

Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee

September 28, 2021

7:00 – 9:00 pm Via Zoom

Attendees: Ron Furlong, Peter Spicer, Emily Haynes, Jonathan McClelland, Alice Pugsley, Steven McLelan, Carole Blenkhorn, Elizabeth Smith McCrossin, Matthew MacGillivray, Mac Davis, Jeff Black and Kevin Merriam - meeting chair.

Call to order 7:01 pm

Meeting Chair – Kevin Merriam

Item 1 – Kevin welcomed and thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. He asked if anyone had additional agenda items. Three items were added.

Approval of Agenda: Ron Furlong moved for the approval of the agenda, seconded by Mac Davis. Motion carried.

Item 2 -Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2021, meeting was made by Jeff Black and seconded by Alice Pugsley. Motion carried.

Item 3 – Business Arising from the Minutes

Mac to reach out to Don Cameron in his role of Education Outreach to discuss the issue and get a much clearer picture (Mac Davis) - Mac reported that he had reached out to Mr. Cameron on June 25th, and he suggested that Mac contact Sandra Johnston. Has not been able to get in touch with her. Prior to this meeting, Mac had sent an email to Sandra, and she referred him to Simon Mutabazi – Provincial Outreach Coordinator – Lands & Forestry. Mac asked the members if there were any specific questions that should be forwarded to Simon. Kevin suggested that the item be tabled until later in the meeting.

Update on Registration and Incorporation of CFAC as a Society - (Ron) Ron reported that the CFAC was an incorporated society as of September 17, 2021. The committee was a legal entity and the next step in the process was to obtain a bank account.

Item 4 – New Business

Changes in Government and CFAC Participation – The participants discussed the result of the recent provincial elections and how those result affect the CFAC. Kevin congratulated Elizabeth on her re-election and reported that he had spoke to Tory Rushton. Mr. Rushton is now the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. With his new responsibilities, Mr. Rushton will not be a participating member of the CFAC. Steven McLelan suggested that Minister Rushton be invited to a future CFAC meeting to present his vision of the future of forestry in NS.

The Committee members discussed the new government and cabinet and the importance of maintaining relationships with the decision makers.

ACTION ITEM #1 Letters of congratulations be sent to Tory Rushton, Elizabeth Smith McCrossin and Premier Houston. (Ron to draft letters and forward to Kevin for collaboration prior to circulation to the CFAC)

CFAC Newsletter Updates and Content- Kevin took the opportunity thank Emily for keeping the newsletter going throughout the summer. He remarked that the content was very good, and the feedback has been positive. Emily provided a report on the newsletter and welcomed the submissions of content. The committee discussed possible content for future newsletters and everyone committee to providing in put.

Working Group Updates - Kevin asked if there were any updates from the working groups. Jonathan reported on the group tasked with the pathway focuses on Investing in Wood Energy. He has been in contact with some of the people interested in this and will be putting together a meeting very soon. Peter reported that the Landowners group was down to 2 members and in order to move forward more members were required.

Kevin asked the group to think about the role of the CFAC moving forward. Most of the action items and initiatives were focused on education. He suggested that almost every pathway has a education component. A committee discussed this at length and several suggestions were made: Ron suggested the committee make "Education" a committee of the whole and other groups could be activated as needed. Jonathan suggested that the meeting agenda been reformatted, and education be added as an agenda item.

ACTION ITEM #2 Ron and Jonathan will work on the reformatted agenda prior to the next meeting.

Item 5 – Additional Agenda Items

Northern Pulp - (Peter) Peter reported on the Friends of Northern Pulp committee. He asked that CFAC committee members show support to this initiative by visiting all the social media platforms. He also offered to provide "Support Northern Pulp" signs to anyone wishing to have a sign on their property. This group meets weekly, and a lot of good people are working hard for the industry.

Shinimicas Fire Hall – (Jeff) – Jeff reported that the fire hall was taking shape. He had recently passed by, and the walls and trusses were in place. Jonathan offered to take pictures for the newsletter.

Cabinet Minister from Cumberland (Elizabeth) – Elizabeth remarked that having a cabinet minister from Cumberland County was a unique opportunity and the CFAC should try to capitalize on the great relationship with Minister Rushton. There are many ways to promote

forestry in the region and the committee should look at holding an event in the spring and invite the Minister to participate. The committee discussed this, and several ideas were put forward.

Item 6 – Closing Comments Kevin thanked everyone for participating and remarked that he was looking forward to working with everyone again.

Next Meeting- Thur. October 28th, 2021, at 7pm Virtual Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm

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