

Annual General Meeting – SMBSA March 26, 2017

Location: SMB Sailing Club, approximate # of attendees = 60

Co-Chair Nick Horne brought the meeting to order

Presentation of \$2500 cheque donation from RBC Tantallon to SMBSA

Presentation of 10 year plaque from HRM to SMBSA for stewardship of Micous and Troop islands by Councillor Matt Whitman

Appreciation and membership given to Eileen Cody (former chair) and Kimberly Berry (Chair of WRWEO)

Geoff LeBoutlier motioned and Bob McDonald seconded that the minutes from last year's AGM be approved. Passed.

Presentation of 2016/17 Financial statements by Treasurer Ruth Ann Moger. Eileen Cody motioned to accept and Simon Higginson seconded. Passed.

Nick Horne presented a year in review report on behalf of the organization and all observed a moment of silence in honour of the late Anne Martell (former board member). Nick also provided a positive report on the community consultation process with HRM regarding the proposed Tantallon Asphalt plant. (6 sessions were held, 500 people participated)

Mike Lancaster offered a detailed report on stewardship initiatives on Micous and Troop island. Highlighting the overall improvements that have been made and the reduction in number of incidents of poor stewardship. Those that do take place, however, seem to be extreme in nature including the cutting of large standing trees. The year included continuation of sunlight reduction to Japanese knotweed, a 10 year celebration at the cottage, 6 stewardship days, 35 bags of garbage removed, trail redirection, erosion reduction, a woodshed made from reused materials and a successful internship summer program in partnership with other community organizations. A boat was purchased to ease transport, Eyes on Islands (EOI) was launched to assist with island stewardship from the water and a formal partnership agreement was made for stewardship of the Bluff trail system in the coming year.

Nominated for SMBSA Board for this year: Co-Chairs: Kellie Allen, Nick Horne, Vice Chair: Simon Higginson, Treasurer: Ruth Ann Moger, Secretary: Helga Guderley
Board members: Kent Martin, John Himmelman, Scott Pelton, Brian O'Neil, Colin Glover
Cathy Crouse, Gerald Seibert

Bob Bancroft of the Healthy Forest Coalition gave a presentation regarding Intensive Forestry and the ecological impact of clearcutting in NS. He stated that the public was being given misinformation by elected officials regarding the negative impacts on the environment and that the rate of cuts were too much, too fast. 89% of harvesting done

on crown land is currently clear cutting. Using satellite images from Global Forest Watch, he stated 42% of the province had been clearcut in the last 25 years. The time to act and hold our elected officials accountable is NOW!

Brooke Nodding gave a presentation on Bluenose Coastal Action group and stated they are looking forward partnership opportunities with SMBSA including creation of an artificial reef in SMB and its monitoring. An invasive species cookoff event to be held at Micous island to raise public awareness about this issue and its impact in the Bay.

Geoff LeBoutlier gave a report on SMBSA's proposal of the Ingram River Wilderness Protected Area. He showed a draft of an informational brochure that outlines all the features of this area and why it should be protected (environmental, historical, cultural gems). After the Buy Back the Mersey movement in 2012 the public was promised these lands would be protected for mixed use purposes such as recreation, ATVing, hunting, fishing and tourism (fish ladder). He called on the public to spread the word of the proposed massive clearcuts that are predicted to take place in the near future and the importance of public rallies and relations in an effort to preserve the former Bowater-Mersey lands. Control of 1.4 Million acres of crown land are currently being negotiated by the Province and West-For (consortium of 13 mills). The concern is that public lands will be managed by industry in Nova Scotia and that our forests cannot recover.

Q&A

4 pm adjourn