

2019-04-01 WRWEO AGM 2019 Minutes

Paul Berry provided a Recognition of Unceded and Unsurrendered Mi'kmaw Territory (Ancestral L'nu Lands), raising money for Mi'kmaq water protectors (<https://stopaltongas.wordpress.com/>) donations can be made to the Mikmaq legal defense fund by e-transfer to: treatytruckhousefund@gmail.com. (Note: \$80 was raised at the AGM).

Approval of Agenda: Jayden Gross moved to approve the agenda, Barbara Klass 2nd, passed

Approval of Minutes from AGM 2018 (29 March 2018): Brice Walsh moved to approve the minutes, Richmond Campbell 2nd, passed

[Chair's Report by Paul Berry](#)

[Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements presented by Paul Berry](#): Approval moved by Marine Gameda, Jeff LeBoutillier 2nd, passed

Stewardship Coordinator's [BTSP Report](#) by Paul Berry and Mike Lancaster

- Mike out to try to correct technical difficulties; Paul Berry presenting report in his absence.
- Questions from the floor:
 - How much do we need? About 30 to 50K. We have 15K and expect a little more, but starting with far less than in prior years.
 - any plans for wildlife cameras? Paul: nobody to do the work. Rationale: would be interesting to see animals out there; we don't actually see the moose, etc. just evidence they've been there.
 - Questions about what animals out there: Mike Lancaster (arrived): yes, BTSP has confirmed moose, coyotes, bear, porcupine, etc. online we have a complete list
 - camping, on side with discouraging it on the trail, but we're also trying to teach LNT camping, so there's some tension here. what's the actual position? Paul Berry: in a perfect world it would be no camping, but the reality is we have people out there doing it. So it's allowed, but only at the LNT sites, and practicing LNT principles while there - this is confirmed by NS Environment who can set the rules.

- Mike Lancaster: It's paying off. We've reduced from 50 fire pits down to 12.
- Mike Lancaster continues with Slide presentation of the BTSP report.
- Questions from floor:
 - Big difference in impact between the corridor, the 1st loop, and inner loops (much more impact closer to the BLT Rails to Trails trailhead)
 - What can we really do about dogs off leash? Mike Lancaster: acknowledged different kinds of user & the way their dogs behave, and really having dogs "under control" is the goal.
 - Discussion that hunting & trapping is allowed in area. Do our best to notify public.
 - Wetland channeling along boardwalk; our research backs up that there is an impact by dogs along the sides of the boardwalk and it is recorded in our reports. We're not advocating against dogs, but do want to curtail this sort of damage to the wilderness so encourage people to keep dogs under control and not allow them to run in wetlands.
- 6:55 - 7:10 Election of Board of Directors for 2018-2019
 - Richmond Campbell officiating
 - Paul Berry, Ben Armstrong, Marine Gameda, and Brice Walsh re-offering.
 - Allyssa Poulin offering.
 - No further nominations. Elected by acclamation.
- 7:15 - 7:25 The Science of Stewardship: A panel of researchers presented their findings from the past year and discussed how science and a greater understanding can increase our capacity to care for our wild places.
 - Kathleen Hipwell - Microplastics
 - Can be done as a community project & willing to help get started.
 - Yana Eglit - invisible life, In lab that studies microbial life, New Kingdom of life identified from the Bluff Trail. Hemimastigotes - known since 19th century but not seen often

- Devon Gillighan - protecting & preserving wild places. Started in 2017 w BTSP partly for the purpose of collecting data. Description of stewarding process & examples of engagement

Adjournment moved by Rich Campbell at 8:09 pm.