

Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington

DRAFT

**Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting
held April 29, 2009**

Present: 44 members.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m., chaired by Vicki Schmolka. Vicki welcomed everyone, and introduced herself. She explained that the Land Conservancy was run by a board of volunteers, and that all funds coming in to the Land Conservancy are used toward conservation efforts. Vicki introduced the current Board members, She then read over the agenda.

Statement of Quorum: over 15 members are present, therefore quorum requirements have been met.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

Moved by: Jacqueline Bartnik

Seconded by: Kate Laird

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2007 AGM

Vicki Schmolka noted that the minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting were posted on the web site, and that printed copies were also available at the back of the room.

Motion:

Moved by: Graeme Watson

Seconded by: Connie Gardiner

That the minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, held on April 30, 2008, be adopted as circulated.

Motion Carried.

3. Notice of Proxy Voting

Vicki noted that our advertising for the Annual General Meeting had omitted mention of proxy voting. She asked that the members consider a motion to recognize this omission and affirm the validity of the AGM.

Motion:

Moved by: Chris Cannon

Seconded by: Mary Alice Snetsinger

That the members of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington agree, according to Section 18 of the By-laws, that this Annual General Meeting is valid despite the fact that notice of the meeting did not include information about proxy voting, as required by Section 15 of the By-laws.

Motion Carried.

4. President's Report

Vicki began her presentation with a few statistics from the recent "Assessing Your Organization" exercise conducted by the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA), which she promised to come back to later in her report. Although this review was conducted in 2009, it provided a good picture of our young land trust in the provincial context, and Vicki reported that we compare very favorably in terms of policies in place and area of land protected.

Vicki went on to outline the activities of the Land Conservancy for the past year, and discuss our planned next steps.

Our Mission: To preserve and protect natural sites and landscapes in Kingston, Frontenac County, and Lennox & Addington County.

Our Vision: To gain the respect of people throughout the region for our work as a responsible and far-sighted land trust. We will show leadership by securing land to connect valuable natural areas across the landscape, by encouraging land stewardship, and by helping to preserve the ecological integrity of the region for future generations. The Land Conservancy will be recognized as a key conservation partner in this part of Ontario.

Our four main areas of activity in 2008 were:

1. Building knowledge and capacity (we completed municipal inventories of lands, joined the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange, and sent a new member to an OLTA gathering);
2. Developing a presence – outreach (contact with municipalities, cooperation with the Friends of the Salmon River, a donation to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, submission regarding amendments to the *Mining Act*, and articles in *Vista* and the Wood Gundy newsletter);
3. Increasing membership (60 members are needed to cover annual operating expenses; goal is to increase membership by 10% annually, thus 99 in 2009); and
4. Managing Meyer Woods (a long-term responsibility).

Vicki then returned briefly to the "Assessing Your Organization" review, reading a few quotes from the report. She noted that we do have some 'homework' resulting from the review, which will help guide the Board in the coming year.

Finally, Vicki outlined ten goals for 2009 and reviewed these with members:

- Increase our membership to 99
- Attract 4 new people to work on projects and committees
- Complete the 3 easements
- Identify primary areas of acquisition interest
- Develop a financial plan for stewardship and fundraising
- Share the results of the municipal inventory with 8 municipalities
- Meet with 3 lake associations
- Add more content to our web site
- Receive media coverage about our work – 4 articles
- Have a 5-year strategic plan to present at our next AGM

5. Treasurer's Report

Bud Rowe gave the Treasurer's Report, summarizing the finances of the Land Conservancy. He gave members a brief overview of our general and land acquisition expenses, describing how each is funded. In 2008, the General Fund income was \$8,543, with total expenses of \$7,345, for a net income of \$1,198; the general fund balance stands at \$7,704. The Land Acquisition fund income (from donations and grants) was \$2,799, with expenses (including purchase of a \$10,000 term deposit) of \$10,397, for a net income of -\$7,598; the land acquisition fund balance, however, remains at a healthy \$6,442. The total of the two funds is \$14,146, which is the bank balance. The Land Conservancy's total assets, including land, are \$256,623.

Auditor's Statement

Bud then read the Statement of the Auditors for 2008, and displayed this statement for all members. The auditors, Jerry Zabel and Steve Graves, found the books to be correct and reported no deficiencies.

Auditor for 2009

Bud then asked members to appoint an auditor for 2009, nominating Jerry Zabel, and noting that Mr. Zabel has agreed to undertake the audit in 2009.

