



**Minutes
Trees for Minto
Thursday January 26, 2017**

Attendance: Jared James, Paul Judge, George Bridge, Bert von Westerholt, Melvin Steckle, Rob Johnson, Erin Dolmage, Terry Fisk, Edwin Martin, Paul Martin and Annilene McRobb,
Absent: Ron Faulkner, Earl Schneider, Mark Van Patter and Jonas Martin

1. Call to Order Chair Jared James called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - a) Minutes of August 17, 2016

MOTION:

Moved by: George Bridge

Seconded by: Melvin Steckle

THAT the Minutes of the August 17, 2016 meeting be accepted.

Carried

3. Reports
Introduction of Paul Judge

Chair James introduced Paul Judge who was hired last Spring as the Town Landscape Care Coordinator for the eight months and then expanded to a full time position to assist with Trees for Minto, Community Gardens, Trails Committee, Horticultural Societies as well as snow removal. Mayor Bridge stated that he will be doing the organization of the groups and adds value to the table and will be at all of the meetings and will be assisting the Chair. Green Legacy will work with Judge on tree stock that may be required for the Town.

2016 Expenditures and 2017 Budget

There were very low expenditures last year. Committee paid to bus CELP students to planting property, water for school children planting and signs placed on properties where trees were planted. Chair James suggested some people have shown an interest in fruit and nut trees. Rob Johnson stated that he could get them at a low cost and we could pass the savings onto those in Minto.

Mayor Bridge stated that the trail from Harriston to Palmerston should be open this year once the walking bridge will be replaced; the Committee will look at planting fruit trees along the trail.

Rob Johnson suggested agroforestry demonstrations, agriculture incorporating the cultivation and conservation of trees, walnut trees are the best. Hazelnuts are also great and sell quickly.

Mapping will be completed of where trees were planted by the Committee so we can keep an inventory and note how many survive.

Committee discussed running an event similar to the Open House in 2014 in order to get more information out to the rural public on tree planting, living snow fences, agroforestry and how to maintain your trees.

Erin can provide a speaker on tree management for this event, Rob will be able to speak to agroforestry and living snow fences and information will be provided on how to get trees for free or low cost. The committee may wish to invite the Agricultural Incubator Committee to provide information to the public during this event. Dates to consider are April 4th or 5th 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

An information event may be planned for later in the year for all residents of Minto in conjunction with the Trails Committee, Agricultural Incubator and Community Gardens.

April 4th or 5th 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Annilene will provide a draft invitation and look at catering options, invitations will be sent to rural residents only.

Spring Plantings

Fall plantings that were not completed will be done this spring as follows:

Bert Von Westerholt - 1,500 trees for his project are required, Rob Johnson and Erin Dolmage will work with Bert on the trees and CELP will be contact to see if they will assist with the planting.

Earl Schneider- Paul Judge will contact Earl to discuss the plan for spring planting

Melvin Steckle -will let Rob Johnson know what he would like for trees and will plant himself

Robin Ross- Jared James will contact Robin to discuss plans for planting, may be able to have a local Mennonite school assist with the planting.

Roundtable Discussions

Committee discussed bringing fruit trees into the urban area as part of a beautification of the towns. Tree crops are an interest to many, Jared James noted he would host an area on his farm with nut trees, Dr. Fisk also stated he would have land available for tree crops.

Members will look more closely at what programs we can offer with our yearly funding to be discussed next meeting.

Next meeting

March 16th 2017 7 pm at the office

Meeting Adjourned 8:53 pm