

WELLAND

JULY 21, 2010

7:00 p.m.

FULL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** D. Ransom, (Chairman)
B. Baty, (Vice-Chairman)
B. Butters
T. Dalimonte
C. D'Angelo
D. DiFruscio
A. Fevez
D. Goulbourne
B. Greenwood
B. Steckley
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** B. Bentley (with regrets)
G. Burroughs (with regrets)
B. Heit (with regrets)
B. Henderson (with regrets)
N. Johnson (with regrets)
- STAFF PRESENT:** T. D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary
M. Stack, Director Communications
J. Kukalis, Director, Water Management
D. Baker, Director, Land Management
T. McDougall, Executive Director, NPCF
C. Hayward, Curator, Ball's Falls
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Ray and Liz Kowalik
Ken Depodesta, AMEC
Ron Tripp, Town of Fort Erie
Doug Martin, Mayor, Town of Fort Erie

BUSINESS:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. He then requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to so declare it.

(1) **MINUTES**

(a) **FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – JUNE 16, 2010**

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

FA-86-10

MOVED BY: M. DiFruscio

SECONDED BY: C. D'Angelo

THAT: the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held June 16, 2010, be received and approved as printed.

"CARRIED"

(b) BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – JUNE 16, 2010

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

FA-87-10

MOVED BY: T. Dalimonte

SECONDED BY: B. Steckley

THAT: the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held June 16, 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 mentioned that we had a visit from Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, who joined staff at Ball's Falls where they presented an update on what is going on at the Conservation Authority, as well as future projects. He noted that it was a good afternoon and walk around and offered thanks to staff for putting it together. All in all it was well received and everyone was impressed.

The Chairman noted that it was a pleasant opening of Jordan Harbour Conservation Area on June 20th and again thanked staff for putting it together. He indicated he was pleased with the information booth which was well worthwhile. He also indicated that the dragon boats were well received. He was pleased to have the opportunity to go out on the dragon boat and the visitors were as well. Kayakers and canoeists enjoyed being able to bring their own boats to launch as well. He also indicated that the Foundation is taking on the project of assisting with funding future initiatives at the site. He encouraged the board to please visit if you can. He was also pleased with the amount media coverage received.

He advised the Board that coming up in August is Rock'n Ribs at Jordan Harbour Estates Winery, an annual event with some of the proceeds coming to the Foundation. He encouraged all to see Terry if they would like tickets.

The Chairman showed the Board a large thank you card from Parnall School in St. Catharines where authority staff assisted the students in planting a butterfly garden. He thanked staff for their continued work on this initiative.

(4) CAO'S REPORT

The CAO advised that the Binbrook Conservation Area recently held the official opening of the store at the new pavilion. He noted it was well attended by the public and a record number of memberships have been sold at the site. He complimented the staff on this. He also noted that the Bass derby at Chippawa Creek CA was very successful as well.

The CAO noted that the current display at Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation is "Count your Pennies" and encouraged the board to visit.

The CAO advised that the Bridge at Ball's Falls, connecting the park, is closed for repairs, so an alternate route will need to be taken.

The CAO indicated that the Authority recently held an Ecological Stewardship workshop at Ball's Falls which was very well attended by over 60 participants. Those in attendance included staff from other conservation authorities, environmental groups, consultants, as well as staff from Niagara College. Andy Fevez who was in attendance said it was well presented and very interesting. He suggested that perhaps the board members could have a tour of the sites which were part of the workshop. The CAO noted that the first workshop held last year at E.C. Brown Conservation area was initiated by Brian Baty. He thanked him for encouraging this and noted that it will likely be an annual event.

Brian Baty questioned whether there is a welcome wagon type organization in Hamilton to promote Binbrook, due to the increase in new development in the area. The CAO advised that staff will look into this since he felt that the residents of Hamilton are using Binbrook as their back yard.

(5) DELEGATIONS

The Chairman introduced Ray & Liz Kowalik who were before the Board to request a waiver of an application fee.

