

## **FMF Annual General Meeting June 19, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. held via Zoom videoconference**

Hélène Hamel, Community Engagement Manager, opened the meeting and then turned it over to Pat Webster, Chair of the Board.

Pat welcomed all the members in attendance from afar.

Pat then extended a special welcome to Melanie Lelièvre (APCOR) and Patrick Fréchette (President) and Denis Petitclerc (from Blue Massawippi).

Jane Meagher, Secretary of the Foundation announced that there was a quorum.

**Margot Heyerhoff moved, seconded by Jane Meagher that the Agenda be approved. Motion passed.**

Jane then turned the meeting over to Chair, Pat Webster.

Pat asked for a motion approving the minutes from the 2020 AGM.

**Moved by Tom Wilcox, seconded by Jonathan Fortier that the minutes from the AGM of the FMF held on June 27, 2020 be approved. Motion passed.**

### **Chair's Report: Pat Webster**

Pat observed that 2020 was once again a very successful year for the Foundation due to the extraordinary work of Margot Heyerhoff (President and CEO), the Foundation's Community Engagement Manager, Hélène Hamel and the outstanding members of the Foundation's Board of Directors. She named the current members of the Board and thanked them all. Pat then gave special thanks to retiring board member Jonathan Fortier, whose term has come to an end under the new governance rules adopted a year earlier. Jonathan had been a member of the Board since 2013 and Pat highlighted some of Jonathan's very important contributions to the work of the Foundation and Trust over his 8-year tenure as board member.

Pat then highlighted some of the work done by the Foundation since the last AGM, mentioning that the Foundation continued to focus its efforts around community support and the four tenets of conservation:

- protecting environmentally sensitive properties;
- providing environmentally friendly recreational opportunities and
- supporting research that contributes to a broader understanding of the environment.
- Offering educational opportunities for residents of and visitors to the Massawippi Valley

With regard to this last tenet, Pat mentioned that COVID had kept in abeyance the Foundation's efforts to fulfil the fourth tenet by putting into place an educational program, but that it is continuing to look at ways to offer educational opportunities and she hoped that by next year's Annual Meeting it will have something concrete to report.

Pat mentioned that the FMF had fulfilled its tax and organizational responsibilities. The FMF made grants to several organizations including a grant of \$10,000 to the Appalachian Corridor to assist it in moving its offices to a new location and \$ 934 to the Lake Massawippi Water Protection and \$ 15,000 for the same organization. The latter was the second installment of a 3 year pledge.

In terminating, Pat mentioned how proud she was of the work the Foundation has done. Its trails are increasingly popular and used regularly by people who previously had much more limited access to the outdoors. People using the trails clearly appreciate them and the number of donors and the size of donations reflects this. She thanked all the donors and then turned the meeting over to Margot Heyerhoff, President and Executive Director of the Foundation. Margot outlined some of the Foundation's major accomplishments in 2020.

### **Operations Report – Margot Heyerhoff**

Margot reported that in 2020 the Foundation hired its first year-round employee, H  l  ne Hamel, to be the Foundation's Community Engagement Manager. H  l  ne has taken charge of raising the Foundation's profile on social media, writing a monthly newsletter, and planning and organizing events. Margot mentioned how H  l  ne had been a great help and that it was hard to imagine how she had managed before H  l  ne's arrival!

### Property Report–

Despite it being impossible because of the pandemic to have face to face meetings with owners, Margot reported that there was activity on the acquisitions front in 2020 as follows:

- Two of the three payments due to the Belanger brothers were paid. The last payment of \$100,000 plus interest is to be paid in early 2022.
- Work on a conservation servitude of a 70 acre forested property on the east side of the lake began in 2020 and was ongoing. It is hoped to have this servitude completed with the Trust in the spring of 2022.
- The Foundation was in very early conversations to acquire a 146-acre property that contains many elements of ecological interest, including some wetlands. There would be a recreational aspect to this property, already in existence that the Trust would maintain.
- The Trust has purchased a small 1-acre property on Montee Mckinven for \$3000. It is a small property but provides some more connectivity in that area.
- The trust is working with an owner on a potential purchase of 113 acre forested property that is zoned developable.
- Biologists from Corridor Appalachien monitored 5 of the trust properties in 2020 (Eberts, NHC, Ransom, Wardman, Scowen Park) and sent their findings and

recommendations to the Foundation over the winter. All was well other than the usual issues of some garbage, a few cut trees and ATV tracks.

- Margot concluded by saying that the Foundation would continue to reach out to owners of target properties and let them know of its interest and the benefits to them to conserve their ecologically important lands.

### Trails Report

Margot reported that Mahicans and his team returned in 2020 to do annual spring maintenance, complete work at Ethan's Beach and further develop a loop at the Wippi North section. Margot mentioned that this loop was just about completed and that she had heard that it was outstanding. Once again, the team consisted of three returning professionals and two returning students. The team planned to begin work on Property #9 (Eberts) in about two weeks.

The team also built a compost toilet near the steps going down to the beach and a shed for a chemical toilet up at the parking area.

Due to the ongoing covid situation through 2020 and into 2021 the trails on the trust properties suddenly became very popular which created an entirely new and unanticipated set of challenges for the FMF. Parking on du Piemont became a major issue to the point where it was affecting the daily lives of the neighbours and visitors alike. After several meetings with the neighbours and the town of Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley, a plan was approved by the village and the neighbours whereby when looking up Piemont, no parking would be allowed on the right side at any time, but on the left, parking would be permitted all year round up to rue Peneplaine. The village also agreed to build a turn-around circle at the entrance to the trail to facilitate cars and the snow plow.

