

The Friends of Charleston Lake Park

2023 Annual General Meeting
Saturday, April 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

In Attendance: Steve Page (Chair), Yolande Lapointe, Cliff Redman, Jim Wallbridge, Doug Bickerton, Peter Kaiser, Dieter Raths, Carol Pratt, Steve Arthur, Judy Setla, Pete Cronkright, Karen Hatch, Mary and David Ford. Tim Truesdell (*ex officio*), Kyle Sweet (*ex officio*), Vicki Kohse (Secretary).

Steve welcomed everyone to the 2023 AGM.

1. Agenda: Moved by Doug, seconded by Steve “that the Agenda be adopted.: Carried.
2. Minutes of 2022 AGM: Moved by Cliff, seconded by Jim “that the Minutes of the 2022 AGM be approved.” Carried

3a) Financial Report (attached)

Moved by Yolande, seconded by Doug, “that the 2023 Year-end Financial Report be approved.” Carried.

Yolande, who is stepping down from the Treasurer position after 6 successful years, thanked the Board members for their help over the years and congratulated Peter Kaiser, who is taking over as Treasurer. Steve thanked Yolande for her dedication and formal budget management skills. He is pleased that she is continuing as a member of the Board.

3b) Resolution, as per the Ontario Not-for-profit Corporations Act (ONCA): Moved by Vicki, seconded by Cliff “to waive an independent audit or financial review of the Financial Report.” Carried unanimously.

4.Tim Truesdell, Superintendent of Charleston Lake Provincial Park, welcomed everyone and thanked the Directors of the Friends’ organization for their support to the Park, especially the Trail monitoring program. He ran through the highlights of 2023, including:

- a. Trail Monitoring Program – “One of the best in 24 years”!
- b. Friends’ Strategic Plan 2024 – 2029
- c. Canoe Raffle – a mainstay of Park fundraising
- d. Park support funding, especially computers for the Discovery Centre
- e. Two special events, which are really good for families with children
- f. Trail interpretation plaques
- g. Wood chips, co-funded by the Friends’, are really helping get the trails back up to par
- h. Continuation of the Student bursary for the Ontario Nature Youth Summit

- i. Seniors' Day event in September 2023 – an overwhelming success with the bonus of good weather
 - j. Ontario government support of over \$59M to Ontario Parks for infrastructure development and additional campsites over the next three years, with Charleston Lake Park specifically mentioned.
 - k. The Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust and the Shad Foundation are also looking at conservation of land around the Park, over the next few years.
3. Strategic Plan Committee – Vicki reported that the Strategic Plan 2024-2029 was developed by a subcommittee comprised of Yolande, Janice, Claudette and Vicki, and finalized by the Board in November 2023. It will be available on the Friends' website shortly. The Friends' organization has five strategic goals, and has received approval from the Park Superintendent to proceed with a project to fund and build a covered shelter ("Gathering Place") behind the Discovery Centre. There was some discussion regarding a similar project recently been done by Frontenac Park, questions about the cost (about \$130,000), the design (owned by the Park), who would tender the project (Ontario Parks) and possible grants that could be sought (educational, capital construction e.g., Ontario Trillium grants). Vicki noted that interested parties were welcome to help and that she would write a project proposal.
4. Election of Directors – Steve reported that all current Directors had agreed to serve again for the 2024 season. There were no new nominees from the floor. All present were in favour and the current slate of directors was duly elected.
5. Other business: Membership – Peter noted that only 11 of the members (about 35 in total) had renewed their memberships for this year and suggested that members pass along the Newsletter or brochure to friends and local users of the park, both in and out of season. There was some discussion about posting a Friends' sign at the Tallow Rock Parking lot with a donations box/QR code/tap to donate option.
6. Adjournment – moved by Jim, the meeting adjourned at 11 am.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2023
FINANCIAL REPORT

In Revenue we exceeded our Canoe Raffle tickets sale by \$1,090, Donations are up having received an 800 dollars Memoriam donation in the name of Richard William Weeks, otherwise would show a decrease from last year.

Our Senior Day event benefited from a grant of 1,600, their support ensure we continue to present this program. Membership has increase by 275 dollars. We had no sales of T-Shirt and Park donation of their Canoes/Kayaks sales in comparison with 2022. We received less from the sales of items at the Gate.

Expenditures reflect increases with Raffle expenses, Gate Items with an additional purchase of mugs, and stickers. We were back with hosting two Special Events at the Park with presenters David Archibald and Glenn Caradus. We were pleased to see The Youth Summit event from Nature Ontario returned and we sponsored a grateful local student. Office expenses includes software subscription to Quicken, supplies and a substantial expense being the printing of an updated pamphlet.

Our annual support to the Park includes woodchips for the trails and displays for the Discovery Center as well as extra needed hardware/software for the student staff. Overall Park Support was as projected in our Budget for this year.

We spent less in Internet as we move the website host from Weebly to GoDaddy.

The Board approved a transfer of money from the In- Memorial fund to a GIC investment in the amount of \$ 5,700 to a one-year investment, a term to be reviewed and renewed in 2024.

Yolande LaPointe
Treasurer