



**Minutes
Trees for Minto
Thursday November 23, 2017**

Attendance: Jared James, Paul Judge, Melvin Steckle, Terry Fisk, Edwin Martin, Paul Martin, Judy Dirksen, Annilene McRobb, Sarah Fleischhauer and Rob Johnson
Absent: Bert von Westerholt, Linda Redmond, George Bridge, Ron Faulkner and Jonas Martin

1. Review June 8, 2017 Minutes

Called to order at 7:12 p.m.

Members reviewed the June 8, 2017 Committee Minutes.

MOTION

Moved by: Melvin Steckle

Seconded by: Judy Dirksen

THAT the minutes of the June 8, 2017 Committee Minutes be accepted as presented.

Carried

2. 2017 Tree Distribution

Sarah requested confirmation on the process for requests for trees. Rob stated that Annilene forwards information to both Green Legacy and Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.

The Trees for Minto do an open house and advertise in the paper, information goes in the tax newsletter and on Social Media. We have sent out mailers without much success.

The fruit trees were a great success and if we offer more trees next year we will get more interest

The committee reviewed the tree distribution in the Town of Minto for 2017 a total of 9,715.

Paul Judge noted that the fruit trees for the town were planted along the trails with some in the parks and community gardens.

3. Hazel Nut Trees Demo site

Rob Johnson noted that wholesale cost would be about \$5-\$6 per seedling. There are different types to choose from but for this area we would want the ones that were developed for this zone.

The nuts usually sell \$3.50 a lb in shell some places sell them \$8 a lb in shell. About 2000 pounds per acre can be produced. Approximately 300 trees per acre would cost close to \$2,000 to complete plus site work required. It is 3 years to produce the first nuts, 5 years to start a yield and 10 years for optimum yield. There are different harvesting techniques for the hazelnuts.

There is a new program through Norwell called LEAF that may wish to assist with the work of the orchard.

Trees for crops are a part of the Trees for Minto, not just windbreaks and living snow fences, a part of the sustainable agriculture, by creating models that show different types of farming. Two highest crop yielding trees are chestnuts and hazelnuts, chestnuts prefer sandy soil for growing and there are economic benefits to tree crops.

We will still continue working on getting more wind breaks and living snow fences.

Rob will send information to the committee with the actual cost and what is required for preparation for planting and caring for these trees.

4. Financial Update 2017 Expenditures and 2018 Budget

Annilene presented the 2017 expenditures and 2018 Budget, noting an increase in revenue for 2018 being proposed from the FIT 4 Solar Revenue.

MOTION:

Moved by Rob Johnson

Seconded by: Paul Judge

That the 2018 Trees for Minto budget plan be accepted as presented.

Carried

5. Roundtable Discussions

Jared James noted that we can discuss how we would use our budget once it has been set at our next meeting. If we wish to order more fruit trees, what is the date we would like to have to order Annilene asked if members would consider joining the Minto Trails Committee to have a Trees and Trails committee instead of two separate committees. Members felt it was not a good fit, but would gladly attend a yearly meeting with the Trails committee to discuss any overlapping items.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held February 1, 2017

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.