Mrs. Kowalik thanked the Board and noted that information had been provided to the board members in their packages so she would not go into detail for this request. She asked to waive the application fee of \$485, which is a fee required by the Authority every 3 years because the property does not have permanent status. She advised that currently, the property is used as a driving range and has not had any changes made to it. They indicated that the City of St. Catharines has waived their fee of \$3,000 in this case. The Director, Water Management provided an explanation of what the fee is for, noting that there is staff time involved. Concerns were raised regarding this request. It was suggested that the fee be waived in this case in order to give Mr. & Mrs. Kowalik time to have the property reviewed and apply for permanent status. A discussion took place and the following resolution was presented.

FA-88-10

MOVED BY: B. Butters

SECONDED BY: A. Fevez

THAT: the \$485.00 fee imposed by the Conservation Authority for temporary use extension for 2010 be waived on a one time basis with the proviso that they apply for permanent status for the property.

"CARRIED"

Mr. Kowalik then asked to speak to another issue, which the Chairman permitted.

Mr. Kowalik advised that they own a property on 3rd Street, just under 2 acres, which they had planned to sell, however, the Conservation Authority had issues with the property. The CAO advised that virtually the entire property is floodplain. Mr. Kowalik noted three other properties currently being developed which he believed also to be within the floodplain. The CAO advised he would look into this. The Chairman thanked Mr. & Mrs. Kowalik for attending and advised staff will report back to them.

The Chairman then asked Ken Dipodesta from AMEC to come forward to make his presentation. Mr. Dipodesta thanked the Chairman and advised that with him from the Town of Fort Erie, was Mayor Martin and Ron Tripp, Director of Public Works. He advised that this was an information only presentation and provided power point information on what they are planning to do with the proposed Canadian Motor Speedway Site. He noted that they are expecting an OMB hearing to be held later this year or early next and advised that they are expecting the Town of Fort Erie to deal with the rezoning matter early in September. Questions were posed to Mr. Dipodesta on several components of this project following which, the Chairman thanked him for his presentation.

(6) **BUDGET STATUS REPORT TO JUNE 30, 2010 – REPORT NO. 44-10**

The CAO outlined the report noting that he is continuing to monitor revenues and expenses and with the exception of higher revenues for legal fees for planning issues, there are no significant variances at this time. After responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

FA-89-10

MOVED BY: B. Steckley

SECONDED BY: T. Dalimonte

THAT: the Budget Status Report for the period ending June 30, 2010 be received.

"CARRIED"

(7) **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2010 - REPORT NO. 45-10**

The CAO provided an explanation for the reasons to continue using our current auditors. After responding to questions, the following resolution was then presented.

FA-90-10

MOVED BY: A. Fevez

SECONDED BY: B. Butters

THAT: the firm of MacGillivray and Partners be appointed as the Conservation Authority Auditors for 2010.

"CARRIED"

(8) **2011 BUDGET SCHEDULE AND GUIDANCE – REPORT NO. 46-10**

The CAO presented this report noting that he is looking to the board for direction to staff in order to prepare the 2011 budget. He advised that since the writing of this report he had received information from the City of Hamilton that our 2011 budget does not exceed current inflation which is approximately 1.4%. He also received a guideline of 1.4% from the Region of Niagara and has not yet heard from Haldimand County. After a brief discussion and responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

FA-91-10

MOVED BY: B. Steckley

SECONDED BY: T. Dalimonte

THAT: the Report No. 46-10 regarding the 2011 Budget Schedule and Guidance be received and the recommendations contained there approved, and;

that the Ad Hoc Budget Review Committee be comprised of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Andy Fevez, Mickey DiFruscio and Damian Goulbourne.

"CARRIED"

(9) TERMS OF REFERENCE – LOWER WELLAND RIVER WATERSHED CHARACTERIZATION – REPORT NO. 47-10

The Director, Water Management noted that this report is for information purposes to keep the Board apprised, with a follow-up report to be provided at the next meeting. The following resolution was presented.