Margot also mentioned that the Trust had given financial assistance for one neighbour to change his entrance and that it will be planting trees and shrubs at the edge of another neighbour's property to alleviate privacy concerns.

Although people have been able to visit Ethan's Beach since last summer, Margot mentioned that the Foundation was planning to have the official opening take place on August 21<sup>st</sup> and that details of that event would be sent out in July. Also, the Foundation was still waiting for a reply from the assistant general manager of North Hatley regarding a Wippi boat shuttle stop at Ethan's Beach as it goes between North Hatley and Ayer's Cliff.

### Educational Programming

Once again the pandemic caused the Foundation to put aside its plans to have its first educational program for children up and running this season. The Foundation is working with

Dawn Wiseman, Associate Professor at Bishop's University, in developing an educational program, and it is currently the Foundation's goal to develop a simple program for children for 2022.

**Tom Wilcox, Fundraising Chair (See attached Fundraising Report)**

Tom thanked all those present, saying that the Foundation's success is due to their exceptional generosity and it is thanks to our donors, our partners and our commitment over the past 10 years, that the Foundation is becoming a leading voice for environmental stewardship in the Massawippi Valley, but its work is still in its infancy.

Despite its successes, the Foundation still faces significant challenges. The needs of the Valley are no less great than they were a year ago. Moving ahead in 2021, Tom informed members that between then and September, the Foundation would be developing a 5-year capital plan to address the Foundation's greatest long-term challenges. On an ongoing basis, the Foundation must maintain and improve what it has purchased and developed while paying for taxes, insurance and general overhead. And it must invest in key projects in order to protect the quality of the water in Lake Massawippi. Recognizing that enlightened farming practices can reduce the harmful effects of runoff, the Foundation is creating awards to recognize and publicize regenerative farming practices as part of its vision of a green and prosperous Massawippi Valley.

Tom informed members that all these initiatives demand \$350,000 in new resources for 2021-2022 (See attached **Fundraising Report** for more details) and he reminded members that success comes from successful fundraising. He emphasized that the Foundation must expand its network of donors and he thanked H  l  ne for the work she has done in developing the Foundation's social media presence. He also mentioned that more extensive information can be found in the 2021-2022 Goals Brochure which members would be receiving shortly and reiterated that the Foundation's vision for the future depended upon meeting its 2021 Annual Goals.

For the benefit of the Foundation's U.S. friends Tom mentioned that a very important new association had been made with *American Friends of Canadian Conservation*. *American Friends of Canadian Conservation* supports the conservation of Canada's natural resources by facilitating donations of lands and funding from US taxpayers to Canadian conservation organizations. As a result of this new association American donations will go directly to the Massawippi Conservation Trust. <https://conservecanada.org/portfolio-item/massawippi-conservation-trust/>

In closing, Tom thanked everyone for their engagement and support and their continued support in the future.

## **Treasurer, Normand Brière**

Treasurer, Normand Briere presented the financial status of the organization. Normand offered an explanation of the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2020 (**see attached Financial Statements**). Normand outlined the difference between the FMF and the MCT. He began with an overview of the FMF statements followed by the statements for the MCT. Normand explained how the FMF is the principle source of revenue for the MCT while the MCT is the organization which is the owner of all the property held in the conservation trust. Both organizations can receive gifts and give charitable donation tax receipts.

Normand turned to Page 3 of F/S of FMF -The funds under management by the Ottawa Community Foundation are available for granting or endowed. Over time the objective is to increase the capital held in the endowment account to such a number that it can generate enough revenue to cover annual trail building activity and the administration fees of the organization. Normand then took members through the FMF F/S line by line.

MCT is the owner of the protected land and is the entity that pays the taxes and other expenses relating to the protected land. Normand went through the MCT F/S explaining the entries line by line. On page 5, referring to the Long-term Assets item (Land), Normand explained that the value indicated for the land owned by the Trust is calculated using either the Cost of acquisition of the land or the land value.

**Jodi White moved to adopt the financial statements. Seconded by Tom Wilcox. Motion passed**

## **Election of Board of Directors 2021**

Before proceeding to the election of the Board of Directors, Pat took a few minutes to present the two proposed new Board members, Dr. Eric Van Bochove and Jonathan (Joff) Elkas, and to describe their backgrounds and some of their many accomplishments to those in attendance. She then listed the proposed slate as follows:

Normand Brière,  
Jonathan Elkas,  
Margot Heyerhoff,  
Hamnett Hill  
Norm Jones  
Jane Meagher  
Eric Van Bochove  
Pat Webster  
Jodi White,

Tom Wilcox

**Moved by H  l  ne Hamel, seconded by Jonathan Fortier, that the Directors nominated to hold office on the Board of Directors of the Fondation Massawippi Foundation for the ensuing year be elected. Motion passed.**

Pat thanked everyone who attended, and reiterated her hope that they would be together in person at the AGM next year. In closing she mentioned that this year, 2021, was the Foundation's 10th anniversary and that when members would meet at the Foundation's next Annual Meeting, in 2022, the Foundation would be reporting on the results of the events that it was holding that year to celebrate that occasion. She thanked members for their continued support of the Foundation, stressing that it works to help the community to develop and thrive in a healthy and sustainable way, saying she was looking forward to continuing this work over the next 10 years.

The Chair then declared the meeting adjourned.

**Jane Meagher moved, Margot Heyerhoff seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:00 a.m.**