



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 21, 2016

MINUTES

1. Opening Remarks and Welcome

Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm. Jerry Norman welcomed everyone to the meeting and made a few opening remarks.

2. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting – June 18, 2015

It was moved by LA Doyle and seconded by Jeanne Souter that the minutes from the June 18, 2015 AGM be approved. Motion passed.

3. Chair's Report

Jerry Norman spoke of COPE's road and various directions. He welcomed Elissa Devenz on to the staff in her new role as Volunteer Coordinator. He mentioned the strong roles that the staff fulfills in both the administration and program areas. During the year, the Executive Director position passed from Karen Gowdy to Kathie Macmillan. Kathie resigned from the Board in order to take on the role. Dean Smith also resigned as a director at the end of 2015. Director Barb Wright will finish her term at the end of this meeting, as will Karen Bell. Jerry acknowledged their work and support with appreciation.

4. Presentation and Adoption of Audited Financial Statement

Tonya Pearce from Powell Jones presented the financial statements. Everything was in good order and they gave a clean opinion that the statements can be relied upon. A motion was made by Stephen Jones and seconded by Jane Boake to approve the audited statements as presented. Motion passed.

5. Appointment of Auditor

A motion was made by Greg McWatt and seconded by LA Doyle to appoint Powell Jones as the Auditors for the 2016 fiscal year. Motion passed.

6. Election of Board of Directors

A motion was made by Jeanne Souter and seconded by Greg McWatt to elect Gerald Norman, Stephen Jones, Greg McWatt, LA Doyle, Jane Boake, Jeanne Souter to the Board of Directors of COPE Service Dogs until the next annual meeting. Motion passed.

7. Closing Remarks

Kathie Macmillan gave closing remarks, noting the following significant milestones.

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan from 2012 was updated July 2015. With the assistance of Joan Shatilla, staff and Board met twice to refine focus and direction. The revised document was distributed to all staff and Board members and is in the Board package.

ADI Accreditation

COPE Service Dogs regained it's ADI Accreditation in the 4th quarter of 2015. The entire staff worked tirelessly for the ADI review and made all requested modifications in advance of the required timeline.

Events

It has been a busy year for events at COPE Service Dogs. Our signature events have all gone very well including the Gala, Golf Tournament, Mother's Day High Tea, the Dragon Boat teams and our first ever Unleashing Potential Bonspiel. Additional events have included presentations at Home Shows in Alliston and Caledon, presentations to Mars Canada Inc. associates in Bolton/Toronto/Collingwood, visits to Mars Canada including further refinement in the Mars Canada Bolton offices, presentations to numerous service clubs in Barrie, Alliston and Caledon, as well as various therapy visits carried out by our fantastic puppy raisers. Canines in the Classroom in Caledon was even featured on CTV News Toronto!

Life Partner graduation celebration took place at the first ever COPEfest in September at Belcroft Farms. Koda was placed as a Public Access Service Dog in July 2015. Discussions commenced November 2015 due to L.A. Doyle for the potential placement of a first responder Facility Dog in 2016.

This June, COPE has celebrated CIC classes in three schools: Nantyr Shores Secondary School, Alliston Union Public School and Humberview Secondary School.

Office / Personnel

The office was re-located May 2015. Our Landlord found alternate office space on Dymment Road. Volunteers from Leon's ensured we were able to move smoothly despite the extremely short notice.

We have also increased staff hours in 2015 and added two new Service Dog Instructor Apprentices, Tanya Allison and Eddie Galbo, to help with our growing program work. Paul Millington who came aboard as our Development Officer in August, 2014, was off on medical leave for approximately 6 months thus reducing our fund raising impact. Karen Gowdy E.D. resigned from COPE Service Dogs November, 2016. Kathie transferred from the Board to assist COPE as E.D. three days a week.

We are very excited that due to Stephen Jones's leadership and direction, gShift has worked extensively pro-bono on a new and improved website for COPE Service Dogs that will improve our communications and outreach for volunteers, community partners, sponsors, donors and the general public. The website went

live late April 2016. The website is one component of work being done to improve the clarity around positioning and communications for COPE Service Dogs.

COPE Expansion Update

Canines in the Classroom started up January, 2015 in Alliston Union Public School in Alliston and in Humberview Secondary School in Bolton. Both schools have been very enthusiastic in becoming educational partners with COPE Service Dogs and they will be continuing on with CIC for the coming school year. As part of these expansion efforts, Reading Buddy and Senior Visits were added into these areas during the fall semester.

Both the Alliston and Caledon communities have been very receptive to COPE Service Dogs, with Alliston also serving as a pilot community for COPE Community Canines. Focus for the coming year will be on ensuring the sustainability of CIC in these communities. The impact at Humberview Secondary School has been significant with the program being embraced by the Visual Arts students as well as the yearbook team. While the school has been pleased with the CIC program in Alliston the school's extremely tight budget did not have the ability to provide any school fees to COPE Service Dogs for the second semester. As COPE is committed to the community and the expansion, the decision was made to forgo the \$1660.

Mars Canada Inc. Sponsorship

Mars Canada Inc. renewed their Corporate Sponsorship for the years 2016-2017.

Puppies

Since the last AGM, COPE Service Dogs has not had any litters of puppies. Casa was bred with a stud from Lions Foundation Guide Dogs and is expecting a litter of 5+ puppies July first. To commemorate the patriotic birth date of the potential puppies we are suggesting names celebrating our Canadian Forces Bases.

COPE Service Dogs Career Statistics

As of March 17, 2016 since inception of COPE Service Dogs:

Total number of dogs that have been through or are active in our program: 77

Currently in-training are 18 dogs.

Facility Dogs (including the ones that are placed with professionals outside of our program and the ones in CIC):

- Active: 6
- To be placed July, 2016: 1
- Retired: 8

Service Dogs (public access service dogs):

- Active: 15
- To be placed July, 2016: 1
- Retired/Deceased while in service: 7

Home Help Mates (dogs that assist individuals with disability at home):

- Active: 7

Community Canines (Therapy Dogs):

- Active: 2

Career Changed:

- 13

Deceased while in-training:

- 1

Kathie concluded her 2015 – 2016 snapshot with a thank you to all.

8. Motion to adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made by Greg McWatt and seconded by Jane Boake. Declared adjourned at 6:10.