

**ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009
Thursday, April 23rd: 3:45 – 5:30 p.m.
MINUTES**

1) Call To Order

- President calls the meeting to order at approximately 4:10 p.m.

2) Members and Proxies

- The President called upon the Registrar who noted that there were 61 members in attendance and that 43 proxies had been received in the name of the President or Vice-President, and a further 14 in the name of other members, most of whom were present. He noted that 40 Members, combined total, were needed for a quorum.

3) President's Remarks

- The President welcomed members, and noted that guests were welcome, however, only members might vote during the meeting.
- The President noted that The Annual Report for the previous fiscal year with all reports and the audited financial statements were posted on the Website for Members and printed copies were distributed with the agenda. Page references were provided on the Agenda (*and are shown in these minutes*).

4) In Memoriam

- The President noted the (12) members who we had learned passed away since the last Annual Meeting, then asked for a moment of silence in their memory:

• Garnet W. Bell	• G. Cameron Bell	• William R. Bunting
• Peter J. Hare	• John H. Hope	• Donald D. Lockhart
• David V Love	• William H. Mills	• James M. Taylor
• Murray G. Taylor	• R James Quirt	• Cy J.R. Wilde

5) Recognition of New Members:

- The President asked those in attendance who had joined OPFA since the 2008 AGM, to stand and introduce themselves. 2 Members did so and were welcomed with a round of applause.

6) Approval of Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting pages 20 - 28

- The President noted that the minutes were posted in draft on the website shortly after last year's meeting and are in the printed annual report.
- In response to a request from the President, it was

Moved by Michael Willick, RPF, Seconded by David McGowan RPF:

“that the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting be approved as presented”

Carried

7) 2008 Resolution Update:

- Only one resolution was passed at the 2008 AGM and subsequently considered by Council; pages 25 & 26

“Resolution 2008-01

Moved: Bob Elliott, R.P.F. Seconded: Susan Jarvis, R.P.F.

“Whereas Council created a working group to develop a realistic program of Quality Assurance to support the maintenance of professional competence, and

Whereas the considerations of the group have led to significant consultation with the membership over the past year, and

Whereas the Group have now proposed such a program, but recommends only approval of the “Next Step”,

“Be it resolved that Council give consideration to implementing the Next Step recommended by the Group:

- 1) Rather than moving next to CE audit, the next step would involve:

 - a) Documenting one’s Personal Practice Focus, which will be recommended but voluntary in 2008, and mandatory by the end of 2009.*
 - b) The optional document format, guide and examples will be available as soon as practical, but no later than the start of 2009.*
 - c) Provisional membership and early identification of sponsors for new candidates is recommended immediately and mandatory for new graduates after the 2009 AGM.**
- 2) Action to improve Member information about CE opportunities will be given early attention.*

Carried (with no dissent or abstention)

The President noted that Council accepted the report and the thrust of the resolution at its June meeting. The Committee’s report and the resolution, unanimously supported at one of the best attended AGMs in memory, were reported in the Professional Foresters Newsletter and in the Fall Seminars. During fall discussions, further suggestions were made by Members. A new Competency Support standing committee was struck to replace both the Competency Working Group and the Continuing Education Committee.

While timing had slipped from that sought in the resolution, the Committee held its first meeting in January 2009.

Committee Chair Bob Elliott briefly described the work of the Competency Support Committee.

Reports:

President Carl Corbett then noted that all reports were in the printed and posted Annual Report. As time was relatively tight he sought the concurrence of those present to consider the first four reports together.

Moved by Susan Jarvis, RPF, Seconded by Michael Young, RPF:

that the following four reports be accepted as presented.

Carried

8) **President's Report**

page 3

9) **Report of Registrar & Executive Director**

page 5

10)

a) **Report of the Finance Committee**

page 19

b) **Auditors Report & Financial Statements**

pages 30- 39.

c) **Appointment of Association Auditor For The Year Ending November 30th, 2009**

- The President called for a motion

Moved by Rick Monzon, RPF, Seconded by Richard Macnaughton, RPF:

that Ed Girardi C.A. be appointed as Auditor for the Association for the year ending November 30th, 2009.

