



WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, April 8, 2022 at 7 p.m., via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Welcome: Anita Piebiak, President
2. Minutes of AGM, April 16, 2021
3. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 28, 2022: Sandra Janzen
4. Reports
 - a. President: Anita Piebiak
 - b. Membership/Donations: Lorna Mathews
 - c. Trail Maintenance: Ellen Homola
 - d. Permissions: JoAnne Burek
 - e. Trail Locations: Terry Elrod
 - f. Website: Lee Stickle
 - g. Hikes: Lee Stickle
 - h. Beyond Events: Anita Piebiak
 - i. Update on Funding and Casinos: JoAnne Burek
5. Nominations and Elections: Anita Piebiak
6. Adjournment of Business Meeting

PROGRAM

Wayne Oakes, "The Nature Conservancy of Canada: Keeping the Beaver Hills Wild"

Social Time

Thank you to all the Waskahegan members and friends who have joined us tonight

Program

Photographing the Whitemud Nature Reserve with Wayne Oakes

Wayne Oakes is one of our region's true enthusiasts of natural areas.

Having grown up in the woods of Nova Scotia and then serving 33 years in the RCMP—where he developed and honed his superior photography skills—it was only natural that upon his retirement he would return to nature with camera in hand.

But beyond taking pictures, he also observes and studies the habits of the fascinating animals, birds, plants, and more.

The Whitemud Ravine Nature Reserve (North) has been Wayne's focus over the past six years, just over 9000 hours.

Wayne will share with us some of his images that illustrate the beautiful and majestic...the big and small...and the odd and unusual. He will also show us some of his gear—both typical and unusual—that he uses to enhance his visits in the woods.



Thank you to our volunteers

Anita Piebiak

Bonnie Guo

Brad Jordan

Cathy Mowat

Darlene Barnard

Dean Heichert

Delaney Schlemko

Dennis Nolan

Elizabeth Bagdan

Ellen Homola

Gary Davidson

Grant Stobbe

Helen Whitson

Irene and Scott

Malcolm

Jeff and Marja Allen

Jerry Shaw

JoAnne Burek

Johanna Fischer

Johanne Duchesne

John Redburn

John Scotvold

Jon Spence

Lee Stickle

Lorna Mathews

Martha Miller

Mary MacArthur

Mike Dreimanis

Oscar Zawalsky

Peggy Funk

RoseMarie Jalbert

Sandra Janzen

Sherry Kunkel

Stella Cormier

Terry Elrod

Waskahegan Trail Association 2021 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: April 16, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Video Conference

Members and Guests:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Alex Behnke (via phone) | Harm de Groot | Lin Keehn | Sandra Carruthers |
| Anita Piebiak | Heather Innes (Guest) | Lise Redburn | Sandra Janzen |
| Brad Jordan | Helen Whitson | Lorna Mathews | Sandra Smith |
| Christine Loose | Ilona Ryder | Louise Giacomazzi | Shauna Kotschorek |
| Cindy Mowat | Irene Malcolm | Marja Allen | Sherry Kunkel |
| Cindy Van Volkenburg | Jeff Allen | Mark Boyce | Stella Cormier |
| Delaney Schlemko | Jerry Shaw | Martha Miller | Stephen Kristen |
| Elizabeth Bagdan | JoAnne Burek | Mary McArthur | Terry Elrod |
| Ellen Homola | Joanne David | Michèle Fortin | |
| Emad El-Zein | Johanna Fischer | Neil Kimmy | |
| Evelyn Merrill | John Dodd | Oscar Zawalsky. | |
| Farley Harvey | John Redburn | Peter Verhaar | |
| Gail Helgason | Judy Harvey | Petra Lewing | |
| Glen Lawrence | Lee Stickle | RoseMarie Jalbert | |

1. Welcome, Roll Call

- JoAnne Burek, President called the meeting to order at 7:04pm and requested a roll call.
- Presented a welcome message.
- JoAnne Burek stated she is stepping down from the board.

2. Minutes of AGM April 12, 2019

- Motion presented to adopt the minutes of the last AGM. Motion Carried.

