



Dry Stone Canada AGM 2017

Location: Alton Mill, Alton ON

Date: April 20

Attendees: Bill Jeffers, Doug Bell, Andrea Cross, Chris Evans, Teri Lee Barbisan, Fraser Sinclair, Jacqueline Jeffers, Hilary Martin, Mark Muscat, John Scott, Renee Nadeau, Eric Landman, John Scott-Rimington

1. Quorum confirmed by Bill Jeffers
2. 2016 Activities Report
Two Amherst Island workshops, walling/carving plus Perth festival a big boon to DSC, built onto momentum of Amherst Island festival
3. Financial Report
Treasurer Bill Jeffers reviews historical financial report showing status from 2015 to 2017. In summary, DSCan currently has \$6000. Money is dwindling since the infusion of the grant for Amherst Island festival. See Treasurer's report for details.
4. Certification
Process to support certification is still in development; aim is to support DSC members to grow the pool of Canadian instructors and examiners.
5. Special Projects
NFLD project possibility to support Dan Snow-designed feature, Ken Tuach is taking local lead but cost for travel is still prohibitive. Discussion that some DSCan members may go as volunteers. Ongoing.
6. Grants and Administration
Andrea Cross reports that she has 2 reports finished and submitted to granting agencies, documenting moneys spent. These will be useful for future grant applications; suggests seeking formal charitable status would help us seek grants.

John Scott reports that \$90K was donated to Perth Legacy festival in 2016. It was spent on the festival, and none of it came to us or our control, yet it was part of the financial picture of that festival. The funds went towards marketing, individual township expenses etc, also paying professional wallers to finish the bridge.

Hilary Martin comments the value of the DSCan contribution in terms of labour and organizing is impressive; it will be important to estimate this in future for people to know what that is worth. We can build on the positive example at Perth for a municipal partnership to work in the future with other municipalities.



Andrea Cross adds that Perth has offered to consult with other possible partners.

Renee Nadeau suggests all volunteers compile their festival-related hours and we keep track of that info

7. Strategic Planning Report

Hilary Martin reports on the strategic planning document summarizing the outcomes of the January 2017 retreat at The Lodge. Verbal report and document attached.

8. 2017 Festival Report

Eric Landman and Andrea Cross review this year's festival, dates, plans for Amherst gathering prior to festival on solar alignment day, live music, food etc., also certification opportunities Level 1 and 2 maybe, on Thursday before festival.

This is a restoration project only this year, no ambitious new-build projects; aiming to include a tour of Fort Henry on the Friday.

Highlights:

- Tour guide at Fort Henry is Brian Murray, a mason, and he's donating \$2k to festival
- Program will include some slideshows/lectures on the Saturday, 1.5 hrs max, brief, late afternoon session
- Possibility of an architect interested in sponsoring/judging an 'excellence award' in conjunction with DSCan
- Andrew Loudon has agreed to come at our expense, as an examiner and a special professional guest
- Sean Donnelly and Kenny Davies are leads on certification working group; we will try to support students if there is \$ available for taking testing
- Seeking companies to sponsor individual wallers who want to take cert testing
- Financial donations can be handled through the Frontenac Heritage Foundation; people receive a charitable receipt for tax purposes
- DeRousha is coming and bringing tools; may be possible to do a stonecutting demo with specific tools
- First aid, safety glasses covered
- JSR in charge of children's area



9. By Laws Review

Bill Jeffers and Jacqui Jeffers suggest a review of the by-laws to make them non-contradictory. By-laws were originally based on a different association (Ontario Chiropractic Association) due to our rich, shared origins, so we plan to review the by-laws, re-write them and send them to members for comment.

10. Board of Directors

a. Menno Braun and Andre Lemieux resigned from the Board and their positions are open.
Hilary Martin and Kenny Davies put their names forward to join the Board = Agreed

b. Board suggests adding a new non-voting position to fill the role of Registrar = Agreed
Registrar role would involve memberships, reminders, renewals, database organizing; a check-in, chiefly

Fraser Sinclair recommends that renewal should be on same date each year.

Hilary Martin suggests that lifetime memberships can create disconnection and make it hard to keep people engaged

Chris Evans volunteers for the Registrar position.

11. Other Business

a. Renee Nadeau suggests Board communication to members needs to happen more clearly, less informally, less conversations on job sites between a few board members who happen to be there.
Andrea Cross currently receives email now sent to Administrator.
Doug Bell and Renee Nadeau assigned to set up a board email address

b. Eric Landman = not all ideas need to go totally through formal board review i.e. if an architect offers me \$ to set up an excellence award I'd like to be able to say 'sure' to the that idea right then and there

General consensus that people use their judgment to pursue projects.

c. Renee Nadeau hands out free map/posters of First Nations geography as discussed and supported at the strategic planning session, to promote re-indigenizing and disrupt settler mentality



Dry Stone Walling Association of Canada
Association des Murs en Pierres Sèches du Canada

- d. Torbin Larsen from Vermont comments that \$ is important, yes, but Stone Trust and DSCan could learn a lot from each other. DSCan has a fabulous festival; Stone Trust sold \$3k worth of tools through a stonefacing workshop with Trow & Holden. Members benefitted. T&H, and the Trust also. Would be good to share ideas and work together.

12. Adjourned