FA-92-10

MOVED BY: B. Baty

SECONDED BY: C. D'Angelo

THAT: the Terms of Reference for the Lower Welland River Watershed Characterization be approved; and

That a copy of this report be forwarded to the Regional Municipality of Niagara, City of Niagara Falls, City of Thorold, and City of Welland.

"CARRIED"

(10) LYON'S CREEK EAST – ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS PROTOCOL - REPORT NO. 48-10

The Director, Water Management noted that this was a more detailed report, which has previously been noted as an item in the status report. There were no questions with respect to this report, therefore, the following resolution was presented.

FA-93-10

MOVED BY: T. Dalimonte

SECONDED BY: B. Steckley

THAT: the Authority Board receive the report for information; and

That the Board authorize the Chairman and Chief Administrative Officer to execute the Lyon's Creek East Administrative Controls protocol.

"CARRIED"

(11) ELM STREET AND STATION ROAD SITE MANAGEMENT - REPORT NO. 49-10

The Director, Land Management provided a power point presentation on this report. A brief discussion took place and the following resolution was then presented.

FA-94-10

MOVED BY: M. DiFruscio
SECONDED BY: C. D'Angelo
THAT: Report No. 49-10 be received; and

That staff be authorized to enter into a management agreement for the Station Road and Elm Street sites for the remainder of the 2010 operating year.

"CARRIED"

(12) BALL'S FALLS MARKETING PLAN – REPORT NO. 50-10

The Chairman introduced Christine Hayward who is a staff member at Ball's Falls. The Director, Land Management provided a power point presentation with respect to this report. He then advised that he, together with Christine Hayward, Mary Stack, the CAO and the Chairman were part of the committee to assist in the development of this plan. A discussion took place particularly surrounding the educational component of this plan, where it was agreed more emphasis should be placed. A comment was made that perhaps a preliminary discussion should have taken place with the board on the authority programs and services overall prior to the development of this plan. The following resolution was presented.

FA-95-10

MOVED BY: T. Dalimonte
SECONDED BY: B. Steckley
THAT: the Ball's Falls Conservation Area Marketing plan 2010 be received; and

That the plan be implemented as recommended in Report No. 50-10.

"CARRIED"

(13) PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 51-10

Carmen D'Angelo questioned the notation regarding the Binbrook splash pad and the concerns of the Public Health Unit. The Director, Land Management advised that staff is currently working with the Health Unit to ensure we are in compliance. The following resolution was presented.

FA-96-10

MOVED BY: B. Butters
SECONDED BY: D. Goulbourne
THAT: Report No. 51-10 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

"CARRIED"

(14) IN-CAMERA

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

FA-97-10

MOVED BY: D. Goulbourne
SECONDED BY: B. Baty
THAT: this meeting do now move in-camera.

Received at 9:04 p.m. **“CARRIED”**

FA-98-10

MOVED BY: B. Baty
SECONDED BY: B. Steckley
THAT: this meeting do now move back into open session.

Received at 9:19 p.m. **“CARRIED”**

(15) OTHER BUSINESS

Barb Butters referred back to a request to look into the relationship between the farmers and the Grand River Conservation Authority to see if this Authority could improve relationships with our farmers. The CAO advised he would provide information at the next meeting.

Barb Butters questioned whether our current facility for staff was sufficient and did the Authority ever think of purchasing a building. Her reason for this question was that there was a school up for sale in Wellandport by the Chippawa Creek Conservation Area and thought perhaps it should be looked into. The CAO responded by saying we are currently leasing through the Region of Niagara and at this point space is sufficient, so no plans have been made at this time to look into another facility, however, he agreed to look into this.

ADJOURNMENT

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

FA-99-10

MOVED BY: A. Fevez
SECONDED BY: B. Butters
THAT: this meeting do now adjourn.

Received at 9:22 p.m. **“CARRIED”**