

# ACRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS MINUTES

April 14, 2022

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm



## **Present:**

### **Board of Directors:**

Stephen Woodley, President  
Gord Hill, Secretary  
Heather Barma, Director  
Stéphan Moresoli, Director  
Bronwyn Rayfield, Director  
Olaf Jensen, Director  
Claire Miquet: Nominated Director  
Gary Fehr: Nominated Director

32 Members Present via Zoom Conference Call

Minutes prepared by Gord Hill

**See the attached PowerPoint Presentation document to AGM**



ACRE Presentation  
to AGM - April 14-20

## **1. Introduction to Meeting**

Stephen Woodley opened the meeting by reviewing the proposed agenda.

## **2. Background of ACRE**

Stephen reviewed the history and background of ACRE - we have 22 years of engagement in Chelsea. We are a charitable non-profit organization currently with 201 members from the community. We have a website and recently developed an online payment platform.

ACRE has four priority areas:

- conservation of nature
- develop environmental dimensions of public policy with municipalities
- public education and awareness
- environmental science-based information provider for the community

### **3. ACRE AGM 2021**

Stephen reminded the AGM that at the 2021 AGM, the membership had ratified increasing the maximum number of directors to 9. The Members also agreed to a longer dialogue on Lettres Patent and Bylaws amendments.

### **4. Report on ACRE Activities 2021**

Stephen provided an update on ACRE's seven properties and future land acquisition projects.

A big success for ACRE was working with the Municipality to re-install a culvert to enable a wetland to survive in the Cascades Area. Conservation and restoration Work is also continuing on the Eco-Rubin 37 acres of forest, creek valley and fields.

ACRE also had much success collaborating with a number of agencies, organizations, community groups and the Minnes family for the recent purchase of the 100 ACRE Wood. See page 17 of the attached document for all the fantastic support of the community and our partners to make this all happen. We are very thankful to everyone.

Carolyn Farquhar did a presentation on the great work of the Stewardship Committee and volunteers for the Forêt aux étangs. The Stewardship Committee has been established, many hours of volunteer community involvement is happening, trail restoration work by volunteers is being done, a kick off celebration occurred, signage has been installed, an application has been submitted for reserve status, the Committee has engaged in communication activities, and there is more exciting work to come in this huge success by the Forêt aux étangs Stewardship Committee. See the attached notes

by Carolyn on the great work being done by the Stewardship Committee.



Carolyn Farquhar  
Stewardship Commi

Stephen reviewed the next hopeful possible purchase by ACRE of 70 acres of land known as the Forêt Jolicœur-McMartin. To date, ACRE has raised 71% in pledges towards the \$950,000 of funding required to make this transfer to ACRE happen.

In addition to being thankful for all the above work and generosity of so many, ACRE thanks Jos Woods, Relator, Century 21 and Megan Throop, Notary for the time, effort and professional support they provided ACRE pro bono to assist ACRE in its land purchases.

See the attached document for additional information on all the exciting land acquisition and management work being done by ACRE and our partners.

## **5. Chelsea Municipal Master Plan**

Allyson presented a summary of the Municipal Master Plan which aims to:

- protect 30% of Chelsea natural areas, outside of Gatineau Park, by 2030;.
- prioritize key biodiversity areas & ecological connectivity;.
- developing a strategy to become carbon neutral by 2035.
- considering proposals for new zoning and bylaws that includes a conservation land use zone, ecological corridor land use zone, better protecting ecological integrity in undeveloped rural zones, habitat protection, connectivity
- site planning and architectural integration program' new bylaw

ACRE is continuing to engage and provide comments on the development and implementation of the Plan.

## **6. Alliance pour la transition climatique de Chelsea**

Allyson did a presentation on ACREs engagement with the Tamarack Community Climate Transitions organization. This involves 20 communities across Canada, a 10 month program with monthly workshops, resources for developing a fair climate transition pathway and will be an opportunity for collaboration between ACRE and the municipality.

## **7. ACRE's Financial Statements**

Stephen presented ACRE's Financial status to the Members. He reviewed the financial statements found at pages 27 to 29 of the attached document. There was a vote of members and the financial statements were approved by the membership,

There were also discussions on whether the financial statements should be audited by a professional. While this has not been necessary in the past, as ACRE has transitioned into a land trust organization and is dealing with significant funds, there was general agreement that ACRE should be preparing auditing financial statements in at least some of the the years to come.

