

Cumberland Forestry Advisory Committee

AGM August 3, 2023 / Meeting notes

7:00 – 9:00 pm in person @ CCUBIC and Zoom

Call to order 7:00 pm

Meeting Chair – Kevin Merriam

In Attendance: Co-Chair - Kevin Merriam ; Sec / Treasurer – Ron Furlong; Directors – Mac, and Steven; Members – Alice, Emily, Ernie, Jeff, and Jonathan.

Item 1 – Admin

Kevin opened the meeting. He welcomed everyone, acknowledged those in attendance and asked if there were to be additional agenda items. It was suggested that a report on the FETF (Forestry Economic Task Force) would be appreciated and it was added to the agenda at the end of Sec. 3 Reports.

Approval of Agenda: Mac moved for the approval of the agenda as amended, seconded by Jeff Black, Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2022, meeting was made by Mac and seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.

Item 2 – Business Arising from the Minutes

CFAC Signs and placement (Report Ron) – The Signs were on display at the CCUBIC Boardroom and shown on camera for those on line to have a look. Conversation raised the potential for one of the new signs to replace the original at Harrisons in Amherst and where to place the original and second new sign. Suggestions included, County office, Oxford on the fence opposite Tim Horton's, Pugwash on the hill near the Salt Plant turnoff, and Parrsboro in the vicinity of the crossroads.

Item 3 - Reports:

Forestry Contractors group update – The various members of CFAC who belong to NSFCA shared information on the health of the new organization. For credibility with the Province the group still tracks membership numbers and the numbers of employees. Currently NSFCA represents 130 contractors and 1,250 employees in Nova Scotia. The President of the NSFCA is Ralph Stewart, Ryan Scott secretary, Alice Pugsley treasurer. Jeff is co-chair of the trucking subcommittee. They've made a conscious effort to work with other groups to send the message that they're looking to work on solutions not just assign blame. When a contractor joins the group in addition to the number of their employees they identify their MLA so representation across the province can be tracked and when individual MLA's are being contacted they'll know how many of their constituent businesses are represented.

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Currently they're working on funding proposals and advocating the Provincial government on how the Province can work with the contractors to help solve specific problems. The group represents all four aspects of: harvesting, trucking, silviculture, and road building contractors.

Forestry Transition group update (Mackie) – Mac reminded us that current structure is actually called the Ministerial Advisory Committee. This committee reports directly to the Minister, meets every 6 to 7 weeks, and has a two year mandate.

Mac shared that his role on the committee is as one of seven and he officially represents land owners but he isn't restricted to just speaking from that position. Mac provided an overview of the categories of issues they are addressing and that they are taking a "one issue each meeting" approach so each issue can be researched, explored and addressed so they can make recommendations and move to the next issue to address it in the same understand, consider, and decide manner.

CFAC Newsletter Update (Emily) Emily provided an update on the newsletter identifying that we currently have 203 subscribers. Discussion was around where we should be looking for additional content. Ideas put forward were industry updates from NSFCA, NSCC, and Forest Nova Scotia, along with project updates from MLB and to approach industry support associations for articles around their roles and activities. It was also suggested that we could canvas the forestry groups for them each to identify their current most important issues from which we could identify the top (?) (Maybe 6?) for the industry.

It would also be of value to have a draft format for newsletter stories available to provide to organizations we ask to participate who may not be comfortable writing a n article without having an example / template available to them. There will be an October newsletter, with the next one scheduled for January.

Financial Report (Ron) – Ron provided an update of the financials for the CFAC. As of the end of the 2022 fiscal year we had \$7,050 in revenue, \$6,234.50 in expenses leaving us with \$815.50 in assets

Forestry Economic Taskforce (Kevin) - One of the early objectives has been establishing social license. Phase 1B has been focused on compiling industry data and determining the best format / value for sharing that data. To date, 90% of the planned research has been completed. The AGM was in June with Harvey Gray in the ED position and Alan Eddy being appointed as Government contact.

Item 4 – New Business

Future of CFAC - Discussion reconfirmed that the CFAC was a unique and valuable component of supports for the Forest Industry in Nova Scotia and especially within Cumberland County. Our role was, and is, to educate the public. In support of the future of CFAC we will commit to at least

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quarterly meetings and if they are scheduled one month ahead of each newsletter that would be a good support for focus and content of each newsletter.

Motion: ***That we hold quarterly CFAC meetings one month before each newsletter is scheduled to be published.***

Moved Ernie, seconded Steven. Carried

Election of Officers – The bylaws define a co-chair organization and we are continuing that structure.

Motion: ***That Jeff Black and Jonathan McClelland serve as co-chairs.***

Moved Ernie, seconded Steven. Carried

Motion: ***That Ron Furlong serve as Secretary / Treasurer.***

Moved Mac, seconded Jeff. Carried

Motion: ***That Mac, Steven and Matthew are reconfirmed as Directors.***

Moved Ron, seconded Ernie. Carried

Item 5 – Closing Comments Kevin thanked everyone for participating and remarked on the quality of discussion at the meeting.

Next Meeting – First week of December, Dec. 7th at 7pm location (TBA)

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm