Green Burial Ottawa Valley Coop Inc.

Annual General Meeting 2023

March 23rd, 2024

1pm – 3 pm

Zoom & 12 North, Killaloe

*** denotes vote needed**

1. **Welcome/introduction**

- Roberta Della-Picca opened the AGM with an indigenous song and prayer.
- Megan welcomed everyone and we waited for everyone to arrive.
- Megan introduced Sasha as the technical support and Director.
- Sasha explained the technical aspects of the AGM online.
- Charlotte explained about her role as the chat moderator for the online attendees.

2. **Presentation of Current Board of Directors**

- Megan, Robbie, Cathy, Sasha, Kaz presented a short bio.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

- Presenting of the agenda. Everyone present had a copy and Sasha shared the link in the chat.
- Robbie moved the motion to approve the agenda. Charlotte seconded it.
- Megan asked if there were any discussions on the agenda. No questions.
- Vote online and in person: no objection.

4. **Approval of minutes of AGM 2022 January 28th 2023**

- It was sent by email to all members before the AGM and is shared in the chat.
- Robbie moved the adoption of the AGM 2022 minutes. Kaz seconded.
- Megan asked if there were any discussions. One question about the year of AGM, why are we calling last year AGM 2022 and this year 2023 but AGM is in 2024. We explained that the AGM is about the year that just passed.
- Vote online (89% approved and 11% abstained) and in person. No objection.

5. **Tribute to Bernadine Roslyn**

- Megan spoke of the amazing work Bernadine has done and how much she has taught us. We honoured all the ways she contributed to GBOV.
- She was buried at Locksley, the green burial way.
- A big thank you to all the donations made in her name.

- We honoured others who passed away by sharing their names out loud and had a minute of silence. We also honoured those who died wanting a green burial and not being able to.

6. GBOV news and future project

- **Quick history of GBOV with a focus on 2023**
- Megan did a brief history of GBOV: started in 2017, registered as a non profit co-op in September of 2019, our focus on partnership with conventional cemeteries.
- She spoke of our main projects in 2023, KHR (not interested)and Locksley(we signed a MOU).
- She talked about the KHR committee Wren, Robbie and Doug. She shared that Eli Paddle from Fanshawe college (was raised around Killaloe) created a design plan for a potential cemetery.
- Megan talked about our info sessions, presentation and information booth at different events.

- **Locksley**
- Megan explained how it started at the Pembroke Expo in May 2022 with a conversation with a Board member of the Calvin United Church being interested in green burial.
- Our partnership with Glenn Pearson, the cemetery operator at Locksley, developed with emails and we signed the memorandum of understanding in October 2023 to create a green burial section in their cemetery.
- Bernadine Roslyn and John Henry were able to have their green burial before the winter.
- Invitation to our members to go visit the cemetery.

- **Short and long term goals:**
- Improving our website, offering more info sessions, making our membership process smoother, creating documents to help people with arranging for a green burial.
- We are hoping for more engagement from our members, creating an outreach committee to connect with cemeteries.
- Sasha is working on a Kemptville cemetery.

7. Financial report

- Megan presented Cathy as our new treasurer,who stepped in after Bern died and thanked her for stepping in to that role.
- Cathy presented the financial report.
- It covered July 1 2022 to June 30 2023.
- She talked about Bern's legacy.
- She quickly mentioned the donations made in Bern's memory, and after Locksley MOU signed, which happened after the official end of year 2023, after November 2023, which are not reflected in this AGM, but will be next year.
- Very stable financial situation, the largest investment was made for the website.
- Total income: $1357. Total expenses: $1376.22. Closing balance: $4945.73

- **The audit committee**
- Megan said the audit committee is satisfied that this financial report is accurate.

- Kaz moved to approve the financial report. Robbie seconded.
- No discussion or questions.
- Vote online and in person: no objection.

8. **Membership report**

Presented by Kaz.

- Kaz spoke of her role as membership Officer since 2019.
- She spoke of our concerns of where and how will I be buried?
- She thanked our members for their amazing support by donations, buying a membership, and volunteering at our events. She explained that we are creating a system to properly thank the people who are donating.
- She also thanked the CRC for their ongoing support.
- She invited the members to get involved and reach out to cemeteries and funeral homes to talk about green burial.
- She informed the members of the campaign by Susan Greer (member of the Natural Burial Association of Ontario) to reduce the percentage taken by BAO for the care and maintenance fund from 40 to 20%. Since green burial has less maintenance.
- In 2021 we had 150 members, in 2022 we had 214 and in 2023 we reached 274 members plus 404 persons getting our newsletter.

9. Motion to amend the by-laws.

- **Motion:**
  Be it Resolved that Green Burial Ottawa Valley Coop shall amend its Bylaw 7.3 to change the year end from June 30th, to Dec 31st .

- The By-law would then read, if passed, at this meeting of members by a 2/3 vote:

- **7.3 The financial year of the Cooperative shall terminate on Dec 31st.**

- It means that for our next AGM the financial report presented will go from July 2023 to December 2024.

- **Charlotte** moved the motion as presented. **Robbie** seconded.

- No discussion, no questions.
- Vote in person and online. No objection.

10. Presentation of the candidates for the Board of Directors and election.

- Megan explained the voting process.
- Each candidate introduced themselves with the exception of Cheryl Allen (absent) who sent in a written introduction.
- Charlotte Bodnar, Doug De La Matter, Kaley Ewart, Lesley Macdonald, Robbie Anderman, Roberta Della-Picca.
- Megan explained the voting process in more detail. No questions.
- While Cathy and Charlotte tallied the votes, Robbie talked about the Natural Burial Association campaign to make green burial more affordable. Please visit their website for an easy link to send to your MP.

- Results:
- Charlotte 22
- Doug 21
- Lesley 20
- Robbie 20
- Kaley 19
- Roberta 16
- Cheryl 13

11. Introducing the new Board of Directors

- Charlotte, Doug, Kaley, Lesley, Robbie, Roberta, Mary, Kaz, Sasha, Megan, Cathy.

12. Q/A

- Glenn Pearson from Locksley Calvin United cemetery (was scheduled to talk earlier but was late) introduced himself, told us a bit about his life and his work as a cemetery operator.
- He explained the MOU that was signed last October.
- There are 3 sections of 25 plots each in the green burial section. The middle section is for pre-purchase plots. There is a section for unexpected burials.
- We have 7 plots sold.
- After they remove the stumps they will be ready to have burials in the green burial section. Bernadine and John were buried just outside the green section.
- A plot is sold for $2400 plus $500 to GBOV.
- There will be winter burial available.
- He spoke of the cost of running a cemetery and answered questions from the members.
- Family and friends are able to participate in the digging of the grave except in the winter.
- One member shared his story about his funeral arrangements at Valley Funeral home in Deep River and his purchase of 2 plots. The funeral home created a package for green burial.
- Something new for funeral homes is the creation of a backboard to transport and lower a body in a shroud.

- Sasha announced our presence at the North Grenville sustainability fair on May 5th and invited people to it.

- John Henry's wife gave a testimonial of her family experience when burying her husband at Locksley.

13. Adjournment

- Robbie moves the motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Sasha second it.

Meeting adjourned.