3. Audited Financial Statements for Year Ending February 29, 2020

- Financial Statements were presented by Treasurer Sandra Janzen.
- Reviewed bank accounts, general and casino accounts. Stressed the need to engage in fundraising. Membership dues down, due to the trail being closed. This was a unique year and we did not require members to renew their memberships. Big expenses included printing for guidebooks, which were outside budget. No liabilities and overall surplus.
- Motion to adopt financial statements as presented. Carried.

4. Committee Reports

a. President: JoAnne Burek

- See separate report.
- Summary presented included comments that we are much more than a walking club, we have an enthusiastic volunteer force, collective memory, and many events along the trails. Thanks to board members and volunteers.

b. Membership/ Donations: Cindy Van Volkenburg

- See separate report.
- Because of covid and inability to open all trails, we decided to provide free memberships in 2020. We spent time cleaning membership files. As of 2020 there was 120 members; as at Feb 2021 there were 199 members; this represents 70 new members overall and a 54 percent increase. Books sold went from 31 to 56.

c. Trail Maintenance: reported by Ellen Homola

- See separate report (photos).
- We meet on Wednesdays and maintain sections of trails used for hikes. Activities include: clearing dead fall, cutting brush, fixing styles, and putting up signs. May to Oct work, but this year we started late, in July. Developed a covid safety plan. All participants were virus-free. Another challenge this season was that this season was wet, causing many changes to schedule. Many plans could not be completed, however did complete about 70% of what we did in a normal year. Grateful to volunteers and we encourage interested people to become involved.

d. Permissions: RoseMarie Jalbert

- See separate report.
- Presented an overview of leases, contacts made over the phone and in person and reached 121 landowners that allowed the trail to cross their property. There are still 4 landowners to contact. In addition, county and city offices were contacted. This year one landowner refused to cross, and fortunately rerouting was arranged. Reasons for refusal included spousal disagreement.

e. Trail Locations: Terry Elrod

- See separate report.
- Discussed trail locations, construction of trail, styles and boardwalks, bridges. Knowing where these are located is helpful when communicating with landowners or in planning trail maintenance. This information is included in the Trail Guide to help locate landmarks. Have documentation for most of the trail. For security reasons, information is not meant for the general membership or public, but rather for landowners and select board members.

f. Website: Lee Stickle

- See separate report.

- We maintained the web site, installed plugins, and did not make content change. Focus was on data collection and organization. Since it has been 5 years, we are considering redesign and this is currently being looked into; no formal plans made.
- Resigning from the board. Will keep looking after the website as a member at large.

g. Hikes: Lee Stickles

- See separate report.
- When including family members, we have 344 potential attendees for hikes. We arranged 26 hikes last year, vs. 38 prior year. Last year there were other restrictions involving wet weather. Minimal difference in hike attendance. Some concerns with regular guided Sunday hikes due to restrictions; waiting for recommendations from the province. Seeking hike leaders.

h. Beyond Events: Anita Piebiak

- See separate report.
- With pandemic, it has been difficult to plan anything. Was looking at organizing a hike to Europe, however it did not proceed. Other discussion about future possible plans.

5. Nominations and Elections

- JoAnne Burek presented general information about serving on the board. Members can serve up to 4 years on the board, which can be extended by 2 years if a different role is accepted, at which point a break from the board is necessary. Have flexibility to elect more directors at large.
- See separate report as to list of board member nominations.
- Iona Ryder moved to cease nominations from the floor. Lee Stickles seconded. Motion carried.
- Moved by Jeff Allen to accept nominees by acclamation. Seconded by Iona Ryder. Motion carried.

6. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Minutes recorded by Joanne David

Waskahegan Trail Association

Balance Sheet

As at February 28, 2022

ASSETS

Cash

General Bank 23,629

Casino Bank 13,856

Total Cash 37,485

Investments - Casino GICs 0

TOTAL ASSETS 37,485

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities 0

Equity

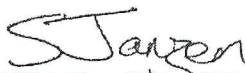
Retained Earnings 37,485

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 37,485

Approved for the Association by:

 20-Mar-2022
Anita Piebiak (Mar 29, 2022 09:23 CDT) Date

President: Anita Piebiak

 20-Mar-2022
Treasurer: Sandra Janzen Date

Audited by:

 20-Mar-2022
Jeff Allen Date

 20-Mar-2022
Marja Allen Date

Waskahegan Trail Association
STATEMENT OF INCOME - GENERAL ACCOUNT
For year ended February 28, 2022

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| REVENUE (GENERAL) | |
| Donations | 1,366 |
| Membership Dues | 3,900 |
| Sales (Pins, Crests etc) | 18 |
| Guidebooks | 996 |
| Income Shipping (Guidebooks) | 444 |
| GST rebate | 59 |
| | 6,783 |
| EXPENSE (GENERAL) | |
| Birkebeiner | 56 |
| Meeting Expenses | 185 |
| Miscellaneous | 128 |
| Office Expense (non newsletter) | 1,399 |
| Printing & Reproduction | 1,172 |
| Stripe/Paypal Fees | 168 |
| Volunteer Appreciation | 540 |
| Website | 334 |
| GST | 117 |
| | 4,097 |
| PROFIT (LOSS) GENERAL | 2,686 |

STATEMENT OF INCOME - CASINO ACCOUNT
For year ended February 28, 2021

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| REVENUE (CASINO) | |
| Interest | 320 |
| GST rebate | 105 |
| | 425 |
| EXPENSE (CASINO) | |
| Bank Charges | 0 |
| Equipment Purchase | 300 |
| Equipment Storage | 2,820 |
| Insurance | 1,769 |
| Leases & Licences | 120 |
| Maintenance | 1,909 |
| Transportation | 2,577 |
| WCB | 200 |
| GST | 106 |
| | 9,801 |
| PROFIT (LOSS) CASINO | (9,376) |
| TOTAL PROFIT (LOSS) | (6,690) |

*cuja
mar 25, 2022
lusa
mar 25, 2022*

President's Report

We have been maintaining and hiking the Waskahegan Trail for over 50 years. The trail is very unique and special because of our partnership with so many wonderful landowners that continue to allow us to hike on their properties. Now we have survived two years of a global pandemic and here we are - still strong in numbers and enthusiasm! I would like to thank all of our members for their continued support.

Board Meetings

The board continues to meet once a month online. These meetings on Zoom seem to be working well and we will probably continue meeting this way. There are several positions open on the board and I hope you would consider joining as a director-at-large or in one of the officer positions.

Hiking

Once again, all our winter hikes were cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Our guided hikes began in June and continued through the summer, fall and well into the winter. We were also able to host the member's barbeque in September. It was great to get together, share a meal, and visit in person.

Volunteers

I would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers. Thank you to our outgoing board member: Sandra Janzen, Terry Elrod, Ellen Homola and Sherry Kunkle. Your contributions to the board have been invaluable.

Thank you to our volunteers that scout the trail and lead our weekly guided hikes.

And finally, thank you to maintenance crew. This dedicated group of volunteers meet once a week, spring and summer weather permitting, to maintain our trail.

Submitted by
Anita Piebiak

WASKAHEGAN TRAIL ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP REPORT AGM

February 28, 2022

The duties of the Membership Secretary include being the primary contact for membership, mailing of the cards, guidebooks, decals, pins, and donation receipts. Keeping records and statistics are also part of the duties of the Membership Secretary.

Membership activity for year end February 28, 2022.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Memberships as of February 28, 2021. | 199 |
| New Members | 72 |
| Reinstated Members | 4 |
| Resigned / Expired Memberships | (47) |
| Memberships as of February 28, 2022 | 228 |

Historical trend in number of memberships and book sales:

| Trends in Membership and GuideBook Sales | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| AGM in April | Number of Members @ Feb 28 | New | Resigned/Expired | Books Sold |
| 2015 | 111 | 35 | 34 | 22 |
| 2016 | 107 | 29 | 33 | 25 |
| 2017 | 111 | 41 | 37 | 28 |
| 2018 | 156 | 56 | 11 | 56 |
| 2019 | 156 | 53 | 55 | 41 |
| 2020 | 129 | 50 | 79 | 41 |
| 2021 | 199 | 70 | 0* | 56 |
| 2022 | 228 | 76 | 47 | 79 |

* In April 2020, the board of directors granted members a free year of membership due to the closing of the Waskahegan trails because of the pandemic crisis. Paid memberships resumed for the 2021-22 year.