Carried

11) Ratification of Actions of Council

- The President called for a motion

Moved by Tim Reese, RPF, Seconded by Ed Tear, RPF:

that all acts, contracts, By-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the Council and officers of the Association since the last Annual meeting of the Association to the date hereof, as the same are set out or referred to in the minutes of the Council, or in the financial statements submitted to this meeting, be and the same are hereby ratified, approved, sanctioned and confirmed"

Carried

12) Fee Schedule 2009/2010

- The President called for a motion

Moved by Bob Elliott, RPF, Seconded by Stan Phippen, RPF:

that the Current Fee Schedule as fixed by Council and approved at the Annual Meeting in 2004, be ratified for the next year.

Carried

The President noted that this would mean a sixth year without an increase.

13)Committee Reports

The President then asked if those assembled again would concur with an collective motion to accept the Committee reports..

Moved by Martin Litchfield, RPF, Seconded by Fred Dewsbury, RPF:

That the following 7 reports be accepted as presented.

Carried

- | | |
|---|---------|
| a) Recognition and Awards | page 8 |
| b) Registration Committee | page 9 |
| c) Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board (CFAB) | page 11 |
| d) Continuing Education | page 13 |
| e) Editorial Board | page 14 |
| f) Competency Maintenance Working Group | page 15 |
| g) Website Committee | page 17 |

h) Urban Forestry Committee

President Carl Corbett recognized John Cary who noted that there had been no activity by the committee during fiscal 2008, but that the Committee was now getting reinvigorated. He read a draft statement by the Committee reflecting the importance of Urban Forestry. (*appended*).

14)Resolutions

- The President noted that we have asked for Resolutions to be submitted in advance of the Annual Conference so we can do any relevant research, though currently, this is not required. Councillors Jeff Barton, RPF and Brian Kurikka had been asked to collect written Resolutions. One had been submitted well in advance of the AGM and another was submitted earlier that day.
- The Councillors read each resolution , noting the mover and seconder,

Res 2009-1: Electronic Seal

Moved by Dave Legg, RPF #1572

Seconded by Susan Jarvis, RPF #1294

Whereas the Ministry of Natural Resources forest management planning process now requires electronic submission of Forest Management Plans, Annual Work Schedules, Annual Reports, Forest Operation Prescriptions, Revisions and Amendments, etc.; and

Whereas the forest industry is evolving to centralized forest management planning, the OPFA should proceed to allow the use of electronic RPF and Associate RPF seals,

Be it resolved that Council give consideration to conditions applicable for the use of an electronic seal and any relevant control methods, such as, but not limited to:

- *A "Delegation of Use" form must be signed by both the R.P.F. and the user of the electronic seal,*
- *Electronic seal must include the statement:
" This electronic seal is applied with approval of the R.P.F.,.*
- *Electronic seal must be accompanied by an electronic signature of the R.P.F.,*
- *Electronic seal must be in a secure document format, such as PDF or JPG.*
- *Foresters remain responsible for the use of their seal".*

After brief discussion, a vote was called and the resolution was **Carried**

Res 2009-2: Advocacy on Misinformation

Moved by Tom Griffiths R.P.F.

Seconded by Bob Elliott R.P.F.

Whereas sustainable forest management practised in Ontario provides well paying jobs, improves forest health and sequesters carbon dioxide, and

Whereas there are numerous well funded organizations lobbying against sustainable forest management in Ontario, and

Whereas two resolutions (2007-1 and 200 7-5) were approved at the OPPA AGM in 200 respecting advocacy, and

Whereas The Professional Foresters Act. 2000. under Object 7 documents the promotion of public awareness of the role of the Association and to communicate with the public on behalf of its members.

Be it resolved that Council give consideration to implementing an advocacy programme to respond in a timely manner to inaccurate public statements concerning sustainable forest management and/or professional forestry (reactive) and to identify public issues and develop statements that represent the position of the OPFA (proactive),

There was extensive discussion on the topic, Among the matters raised were:

- That the noted earlier resolutions had been discussed by Council and Advocacy was a major topic for Council at mot of its next year of meetings.
- The resolution and topic were also discussed at the Fall seminars in 2007, with no consensus emerging.
- Members were divided on the appropriate role for a regulatory body such as OPFA, particularly regarding taking positions.
- CIF is taking positions effectively and quickly by forming small teams with expertise to develop and issue statements.

- Encourage individual members or groups to take positions, but not wanting the regulator speaking for them.
- Others suggested that OPFA should support CIF and possibly OFA in this regard.
- There is a difference between correcting errors of fact and debating appropriateness of particular practices.
- The Association needed to stay away from the controversial.
- Several possible amendments were discussed, and subjected to “straw vote”. Finally an amendment was:

Moved by Dave McGowan R.P.F. and seconded by Mike Willick R.P.F.

