

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**BALL'S FALLS**

**APRIL 21, 2010**

**7:00 p.m.**

**FULL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

D. Ransom (Chairman)  
B. Baty (Vice-Chairman)  
B. Bentley  
B. Butters  
T. Dalimonte  
C. D'Angelo  
D. DiFruscio  
A. Fevez  
B. Greenwood  
B. Heit  
B. Henderson  
N. Johnson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

G. Burroughs (with regrets)  
D. Goulbourne (with regrets)  
B. Steckley (with regrets)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

T. D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer  
L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary  
T. McDougall, Executive Director Conservation Foundation  
M. Stack, Director Communications  
J. Kukalis, Director, Water Management  
D. Baker, Director, Land Management

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Dan Kaine, Superintendent, Ball's Falls Conservation Area  
Nancy Kaine  
Darryl Kaine  
Daniel Kaine  
Chris Hayward, Curator, Ball's Falls  
Mich Germain, Superintendent, Central Workshop  
Mike Hunter, Chair, Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee  
Linda Holmes, Member, Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee  
Kathleen Powell, President, OMA  
Carol German, District School Board of Niagara  
Kevin Graham, District School Board of Niagara  
Sean Hanna, District School Board of Niagara  
Sue Ehgoetz, District School Board of Niagara  
Terry Carruthers, Chairman, Conservation Foundation

**BUSINESS:**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. He then requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to so declare it. Brian Heit declared a conflict with Telus or any wireless communication items.

(1) **MINUTES**

(a) **FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – MARCH 17, 2010**

There were no errors or omissions with respect to the minutes, therefore, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-44-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Bentley

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held March 17, 2010, be received and approved as printed.

**"CARRIED"**

(b) **BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – APRIL 7, 2010**

There were no errors or omissions with respect to the minutes, therefore the following resolution was presented.

**FA-45-10**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** B. Bentley

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held April 7, 2010, be received and approved as printed.

**"CARRIED"**

(2) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman began by first thanking the staff involved who attended the hawkwatch at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area in Grimsby. He noted that it was well attended, and also thanked the Foundation Chairman for his assistance with parking.

The Chairman advised that the Foundation would be receiving a donation from food sale proceeds from the Simply the Best catering, who attended the hawkwatch.

The Chairman noted that the next day was Earth Day and any members who wish to can attend at E.C. Brown Conservation Area, 9:30 to 2:00 p.m. and lunch would be available. The general public have been invited and students and staff from area schools will be attending to do planting.

The Chairman indicated that the trees planted at the Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls by the municipalities last year to kick off the tree-mendous program, are growing quite well.

**(4) CAO'S REPORT**

The CAO reminded the members that Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> was opening of trout season. He noted that Mickey DiFruscio would be throwing the first cast at St. Johns pond at noon.

The CAO advised that the Year End Financial Statements will be presented at the May meeting, due to the capital asset identification requirements which have caused the delay.

The CAO noted that the Foundation's golf tournament on June 1<sup>st</sup> still has spaces available for anyone who wished to come out.

The CAO advised that for the Region of Niagara's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Niagara Falls Hilton, the Authority has purchased 10 tickets. He requested that anyone interested in attending to please let Loretta know.

**(5) DELEGATIONS**

The Chairman welcomed all the delegations in attendance.

**(a) Presentation – Dan Kaine – 35 years service**

The CAO introduced Dan Kaine who recently celebrated 35 years with the Authority. He thanked Dan's wife Nancy and his sons Robert and Daryl for attending. The Chairman noted that Dan is a very highly respected employee of the Authority. He commented that the care he takes of the park is very evident.

The CAO provided a background of Dan's time at the Authority from when he started in 1972 at Binbrook. He presented Dan with a token of appreciation on behalf of the staff and members of the Conservation Authority.

Mike Hunter, Chair of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee thanked Dan for his commitment.

**(b) Award Presentation – Ontario Museum Association**

The Chairman introduced Kathleen Powell who is the President of the Ontario Museum Association. Ms. Powell provided a background on the organization and noted that yearly they recognize outstanding achievements of organizations. The Centre for Conservation was receiving the award for corporate excellence from OMA. Ms. Powell noted that OMA was thrilled that the Centre has been built and noted it is a wonderful example of a sensitive way to provide a museum. She indicated she hoped others will follow this example.

Barb Greenwood thanked Kathy and her ability to progress the museum movement. She noted that she is very active and has brought a great deal of awareness to the OMA. She also thanked board members who took the tour and Darcy for putting it together with other staff. She noted that she liked what he saw and indicated that seeing some of the properties helps in making decisions. Many things were seen today and many good things are happening. She thanked staff for the time today.

**(c) District School Board of Niagara**

The Chairman welcomed the school board attendees. Carol German outlined the 3 acre school area which they occupy at Woodend Conservation Area. She noted that the District School Board has approved the venture. They are looking to make the buildings more useable and user friendly and want to make facilities better.

Kevin Graham thanked the board for being able to attend. He noted that the buildings are in need of updating and freshening, and would like to take the existing gatehouse and update it. He also advised that much of the construction work would be done by students. Also, they want to bring the landscaping back to a more natural state around the house and plant an English garden.

Sean Hanna is supporting programming at Woodend. He noted that the Ministry of Education want School Boards to bring environmental education back to the students. He then provided a copy of a book entitled "Last Child in the Woods" to all staff and members.

It was stated that the vision is to revitalize what is already there, not to touch the outside of the Thomson building, not to disturb the land but to enhance. Also, the volume of students will not increase. In closing, they noted that, to the District School Board, Woodend Conservation Area is classed as a legacy project. They then thanked the Board for their time.

