

Wheatley River Improvement Group - Annual General Meeting 2018

The meeting was held on April 25th, 2018
At the Wheatley River community hall
16 Rackham's Lane, Wheatley River

Attendees:

Directors

Sidney Annema, Melanie Labelle, Micah Gallant, Gary Loo, Stewart MacRae

Watershed manager: Maggie McConnell

8 guests attended

With guest speaker Dr. Sean Landsman and his partner.

Chairman Sidney Annema started the evening with call to order and opening remarks at 7:00 pm. He then introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Dr. Sean Landsman.

Dr. Landsman's topic was called "A natural history crash course in Atlantic Canada's migratory fish". The extensive research he has done to determine the many native species and potential for invasive species of fish in our Atlantic waterways. He showed many beautiful and fantastic under water photos of actions and interactions of many species of fish including American eel, Atlantic salmon, sturgeon, striped bass, white perch, sea lamprey, gaspereau, rainbow smelt, and brook trout. He also talked about the many other species, many quite small, that are all links in the food chain. He included very interesting commentary on the amazing migration and life cycle of the American eel. He included several other points of interest like the Atlantic salmon we have here in our island waterways is a subspecies unique to PEI, how brook trout is not a true trout but closer to char, rainbow smelt can have an odour similar to cucumbers and the fact that there is a clear relationship between farming practices and fish numbers. The migratory fish can bring huge amounts of nutrient from the sea to the land as well as nutrients from the land provide food for the fish.

The presentation was followed by a time for questions and answers.

Dr. Landsman was thanked and presented with a gift by Sidney Annema on behalf of the Wheatley river improvement group.

At 8:00 pm there was a break for refreshments.

At 8:26 Sidney Annema called the business meeting to order.

Acting secretary Gary Loo asked for approval of the minutes from the 2017 annual general meeting, the motion was proposed by Micah Gallant and seconded by Steven Lowe.

Sidney Annema then introduced the current board members.

Sidney then announced the departures of Charles Lipnicki as secretary of the board and of Kayla Nieuwhof as watershed manager and thanked them for their years of service to WRIG.

Sidney then introduced our new watershed manager Maggie McConnell.

Maggie McConnell then gave the watershed manager's report.

After an introduction of the field crew she outlined some of the work carried out throughout the 2017 season including:

- The planting of over 800 native trees in the watershed area
- Worked on and monitored of over 6 km of streams building- placing brush mats, testing and monitoring the water quality of the estuary
- Monthly canoe survey, beach clean-up, 7.5 km of riparian zone assessment, natural meander project upstream of Rackham's pond
- 9 crossing assessments
- Headwater surveys
- Osprey post placed behind Saint Augustin's School
- On going maintenance of Rackham's pond including the installation of the foot bridge
- The duck race and other public education events.

A discussion – question and answer period was held to talk about some of this year's ongoing watershed work and potential new projects.

Approval of report by Micah Gallant, seconded by Stewart MacRae. Motion carried.

Melanie Labelle then presented the treasurer's financial report for the 2017-18 year. See page 3 of minutes.

Approved by Stephen Lowe and seconded Gary Loo. Motion carried.

No new board members were elected for the 2018 season.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52

Wheatley River Improvement Group Inc.
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND RELATED EXPENDITURES
For the 12 month period ended March 31, 2018

REVENUES:

Government of PEI	
• Watershed management fund	\$31,304.00
• Employment development agency	\$4,048.21
• Sundry	\$210.65
Government of Canada	
• Canada summer jobs program	\$7,528.00
PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund	\$5,530.00
Membership sales	\$425.00
Community donations	\$2,031.55

Total revenues	\$50,866.76
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EXPENDITURES:

Bank charges	\$103.75
Community activities	\$1,829.77
Field supplies	\$4,222.90
Insurance	\$900.00
Website	\$317.25
Office supplies and services	\$2,587.33
Rent	\$4,104.00
Training	\$317.25
Travel (mileage)	\$1,268.36
Wages and related costs	\$34,701.25
Workers compensation board	\$612.61
Petty cash	\$78.16

Total expenditures	\$52,021.32
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