Motion:

Moved by: Bud Rowe

Seconded by: Chris Cannon

That the members of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington appoint Jerry Zabel to act as our auditor for 2009.

Motion Carried.

6. Land Acquisition Committee Report

Paul Mackenzie, Chair of the Land Acquisition Committee, gave a brief report on the Land Acquisition Committee, beginning his remarks with a quote from Andy Warhol (“I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own”) and a few lines from the poem “I have Need of the Sky” by Richard Hovey. Paul gave a brief summary of the responsibilities of the Committee, including response to property enquiries, Baseline Documentation Reports, ecological gift certification, monitoring, etc. He described some of the Committee’s current statistics and achievements, and listed the members of the Committee. The next activities of the Committee will include selecting priority areas, planning the protection of these areas, and soliciting more volunteers for monitoring and fieldwork.

Anne Robertson reported on our care of Meyer Woods, focusing on stewardship tasks (marking and thinning of the spruce plantation, and the annual work party), successful grant applications (the Community Foundation for Greater Kingston and, in 2009, the TD-Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Fund), and research (amphibian monitoring by Dr. Lougheed at Queen’s University).

7. Mapping Committee Report

Kate Laird reported on the activities of the Mapping Committee, new this year. She listed the Committee members and displayed a sample map. Kate explained the intent of the mapping work – understanding what parcels of land have some form of protection, where there are gaps in protection, and where we should focus our acquisition efforts. As well as increasing our familiarity with and understanding of our area of interest, we will use the maps developed for strategic planning of land acquisition.

8. Elections

Vicki explained the staggered election process governing the Land Conservancy, and noted which positions required re-election in 2009. She noted that one of our Board members has offered her mid-term resignation due to the demands of a new job, and thanked Jacqueline Bartnik for her contribution to the Board.

Board members who have served one year of their two-year term, and wish to remain include: Chris Cannon, Anne Robertson, Arthur (Bud) Rowe, and Mary Alice Snetsinger.

Larry McCurdy took the floor to run the election for President. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, he nominated Vicki Schmolka for the position. Larry asked

three times if there were any nominations from the floor. There being no other nominations, Vicki Schmolka was acclaimed in the position, Larry noting that we were very lucky to have her. Vicki accepted the position, and thanked members for their support.

Vicki then presented the Nominating Committee's list of five people who are willing to serve a two-year term on the Board: Janis Grant, Kate Laird, Paul Mackenzie, Larry McCurdy, and Shelagh Mirski. Vicki asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Additionally, we need to fill a director position for one year, due to Jackie Bartnik's resignation. Raleigh Robertson has agreed to stand for election for this position. Vicki asked three times if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Motion:

Moved by: Beth Pater

Seconded by: Paul Mackenzie

That the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee be accepted, there being no other nominations, as directors of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington.

Motion Carried.

Vicki encouraged all members to become more involved in the Land Conservancy, noting that there were many opportunities, in many areas of interest. Members might consider joining a Committee to learn more about the Conservancy, and then consider moving forward to the Board.

Vicki also asked members to provide the Board with some feedback on the actions of the Board. She provided response cards, and asked all members to describe what we are doing well, and where we could improve. She then suggested a ten-minute break before reconvening to hear the speaker for the evening.

9. Adjournment

Motion:

Moved by: Marion Meyer

Seconded by: Kate Laird

That the meeting be adjourned (at 7:55 p.m.)

Motion Carried.

Presentation by Dr. Raleigh Robertson

Kate introduced Dr. Robertson, a professor at Queen's University (retired) and the long-time director of the Queen's University Biological Station, who spoke to the audience about *Preserving Natural Habitats for Science, Education and Conservation: A Case Study at the Queen's University Biological Station*. Dr. Robertson gave a fascinating

review of the growth of the field station from 60 acres to some 6,800 acres, and described some of the research efforts that were focused on the site. He also gave a good overview of the importance of these land holdings from a landscape-scale perspective.

Mary Alice Snetsinger thanked Dr. Robertson for his informative talk and slide presentation, and presented him with a book as a token of the Land Conservancy's appreciation.

Vicki closed the evening by thanking the two Board members who are not returning, Jackie Bartnik and Julie Parker. Julie Parker had completed her term and was going on to other pursuits. Vicki thanked Jackie and Julie for their efforts on behalf of the Land Conservancy.