The Board members had many questions of the group and a lengthy discussion took place. It was also noted that the funds to carry out this project would be raised through the Education Foundation of Niagara. They were looking for permission to proceed from the board. It was suggested that staff look into this further and come to a future meeting with a recommendation. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-46-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Bentley

**SECONDED BY:** B. Henderson

**THAT:** the presentation of the members of the District School Board of Niagara be accepted; and

That staff report back at a future meeting for the board to review.

**"CARRIED"**

**(6) BUDGET STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 19-10**

The CAO made note of the increase in miscellaneous revenues. Since the budget was approved, staff has entered into an agreement with the Region to assist with the Water Protection Strategy. He also noted that he would be watching revenue sources and will make adjustments if and when necessary. He advised there were no other significant variances at this time.

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-47-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Heit

**SECONDED BY:** B. Butters

**THAT:** the Budget Status Report for the period ending March 31, 2010 be received.

**"CARRIED"**

**(7) HST IMPLICATIONS PRELIMINARY REPORT - REPORT NO. 20-10**

The CAO outlined the report and what the implications would be as far as can be determined at this time. There will be some increases in costs, however, we qualify for rebates. He advised a final report will be presented in May or June when all information is available. He responded to questions and discussions took place. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-48-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Henderson

**SECONDED BY:** B. Butters

**THAT:** THE HST Implications Preliminary Report be received.

**"CARRIED"**

**(8) CONSERVATION AREA PROPERTY TAXES - REPORT NO. 21-10**

The Director, Land Management outlined the summary report. After responding to questions the following resolution was presented.

**FA-49-10**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED:** B. Heit

**THAT:** Report No. 21-10 be received for information.

**"CARRIED"**

**(9) NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION – REPORT NO. 22-10**

Terry McDougall, Executive Director of the Foundation outlined the report noting that they are the fundraising arm of the authority. She advised that the noted amounts that have been raised over the years were taken from audited financial statements. She responded to questions raised and a discussion took place.

One of the concerns raised was regarding value of the Foundation activities to the Authority and true costs in that regard. Perhaps the foundation could be more successful if the NPCA brought in some expertise to look at lowering the costs so they can better meet their objectives and create a strategic plan. It was also requested that the Authority Board members receive quarterly financial reports.

Following discussions it was agreed that staff compare activities and costs of other Conservation Authority foundations and bring forth a follow up report in that regard.

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The Chairman noted that good points were raised and a good discussion took place. It was commented that the Authority needs to give the Foundation the tools to make them successful. The Chairman thanked Terry Carruthers for coming to the meeting. The following resolutions were presented.

**FA-50-10**

**MOVED BY:**

**SECONDED:**

**THAT:** Report No. 22-10 regarding the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation be received for information.

**"CARRIED"**

**FA-51-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Heit

**SECONDED BY:** B. Baty

**THAT:** A further report by the Foundation be provided to the Conservation Authority Board.

**"CARRIED"**

**(10) PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 23-10**

Andy Fevez brought up a question of when the signs at Binbrook were going to be posted regarding rules and regulations. In response to this, he was advised that the Director, Land Management had to leave on a family emergency, however, the Director, Water Management, in his absence, advised that there are permits that are required and it is a difficult process which Darcy is working on. Carmen D'Angelo noted that the signs inside the park should be able to be replaced.

Barb Henderson questioned whether there can be highway signage on Highway 3 for the Wainfleet Bog so public knows where it is. Staff will look into this.

Barb Butters advised that she attended the municipal drain maintenance review at a recent Niagara Soil and Crop meeting and noted that the Director, Water Management and staff did a good job in a tough crowd. She got a feeling of distrust between farmers and the NPCA and questioned how could this be changed to a positive view. Staff were very good and made themselves available, but wondered how do we get the two groups together. One thought she had was that the drainage superintendents' costs should be borne by more than just the landowners and asked if we have the ability to connect with other ca's to lobby provincial and federal bodies to move towards that end. She noted that farmers bear most of the costs and this is what the problem is. A discussion took place and a request was made that a report be brought to the board with suggestions on how to change this situation.

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-52-10**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

**SECONDED:** N. Johnson

**THAT:** Report No. 23-10 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

**"CARRIED"**

**(11) IN-CAMERA**

In accordance with Authority policy, the following resolutions were presented.

**FA-53-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Butters

**SECONDED BY:** B. Henderson

**THAT:** this meeting do now move in-camera.

Received at 8:58 p.m.

**"CARRIED"**

**FA-54-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Baty

**SECONDED BY:** A. Fevez

**THAT:** this meeting do now move back into open session.

Received at 9:07 p.m.

**"CARRIED"**

**(12) OTHER BUSINESS**

A comment was made that the earlier tour was good and very positive and should be an annual event. A question was raised on whether our Authority has ever hosted the biennial tour? Mary Stack advised that yes we did in 2002.

Barb Greenwood noted that during her time on the board she has learned a great deal, including issues with significant wetlands, as well as, learning that we have the most in the Province. She indicated that it appears we have more issues than other ca's and requested a report on wetlands in the Niagara Region vs. the rest of the Province.

Andy Fevez advised that 2010 is the year of biodiversity and wondered if we were doing any programs in that regard and 2011 is the year of the forest and we should be looking into that as well. The CAO advised that he would look into both these matters.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-55-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Greenwood

**SECONDED BY:** B. Baty

**THAT:** this meeting do now adjourn.

**Received at 9:10 p.m.**

**“CARRIED”**

**"L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary**

**D. Ransom, Chairman"**