## 8. Director Positions

The members voted in favour of the following nominees to be directors of ACRE in 2022:

- **Heather Barna** - consultant biologist and former planner with a national land trust. Current board member working on land trust issues.
- **Gary Fehr** - Human resource business consultant with experience as treasurer for the Cascades club.
- **Gord Hill** - Lawyer working on environmental issues. Current Secretary of the Board, also leading on bylaws and letters patent amendments.
- **Olaf Jensen** - biologist and protected area professional. Current board member and Land Trust Director
- **Claire Miquet** -international development: environmental policy & assessment experience.
- **Stephan Moresoli** - surveyor and geomatics specialist. Current board member working on membership, website and geomatics issues.
- **Allyson Quinlan** - conservation scientist working on sustainability issues globally. Current Board member working on ACRE's input to the Chelsea Master Plan.
- **Bronwyn Rayfield** - conservation scientist working on ecological connectivity. Current board member working on land trust issues.

- **Stephen Woodley** - conservation scientist working internationally on protected areas. Current President of the Board.

## **9. Amendments to Supplementary Letters Patent and By-Laws.**

Gord Hill presented the current status of the amendments to ACRE's constituting documents. As more time is required to complete consultations with interested Members and make any necessary adjustments, the vote by members to ratify the proposed amended documents will be put over to a Special General Meeting of Members - likely in May or June 2022.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 PM.

# Annex “A” to ACRE 2022 AGM Minutes

## Carolyn Farquhar, Forêt aux étangs Stewardship Committee - Notes on Slides in Presentation to AGM

### Slide 1

The Stewardship Committee (comité citoyens) for Forêt aux étangs was formed one year ago, at ACRE’s 2021 AGM.

Seven members were appointed, and over the past year, we’ve been working on a number of activities to (1) help protect the forest, and (2) to help ensure that people in the community can enjoy their favorite activities in the forest.

We’ve also worked with ACRE’s Board on the number one priority of ensuring that the land is preserved and protected in perpetuity – by registering the land with the Province of Quebec, so that it will be recognized as a “Réserve naturelle”, which is a specific category of Aire Protégée status.

L'un des résultats très positifs de ce travail est que nous disposons un rapport sur les caractéristiques écologiques de la Forêt et une identification actualisée des espèces - flore et faune - que l'on peut trouver dans la forêt. Merci a Lyne Daigle, un membre du comité, pour tous son travail dans la rédaction de ce rapport.

### Three highlights to share:

#### Slide 2

##### Trails/Sentiers

Many of the trails in the forest had become degraded over the years, and some posed safety concerns. Several Stewardship Committee members, along with a group of community volunteers, worked throughout the summer and fall of 2021 to improve and upgrade the trails. A special thank you to Sam Seymour, Lyne Daigle and Jocelyn Audette and our volunteers for their incredible work on the trails.

Our effort focused on making sure that any kind of use of the trails minimizes damage to the forest. When we started last April, twelve areas were identified as needing attention. We completed 75 per cent of that work by the fall. We'll be updating our list of priorities for 2022 in the next few weeks.

### **Slide 3**

#### **Signage**

Two members of the Committee, Jocelyn Audette and myself, have worked with Olaf Jensen to produce signs that will be mounted in key points along the boundary of the forest, for example, at those places where the land directly connects to neighbouring lands.

Voici à quoi ressembleront nos panneaux principaux. Beaucoup d'entre vous ont vu le logo de la Forêt conçu par Terry Brynaert, un résident de la communauté. Les panneaux comportent également le code QR qui amènera les gens au site Internet d'ACRE afin d'en savoir davantage sur ACRE et son travail.

The Forêt has several neighbours that own large properties with trails directly connecting to Forêt aux étangs. To the south - they are private individuals - and to the north (the Municipality of Chelsea). We have been working with these landowners on common issues of ecological protection, access to trails and providing information to the community, and are also engaged with Heather MacDonald of Sentiers Chelsea.

### **Slide 4**

#### **Communication**

Throughout the fundraising phase and the land purchase process, we had very good interest from the community. Once the Committee was formed, we wanted to keep people up-to-date on the work that we were doing -- and maintain an open line with the community regarding volunteer interests, issues related to the land, and so on. One of our first tasks was to ask the community to help find a name for the land - Forêt aux étangs

Early on, we used social media and emails; those evolved to a Newsletter (we produced one in May and one in November). We plan to work with ACRE's website manager, Stephan Moresoli, to ensure that everyone can access good information about this land: the forest itself and its ecological characteristics, guidelines about the trails and their use, and information about how to contact the Stewardship Committee, so that we can be a ready resource for any community questions/ concerns.

Pour terminer, un grand merci à tous les membres de comité citoyens et nombreux bénévoles dans notre communauté qui ont donné plusieurs heures, créativité et passion pour la forêt.