Membership numbers have increased during the 2021-22 year by 15%. Guidebook sales are up by 41%.

We are always grateful for the donations so generously given. Thank you goes out to Ilona Ryder, David Dorward, Michelle Fortin, Mary Jo Thibodeau, RoseMarie Jalbert, Sandra Smith, Darryl Hay, Andrew and Nancy Whistance-Smith, Heather Innes, Roy Yee, Wanita Toews, Rod Wasylishen, Kathryn Hodgins, Lorna Mathews, Colin Northcott, Lindsay Snyder, Lawrence Vincent, Brenden Koehn, Lin and Linda Keehn, and Knights of Columbus.

Sincere thanks to Cindy Van Volkenburg who served as Membership Secretary for the beginning of the year.

Submitted by

Lorna Mathews

Trail Maintenance Annual Report 2022

In 2021, trail maintenance made a strong comeback from 2020. We had 17 work parties, we covered 85 km of trail, and 616 person-hours were completed by 23 volunteers. In 2020, we had 14 work parties, maintained 45 km of trail, and logged 475 person-hours.

We began the season by re-routing a section of the trail near Kopp Lake due to a lost permission. The VanDalfsen family graciously allowed us to put the new section of trail on their side of the fence. The crew installed a unique double stile to cross an intersection of 4 properties, with permission in 2 opposite quadrants.

Due to a combination of favourable weather and permission from Miquelon Provincial Park, we were able to maintain our trail on the Miquelon Lakes section for the first time in at least 5 years.

The crew completed 13.2 km of trail maintenance in Ministik from A87 to A88. Access to this long section of trail is only available from the trailheads on either end which makes maintaining the middle section a special challenge.

Finally, we were able to re-route a short section of trail in Ministik around the ecologically sensitive muskeg. We thank former Permissions Director Rose Marie Jalbert for helping us obtain authorization for the changes to the trail when she renewed our lease.

In October, we finished the season with our second annual Maintenance Crew hike and picnic at Coal Lake. We thank landowners Lori and Jay Cridland for letting us enjoy their stopover for our smokie roast.

Two generous individuals made donations to maintenance last year. Mitchell Dean of Beaumont gave us two external frame backpacks to help us carry tools and materials into the field. Murray Knight of Morinville donated salvaged lumber and hardware which will help us keep our expenses down this year.

John Scotvold purchased a used self-propelled Ariens lawnmower for \$300 which will help keep our fleet running smoothly in the future.

2021 was Ellen and Sherry's final year as co-directors of maintenance. We would like to thank the crew for their support and their dedication: John S., Brad, John R, Jon S, Gary, Bonnie, Darlene, Helen, Lee, Mike, Elizabeth, Oscar, Johanna, Peggy, Jeff, Maria, Dean, Grant, Mary and Cathy.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Kunkel
Ellen Homola

Permissions Report AGM 2022

Trail

Over 200 km of the Waskahegan Trail runs across the properties of over a hundred landowners. If not for their generous permission, the trail would not exist.

The role of the Permissions Director is to maintain the contact information of the landowners and to be their main point of contact if they need to reach out to us. The role also includes maintaining our records of who owns what piece of land the trail runs on. Rosemarie Jalbert had this role until she stepped down in April 2021. She had re-confirmed permissions with all the landowners, updated the records, and organized them.

As of April last year, we have not had an official Permissions director so I filled in. Once I learned how to read land descriptions, I found the job easy to do. That's partly because the records are in such fabulous shape, but also because the landowners are generally accommodating. The ones I've had contact with this year support the trail and appreciate what we do.

