussion about Bicycle Nova Scotia and cyclists. CCTV has been installed by a homeowner at a particularly bad place on the trail for bad behaviour. Need commonality on obeying the rules. BLT has the same problem. Bicycle Nova Scotia needs to deal with cyclists for not stopping or ringing bells. There is a need for more awareness. Anne – HRM and the province needs to deal with this as it is a province-wide issue. There has been a big upsurge in usage, especially among cyclists. There are problems with all the user groups – there seems to be a lack of awareness of the difference between biking on a bike lane in Halifax or a cycling-only trail and cycling on multi-user trails.

Caren Batchelor – With all the increased usage on trail there has been a decrease in negative comments on social media compared to last year. Most people are very happy. Many thanks to everyone and especially Neil for his efforts. Anne thanked Caren for her positive management of our social media.

Venessa Downing – Will there be training for Trail Patrol? Neil - BLT would like to have some of their Trail Crew volunteers trained so it would be good to plan it with them. Now that restrictions have eased, Neil will be planning a session soon. Venessa has meeting space that can be used. Anne – trail users are positive about the presence of Trail Patrol. Anne - The more there are the more beneficial it will be.

Toby Mandelman – Question about parking area at Station Road and nasty notes left on many cars that are not in SMBARTA's two spots – can it be increased? Amanda – restrictions on parking because there are 7 houses up the road that are being blocked and you can't park on the road in case it interferes with emergency vehicles. Anne – with more trail usage, parking is a big issue. Talk to SMATVA and Unicorn about accessing some of the HRM-owned public property there for parking. Neil – daytime is OK Monday-Friday. Mike – SMATVA use it occasionally. Unicorn needs it when there are events. Otherwise it should be fine. Have a conversation with the Bay Community Centre to co-ordinate parking with SMBARTA. Possibly an option would be to extend the existing parking lot along the Trail right-of-way. Anne - options need to be discussed. There are a number of private homes up the hill from the Trail that need to be satisfied. Sean – across the overpass at Bowater Mersey area might be a possibility. Neil will enquire about that. Venessa – NSPower access road is very crowded, also French Village Road, Bike and Bean, Cavicchi's, Redmonds parking, Fox Hollow Road. Church parking lots – Neil thinks the area at St. James church is public; Sue said that it is owned by the church and Venessa will ask Rev. Breanna about parking there. It is currently used by the ice-cream van and is very busy. Denise – it will be busy on Sundays with churches opening up and those going to church will need to park there.

Anne – asked Neil if there is a date for the Trail Patrol meeting

11. Call to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Toby Mandelman, Second: Shelley Glover

Ken – will email the recording to Sue for double-checking the minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Bethune, June 22 2021