

MINUTES of the Executive of Canadian Shield Regional Council held on March 25, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT: Kathie Smith (Chair), Barb Nott, Helen Smith, Joy Galloway, Stewart Walker, John Watson, Dave Le Grand, Maxine McVey, Christina Stricker, Jim Jackson, Judith Visser

STAFF: Peter Hartmans, Susan Whitehead, Melody, Will, Rob, Lillian

Kathie Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting of Executive. The CSRC Staff joined Executive for this meeting.

Kathie honoured the traditional lands upon which we meet with the following words:

“The lands where we gather today have been places of gathering for First Nations people as they camped and travelled across the land for generations beyond our knowing. Before people arrived from across the seas, these Nations lived, loved, raised children and made a living. They lived in harmony with all that the Creator had made. As we gather today, we recognize those traditional sojourners in this land. We give thanks for them and for the lands on which we meet. We acknowledge that our history has come at a great cost to the aboriginal community and we commit ourselves to be partners in healing and reconciliation with understanding and intention.”
(Adapted – Acknowledging the Land, 2016)

Kathie then read the CSRC safe space statement:

The Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive seeks to be a safe place for all people to gather and participate in the life and work of the Regional Council regardless of age, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender identity. In this space, all are welcome.

Peter lit a Christ Candle and led Executive in worship.

CHECK-IN

Executive and Staff took time to do a check-in with each other amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by John Watson/Christina Stricker

2020-03-25-01

That the agenda for the meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

COVID-19 UPDATE

Peter gave Executive an update about what has been happening in the Region re: COVID-19. The primary modes of communication for the Region continue to be the website, MailChimp, and the Facebook page. Peter cautioned about sending out too much in order to avoid information saturation, and therefore, we are giving a balance of information.

Staff are working from home and the CSRC offices are closed (except when only one person is going in).

2020 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING CONVERSATION (CHECK-IN)

Chairs of Worship Team – Questions

Maxine shared some questions that the Worship and Music Planning Team had. It was decided that the 2020 RC Meeting Planning Team and Worship Team would answer those questions at their meeting on April 1st, 2020 before the Executive meeting.

Chair of Planning Team Check-in

Barb reported that a decision about postponing the 2020 RC Meeting has not been made yet. One idea was to wait until the end of April to make the decision. Executive and Staff had a fulsome discussion.

Peter stated that unlike other Regional Councils, we are not in the position that we will lose money (deposits, etc.) if we do not cancel now. Our situation is different in that Barb believes that the hotels, caterer, St. Andrew's UC, and Pete's Rental will not have a problem deferring. She will report back to the April 1, 2020 Executive meeting with more details. Peter indicated that if the decision needed to be made today, he would have no problem postponing.

Barb stated that if we were to postpone until the fall, the meeting might happen on the last weekend of September or the first weekend of October before Thanksgiving. Peter cautioned that we have some staff overlap with the Shining Waters Regional Council and their meeting is being held on the weekend of October 16th, 2020. There will need to be at least a two-week stretch between the two meetings.

Peter asked staff to give their input regarding postponing the meeting. Will put the idea forth of cancelling the 2020 RC Meeting entirely and having it next year at this time. He suggested that we take the money budgeted for the meeting and use it for emergency funding for communities of faith.

Melody felt that since advertising has not gone out for the youth event in Sudbury on the May long weekend, there is no immediate need to cancel anything. She will keep Executive updated.

Lillian indicated that Mardi Tindal was coming as the guest speaker to the MP Retreat before the RC Meeting in Sudbury. She has booked her flight already but Lillian feels it won't cost much to change the flight to a new date. Mardi will let Lillian know if she is available in late September/early October. Lillian will be retired at that point but is willing to come back and host the retreat in the fall if needed.

Another suggestion was that we could do an online meeting so that people could at least meet online – either in June or September/October.

Executive decided to think about it for the next week and to make a decision about postponing at the April 1, 2020 Executive meeting next week.

EXECUTIVE RETREAT/MEETING IN MAY

Peter reiterated that this meeting in Sudbury for Executive is cancelled. Susan will call Villa Loyola to discuss alternate times the venue will be available.

EMERGENCY FUNDING

Peter suggested it might be prudent to access reserves to create a fund for emergencies for communities of faith. Janet explained that a Non-Performing Loan is one that has no interest and has no immediate need to be paid off. If a community of faith is having trouble paying off the loan, the loan repayment could be postponed and would then be paid off only if the church closes or amalgamates in the future. Melody stated that in the Grants Resource Team meeting yesterday, the discussion touched on the fact that the community of faith must have exhausted all other means of funding before approaching the Regional Council for this kind of loan.

MOTION: Dave Le Grand/Stewart Walker 2020-03-25-02
That the Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive create an emergency fund of \$100,000 for Non-Performing Loans for communities of faith affected by COVID-19, with \$50,000 coming from the camping fund and \$50,000 from the general fund and that the Grants Resource Team create the parameters of receiving Non-Performing Loans of up to \$5,000, after accessing all other sources of funding.
CARRIED

HIRING TEAM FOR PRC MINISTER POSITION

Peter indicated that a hiring team will need to be established to fill the vacant job for the Pastoral Relations Minister position when Lillian retires in July 2020.

There was consensus that the CSRC Executive approve of a hiring team consisting of Peter Hartmans, Will Kunder, and Jim Jackson, giving Peter permission to recruit 2 more team members that are Ministry Personnel (possibly female for gender balance).

NEXT MEETING DATE:

- April 1, 2020 – Zoom Meeting 1:30 – 3:00
- TBD if post-poned - June 5-7, 2020 – RC Meeting at St. Andrew's UC - Sudbury

CLOSING

Peter closed with prayer and Kathie adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.