That's not to say that we don't ever lose permissions. Just before Rosemarie left, access was rescinded on a section of trail at Kopp Lake. Thankfully, a neighboring landowner generously allowed us to reroute on their property, and that was completed this year.

It's because permissions can change at any time that we urge hikers to always check the Trail Conditions page on the website before setting out.

Leases

We lease crown land for 4 properties, and all have come up for renewal in the last few years. Under Rosemarie's tenure, renewal for the Ministik Bird & Game Sanctuary was renewed to 6 October 2045. The remaining three leases are still waiting for processing with Alberta Government.

Submitted

JoAnne Burek

WTA Trail Location Report

Terry Elrod, Director of Trail Location

2022-04-04

The purpose of Trail Location

The purpose of Trail Location is to provide the WTA with accurate and up-to-date documentation of the trail's locations, features and condition. This includes information for every trail segment about:

- The precise route
- The location and state of all trail constructions (bridges, board walks and stiles),
- The location of all landmarks (such as those mentioned in the Trail Guide).
- Other features of interest.

This information is useful for

- Trail maintenance
- Trail scouting
- Landowner relations
- Obtaining lease renewals from government entities
- Supporting revisions to the Trail Guide

Trail Location activity in 2021/2

Trail location activity for reduced for the past year for a few reasons:

- Most of the trail has already been documented, including nearly the entirety of the trail on private land.
- COVID-19 concerns hindered carpooling with Trail Maintenance, which reduces travel costs.
- Due to the financial environment facing the WTA, all travel expense pertaining to Trail Location was donated by its director.

Nevertheless, visits were made to portions of Bigstone Creek, Coal Lake, the Battle River, and Ross Creek. Newly obtained information is in the process of being integrated into other documentation. This will be timed so that Trail Maintenance will have current information about every trail segment before it is maintained in the upcoming 2022 season.

WTA WEBSITE

waskahegantrail.ca

Current

JoAnne refreshed the website in December, updating the WordPress theme and plugin – the previous version was >5 years old and getting dated

Significantly increases user security

Future

Opportunities to increase self service. The first features we are looking at are

- The ability to generate membership cards online
- Increased ability to create/update secure forums to share info among our members

WTA HIKES

2021 Hike Statistics

- 25 hikes, avg 13 attendees – 11.5 members and 1.5 guests
- 67 members and 22 guests attended at least 1 hike (was 52 and 39 in 2020 with same # hikes)
- 20 members attended 4 to 10 hikes, 8 members attended more than 10 hikes
- JoAnne and Lee attended 17
- Recent years –
 - 2020 was 25 hikes with avg 12.5 attendees (11 members and 1.5 guests)
 - pre-COVID (2016 to 2019) –
 - # of hikes – 34 to 39 (a little higher when we had special Meetup Hikes)
 - average attendees (excluding 2017) – 11.9 to 12.5 (9.9 to 10.7 members and 0.8 to 2.1 guests)
 - 2017 was unique due to “Canada 150” promotions, “WTA’s 50th Anniversary” and our “Meetup” promotion which resulted in a lot more non-member participation – averaged 15.6 attendees (11.2 members, 0.4 guests and 4.0 via Meetup)

Hike Leaders

Big thanks to all of the hike leaders: Anita P., Elizabeth B., Helen W., Irene and Scott M., JoAnne B. and Lee S., Johanna D. and Dennis N., Johanna F., John S., Lorna M., Mary M., Martha M., and Stella C.

We are always looking for new hike leaders. Johanna D. and Dennis N., and Lorna M. were new hike leaders this year and we welcome back Martha M.

Summer Schedule: May to November

Schedule for Summer 2022 season: [waskahegantrail.ca/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/WTA Current Hikes.pdf](https://waskahegantrail.ca/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/WTA_Current_Hikes.pdf)

The schedule is mostly done, still need -

- 2 leaders for scheduled hikes at the end of July (24th and 31st)
- 6 more hikes and leaders needed (starting in September)

TBD on car pooling, both from a location and safety perspective

Beyond Events

Goldeye Centre, September 13 – 16, 2021

This annual Beyond Event has become very popular. This past year we had 20 hikers join for 4 days of hiking in the beautiful area surrounding Nordegg. The weather was perfect for hiking with some fresh snow on the higher trails.

We hiked many of the same trails as previous years but added a few more difficult ones. We did not always hike in one large group – hikers were given options every day.

Hikes:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Whitegoat Falls | Coliseum Mountain |
| Crescent Falls | Goldeye Lake |
| Siffleur Falls | Fish Lake |
| Thompson Creek Falls | BATUS CAnyon |

As always, the food and hospitality at Goldeye Centre was excellent. A perfect place to come home to after a full day of hiking!

Thanks to everyone that came on this trip and I am looking forward to our next trip. Goldeye Centre has been booked for Sept. 19-22, 2022. More details including price will be posted later this summer.

Happy Hiking
Anita Piebiak

Update on Funding and Casinos

The Board of Directors has reviewed the state of our finances in light of the impacts of the pandemic and our reduced access to casino funding.

What do we spend and how is it funded?

- Funded by Membership Fees and Donations

In 2022-2023 we plan to spend the following:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Membership: mailing, events | \$1,600 |
| Services: website, mailbox, accounting software | \$1,100 |
| Other: Landowner communications, volunteer expenses, etc. | \$800 |
| Total | \$3,500 |

Membership fees are projected to be \$3300 and donations \$750 per year. The goal is to spend within our means.

Note: Guidebooks are excluded from the above, since they are produced in bulk on an occasional basis and sold at cost.

- Funded by Casino

In 2022-2023 we plan to spend the following on Trail Maintenance:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Equipment and supplies, storage/shop rental, and mileage - | \$7,900 |
| Insurance: Commercial, Directors, and WCB - | \$2,100 |
| Leases, First Aid certifications, etc. - | \$800 |
| Total | \$10,800 |

These are typical costs except for mileage, equipment, and supplies where we are looking at creative ways to make do with less, especially in light of increased inflation and higher fuel costs.

The Casino bank account is drawn down each year to cover these costs.

What do we have in our bank accounts?

Since 2016, the General account has been around \$20,000. It provides a safe cushion for times when we have extraordinary expenses, such as ordering a bulk volume of guidebooks.

The Casino account, on the other hand, is nearly out of funds.

When are we getting another casino?

During the pandemic, organizations were not able to have casinos. Now there is a large backlog ahead of us, so we are likely to run out of funds before we get our casino.

Fortunately, we can draw on our General account balance to fund Trail Maintenance activities for a limited time.

Unfortunately, Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) has a new policy about where an organization can hold its casino. They decided that WTA's programs are more outside Edmonton and therefore our casino will be held in Camrose.

This means there is a larger backlog ahead of us than there would be if our casino is in Edmonton, so we will have even more delay than usual.

Furthermore, the share of casino proceeds we are likely to receive will be substantially less than what we are used to receiving.

Conclusion

We are facing a new permanent funding challenge, due largely to a change in casino policy. We won't know the extent of the challenge for some time, while we wait for the backlog of organizations to hold their casinos and then it becomes our turn.

In the meantime, we plan to rely on the General account to fill the funding gap and to continue being creative on managing trail maintenance costs. We will also monitor the situation with AGLC. The Board will be interested to hear any of your thoughts or suggestions.

Nominations for the Board

The following candidates have been nominated for the board:

| Candidate | Year of term |
|------------------|--------------|
| Anita Piebiak | 5th year |
| John Scotvold | 3rd year |
| Delaney Schlemko | 3rd year |
| Lorna Mathews | 2nd year |
| Diann Connelly | 1st year |
| Lee Stickle | 1st year |
| Astrid Blodgett | 1st year |
| | |

Anita Piebiak is serving her second year as president.

If there are no changes to the above, the new board will look like this:

President: Anita Piebiak

Treasurer: Diann Connelly

Secretary: Astrid Blodgett

Membership Secretary: Lorna Mathews

Directors:

John Scotvold

Delaney Schlemko

Lee Stickle