The amendment was carried and the revised Resolution presented for a vote.

Resolution 2009-02: Advocacy on Misinformation (as amended)

Whereas sustainable forest management practiced in Ontario provides well paying jobs, improves forest health and sequesters carbon dioxide, and

Whereas there are numerous well funded organizations lobbying against sustainable forest management in Ontario

Whereas two resolutions (2007-1 and 200 7-5) were approved at the OPFA AGM in 200 respecting advocacy, and

Whereas The Professional Foresters Act. 2000. under Object 7 documents the promotion of public awareness of the role of the Association and to communicate with the public on behalf of its members.

Be it resolved that Council give consideration to implementing an advocacy program to respond in a timely manner by correcting misinformation in public statements concerning sustainable forest management and/or professional forestry (reactive), and

in addition, Council should consider opportunities to move to a more active role in advocacy.

Carried

15)Ontario Professional Forestry Foundation

Paul McAllister the current Chair was unable to be here; he had asked Tony Jennings as OPFF Treasurer to report briefly on Foundation activities:

- *Reduced Registration for Students attending the OPFA Annual Conference.*
- *A Contribution towards Lakehead University 4th year Forestry Students attending the CIF Conference and visiting Forestry operations in New Brunswick.*
- *A Contribution toward the cost of the Forestry Student Symposium at Lakehead University.*
- *Assistance with a new educational activity to be announced at the banquet this evening.*

This is an information matter. Technically, the Foundation is a separate body. No motion is requested from the OPFA

16) Other Business

- The President inquired if there was any other business for discussion.

17) 2010 Annual Conference

The President announced that the 2010 Annual Conference would be held at the Best Western in Pembroke next April 14-16.

Secretary’s note: The Venue in Pembroke was subsequently changed

18) Acknowledgements 2009 Annual conference

- The President acknowledged the support of sponsors and exhibitors in difficult times, acknowledging particularly the support of the Ministry
- He then notes the excellent organization and hard work of the volunteers on the 2009 Annual Conference Committee,:

Ed Tear, RPF

Peter Street, RPF

(C0-Chairs)

Sarah Bros, RPF

Paul Fantin, RPF

Marc Hebert, RPF

Matt Holland, RPF

Gordon King, RPF

Marc Nellis, RPF

Beth Litchfield, RPF

Martin Litchfield, RPF

Judy Sewell, RPF

Don Mark

- A small token was provided for each of them.

19) Adjournment

- President Carl Corbett called for a motion – “that the 2009 Annual General Meeting be adjourned”.

Carried

April 16th, 2009

TO: The Urban Forestry Committee and to the members of the Association at the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

RE: Statement on the Importance of Urban Forestry to the Practice of Professional Forestry

Urban forestry is a distinct practice requiring the skills of professional foresters, in collaboration with other professions including engineers, planners, arborists and landscape architects. Often, the urban forester encounters, especially in the context of municipal work, local representatives, advocacy and volunteer groups. Historically, in Ontario the significance of urban forests within the profession of forestry has been overshadowed by the immensity and challenges of managing Crown land forests. Urban foresters, however, continued to develop and hone their craft.

There is now a rapidly growing awareness of the importance of urban and peri-urban forests (i.e. forests in settled landscapes) to the sustainability of Ontario society. These forests and their benefits are increasingly recognized by the growing majority of Ontarians, over 80% of whom who live in towns and cities mainly in the southern area of the province but also in northern cities such as Thunder Bay and Sudbury.

For example, i-Tree, developed by the United States Forest Service, quantified the annual ecological services provided by trees within the Town of Oakville at \$2.1 million. Organizations such as International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives are leading municipal efforts to reduce their carbon footprint and are now beginning to seek assistance from urban foresters to help recognize best practices to optimize the contribution of the urban forest in municipal Climate Action Plans for communities in North America.

The Ontario Professional Foresters Act 2000 defines urban forestry and refers to the role of urban foresters. It is now time for the Ontario Professional Foresters Association to recognize the unique skills of urban foresters, to do more to support and promote the professional practice of urban forestry, and to recognize that by doing so the Association is striving to serve the provincial public interest.

Presented by John Cary RPF on behalf of Anne Koven, Chair, Urban Forestry Committee.