

Minutes: NANPS AGM

October 29th, 2022, 1- 3pm - online meeting via Zoom

Natasha Gonsalves welcomed members, read the land acknowledgement and introduced the Zoom functions.

Quorum was established using the thumbs-up icon in Zoom.

The 2022 AGM agenda was reviewed. Moved by Natasha, that the agenda be approved. *Carried.*

The 2021 AGM meeting minutes were reviewed. Moved by Natasha, that the minutes be approved. *Carried.*

Financial Report: Blair Marik, on behalf of the board, introduced our auditor, Jeffrey Milgram. Jeffrey presented the Financial Statements for the year ending Dec 31, 2021.

- He noted that revenue was up significantly in 2021 compared to 2020. In 2020 COVID had impacted revenue as the plant sales were cancelled
- In 2021, the Ontario Trillium Fund grant increased our revenue
- Donations were consistent at \$11k per year
- There was a slight increase in membership revenue and minimal change in interest and other revenues
- Moved by Blair, to accept the 2021 Financial Statements. *Carried*
- Moved by Blair to approve Jeffrey Milgram as auditor for the coming year. *Carried*

Changes to the board: Alice Kong thanked outgoing board members for their contributions and hard work; Jason Bernardon, Dilys Bowman, Atena Keshavarzian and Heather Crochetiere.

- Jason has been on the board for 5 years and on the land management committee
- Dilys has been on the board for 4 years as well as several committees, and served as Secretary
- Atena has been on the board for 4 years and had interest in volunteer coordination
- Heather has been on the board for 2 years and had interest in strategic planning and fundraising

Current and continuing board members are Natasha Gonsalves, Janice Keil, Alice Kong, Blair Marik and Lynn Wu.

Alice introduced Adam Centurione, John Foster and Katie MacDonald, to be voted as new board members by NANPS membership.

- Adam has studied at Fleming and Trent University with an interest in plant restoration ecology and is currently at TRCA
- John is a long-term member, botanist, photographer and teacher with experience in a number of other boards
- Katie studied at the School of Geography and Environmental Studies at Ryerson University and has had a number of related jobs in the environment field

Moved by Alice, that the new/current board slate be accepted. *Carried.*

Year in Review

The Year in Review was presented by Lynn Wu. It included NANPS accomplishments since our last AGM with details about membership, Seedex, plant sales, webinars, fundraising, e-newsletter, social media and the video garden contest. A few highlights:

- We had two spring plant sales, at Toronto Botanical Garden and Christie Pits Park
- We are just beginning to return to in person events, with an info table at the Garden Club of Toronto symposium on October 22
- We continued to sponsor one youth for the 2022 Youth summit hosted by Ontario Nature
- On September 27, 2022 we received a grant from TD Friends of the Environment for \$15,350. This grant will be used to host 2 webinars in winter 2023 and to create educational materials including a video, pdf and a PowerPoint
- We had two webinars this year: *Canada's Wild Seeds: Growing our Biological Gold* with Melissa Spearing on Thursday Feb. 16, 2022, and *Collecting and Cultivating Native Plant Seeds* with Paul Heydon on Thursday April 13, 2022
- Thank you to the McLean Foundation for the grant that we received in September 2021. This and partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation allowed us to host the 2 webinars mentioned above, as well as create 3 videos in the series *How to Create a Native Plant Garden from start to finish*
- Happy to share video #2 in our series - it is 3 minutes long

Discussion about NANPS properties, particularly the possibility to sell Shining Tree Woods to Long Point Basin Land Trust

A poll was performed about attendees' knowledge of NANPS' two properties: 28% know a lot, 56% somewhat, 16% have no knowledge of the properties

Harold Smith gave an introduction to the history of the two properties

- Shining Tree Woods
 - Carolinian Forest in Norfolk County
 - Purchased in 1994, 50 acres which includes 35.6 provincially significant habitat of endangered species, and 13 acres of provincially significant area of life science
 - This property has the highest concentration of cucumber tree magnolia in Canada, as well as some other species in this area
 - Challenges - garlic mustard, an invasive plant – the last removal attempt was in 2009. Also brush is taking over open areas impeding light needed for regeneration of saplings
- Zinkan Island Cove
 - On the Bruce Peninsula
 - Purchased in 2003, 12 acres
 - It has alvars, which is found in very few, most species rich habitats

The attendees' discussion was facilitated by Janice Keil and Harold Smith.

- Managing conservation of properties is not a NANPS strength. Should we consider selling or donating the properties to another organization or First Nation, whose focus is conservation and whose location is closer to the properties? Or develop a partnership? NANPS can then focus on other initiatives

- A few possibilities were mentioned including Long Point Basin Land Trust or the Mississauga of the Credit (for STW) and Cape Croker First Nations (for ZIC)
- There were quite a few questions and comments
 - What does 'taking care of the properties' mean
 - Would we need to consult with Land Trust Alliance
 - The properties have interpretation potential
 - Restrictions on future use of the property

How to best move forward - we will post on social media and our website for future updates and consultations.

Discussion about NANPS forming a public advocacy strategy for naturalized gardens in the wake of bylaw infractions and the climate crisis

The attendees' discussion was facilitated by Janice Keil

- There have been a number of news articles around transforming lawns to native gardens and the challenge of municipal by-laws. NANPS has not had a formal advocacy policy. We are currently sharing specific articles on social media as approved by board members
- Some comments during the discussion
 - Reach out to other organizations to partner on messaging
 - Develop a policy, consider setting a committee
 - Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO.on.ca) might be a helpful group to contact to get a handle on the nuances of provincial vs municipal jurisdiction
 - Provide lobbying tools to have by-laws updated
 - Nina-Marie Lister's bylaw presentation: <https://vimeo.com/522500495>
 - Toronto offers grants for native plant gardens through PollinateTO

Garden Video Contest: Adam Centurione presented the recipients of the awards. Their videos were played.

- Novice gardens
 - First prize: Adding pollinator habitat - 2-year-old garden - Mark
 - Second prize: My first native garden - Lina
 - Third prize: Balcony garden - Marika
- Experienced gardens
 - First prize: Food forest - Fiona, Clyde and Nimkii
 - Second prize: Love letter to native plants - Kimberlee
 - Third prize: 6-year-old garden - Matt

Closing remarks were made by Natasha Gonsalves. She thanked all attendees for their engagement and feedback - more to come on our discussions.

- Upcoming - webinars in 2023:
 - January 2023 - Making Gorgeous Pollinator Gardens.
 - March 2023 - tbd
- Other items
 - NANPS is looking for volunteers and board members - please reach out
 - The upcoming Giving Tuesday will be on November 29, 2022

Moved by Natasha Gonsalves, that the meeting be adjourned. *Carried*