

**Muskoka Pride Community - Annual General Meeting
October 28th 2021 6:00PM
Location – Virtually via Zoom**

MINUTES

Present: Shawn Forth, Merv Taylor, Greg Titus, Julie Alexander, Paul Finley, Kellie Leeder, Norah Fountain, Glen Yacula, Deb Davies, Mo Oakley

Guests (non-members): none

1. Call to Order@ 6:11
2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the October 28 th 2021 Annual General Meeting Agenda. CARRIED	Norah	Julie

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the minutes of the November 14 th 2021 Annual General Meeting. CARRIED	Kellie	Glen

4. Confirmation of Acts

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
That all contracts, acts, and proceedings by the Directors and Officers of Muskoka Pride Community since the last Annual General Meeting, as set forth and described in the Minutes, be approved, ratified and confirmed. CARRIED	Shawn	Glen

5. Officer's Reports

- President – Merv Taylor-Morin gave a report (appended to the minutes).
- Secretary – Shawn Forth gave a report (appended to the minutes).
- Treasurer – Glen Yacula gave a verbal report.

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To accept the Officers' reports. CARRIED	Kellie	Greg

6. Financial Statements

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
In accordance with Section 76 of the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, the general membership of Muskoka Pride Community motions to not hold an audit or review engagement on its March 31, 2021 financial statement. CARRIED	Norah	Greg

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the unaudited March 31, 2021 Financial Statement CARRIED	Kellie	Julie

7. By-Law Amendments (none in 2021)

There were none.

8. 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Call for nominations to the 2021-2022 Board of Directors for individuals willing to stand for the Board (self-nomination is encouraged)

Nominations (2 Year Term): Shawn Forth, Deb Davies, Sarah Hiscox

Nominations (1 Year Term): Greg Titus

Current Board Members with 1 Year remaining: Merv Taylor-Morin, Glen Yacula,

9. Election

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the 2021-2022 Board of Directors CARRIED	Deb	Greg

10. New Business

A concern was raised by a member, which is to be addressed by the Board of Directors.

11. Adjournment

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To adjourn the October 28 th 2021 Annual General Meeting at	Deb	

President: _____ Secretary: _____

Covid 19 has continued to affect how we do business and celebrate Queer Pride in Muskoka. Once again, our canvassing of local business did not take place. We were able to offset those donations with monies we received in the form of grants and monetary donations. I suggest we request the new board for 2022, sends out Christmas Greetings once again this year to our sponsors to help maintain our connections.

We elected, early in 2021, to officially cancel our larger in person face to face events and gave notice to Huntsville and Bracebridge of that decision.

Flag raisings took place across Muskoka and in Wahta, where all Mayors and band representatives expressed gratitude for the work of Muskoka Pride. While the rainbow flag remains our official flag, this was the first year we used the Progress flag for raisings. Due to the discoveries at residential schools of the remains of children, we wore orange shirts to express/demonstrate our solidarity with indigenous peoples.

The annual golf tournament was a successful event. We purchased new trophies for 2021 and the next 5 years from Awards R Us in Gravenhurst, with year plaques on each trophy. They were well received. New this year was the Muskoka Rainbow Road tour organized by Away we Go Trips. 18 vehicles decked out in their pride finery traversed the highways and back roads of the district.

Drag shows in Memorial Park, Gull Lake Park and Shawn's driveway, were great successes and well attended. We now have three breweries (Sawdust City, Katalyst, & Lake of Bays) wanting to cosponsor beers with Muskoka Pride. Never a better promotion than "Queer" beers.

With the funds from our larger sponsors and grants; we have been able to greatly increase our merchandise stockpile (t-shirts, hats, flags, lapel pins etc). to be used as gifts, prizes, and funding, and repair old and purchase of new equipment this year. We now own a flatbed trailer for use in parades, and a cargo trailer for storage and transportation of our event supplies.

Even with the impact of Covid 19 it has been another successful Muskoka Pride year. Please think about your ability to meet the requirements for a Board position or serve on a standing committee and toss your hat in the ring.

It has been a pleasure and honour to serve Muskoka Queer community.

Merv Taylor-Morin

President and Fundraising Lead

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Covid 19 has affected Muskoka Pride on many levels, including the way we held our meetings. Board meetings were done through Zoom, up until the point we were allowed small in-person gatherings again.

In addition to my role as Secretary, I am also responsible for all Muskoka Pride social media accounts, the Muskoka Pride website, coordinating details of the Pride Week and social events, all grant writing, and overseeing the grant reporting.

Our social media accounts have continued to be active throughout the year, adding followers and responding to inquiries. Across our 3 accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) we have over 5000 followers!

Over the past year, we worked behind the scenes to ensure our website domain was renewed, and that we are now setup via Google for Nonprofits so that we are gradually implementing **@muskokapride** email addresses.

Throughout the year, we have continued our monthly social gatherings. We hold a coffee social in Gravenhurst on the first Friday of the month, a coffee social in Bracebridge on the third Friday, and a youth group in Bracebridge on the second Friday. During the lockdowns, all of these events were held virtually via Zoom. Once gathering limits allowed, the coffee socials moved to outdoor parks in-person, and the youth group began meeting inside in-person in August. These monthly events are important, because they have increased our visibility, have allowed opportunities to network with others in the community, and also provide a regular chance for people new to the community to meet others.

Muskoka Pride had a successful Pride Week, in spite of covid-19 restrictions. For the Drag Shows, there was a huge amount of logistics and paperwork required behind the scenes. We worked with the Towns of Gravenhurst and Bracebridge, and the Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit to ensure the events were safe and met all public guidelines, while also being a wonderful gathering opportunity for our community.

We had two significant grants that have helped Muskoka Pride make it through the past 2 years. The Canadian Experiences Fund (which we often call our "FedNor grant") will expire December 31, 2021. With it we've been able to focus on the long-term sustainability of Muskoka Pride – with the purchase of 2 trailers, new pop-up tents, new merchandise, and new rainbow feather banners. This is also the grant which provided funding for 2 years of MQFF.

We were also extremely thankful to have received a grant each year from Canadian Heritage – through the "Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage" grant. This grant focuses on promoting local festivals, specifically involving local artists and the logistics around a successful festival. We have been able to provide funding to a local theatre production company, and local drag performers through this grant.

It has been an absolute pleasure and a wonderful challenge to serve Muskoka Pride in these roles.

Shawn Forth

Secretary and Promotions

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