**Minutes of Hamerkop Mountain Trust Annual General Meeting 2020**

**held on Thursday, 22 October 2020 at 8 pm by virtual Zoom Meeting (host Duncan Barker)**

1. **Welcome:** Steve welcomed all present.
2. **Attendance and apologies:**
   **Present:** Steve and Karin Spottiswoode, Magdeleen Enslin, Serv Venter, Judith and Oliver Oppler, Alan Irvin, Margie and Norman Owen-Smith, Jad Ball, Gerhard Le Roux, Jane Luck, Merv and Jean Prior, Peter Irvin, Oliver Barker, Duncan Barker, Gary Cundill, Ray Basson, Humphrey Farrer, Claudine Bennetts, André Dalais, Julia Heidemann, Annabe Pretorius

   **Apologies:** Mark Epstein, Gail Gretchley, Kirsten Venter, William Tyson, Nancy Ball
3. **Minutes of 2019 meeting:** Minutes had been circulated within 10 days of the 2019 AGM and re-circulated with documents for the present meeting and were therefore taken as read. Minutes acceptance: Proposed by Claudine Bennetts and seconded by Judith Oppler.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

   **Making our unit system more flexible: item 11.5**

   The need and possibilities for introducing a rotational unit system were discussed again and it was agreed that

   - Setting it up would be blocked by the fact that Beneficiaries have bought specific weeks for a purpose and most would not be willing to change this; and
   - If beneficiaries are able to swap weeks between each other, which has always been a practice, we have sufficient flexibility in the system and no change is needed. It is even possible to arrange swaps years in advance. Judith can also be contacted to facilitate swapping and she is already doing so.
5. **Maintenance report by Gerhard Le Roux / Gary Cundill**
   Gerhard presented the Maintenance report:
   Challenging year to get anything done as the Lockdown regulations made getting out to Hamerkop difficult. **Firebreaks**: bush cutter broke early in the year, William got a replacement to Aleck at a reasonable price in late May. As a result, firebreaks were done later than usual, but it has been done. **Clearing of intruder vegetation:** was done with assistance from Steve and Karin. **Shower tiles**: tiles came loose in the shower, Gerhard and Aleck had seen to this with assistance from Steve, Aleck busy with that. **Firewood**: Aleck has been asked to cut sufficient firewood for beneficiaries; to be used sparingly. **Septic tank**: a problem was reported last week and is currently being dealt with. Longer term management issues to discussed later. **Planned maintenance for**

**next year**: the annex roof has a bit of rust where leaves accumulated damp; Gerhard proposes for the annex and house roof to be painted with rust sealer over the winter months. Gary expresses thanks to Gerhard for the comprehensive report and all the work Gerhard has done.

6. **Annual Report by Convenor of Trustees**

**Steve thanks members of NMC for the year:**

Margie, Gary, Mark, Gerhard, Andre Dalais, Frances, Kirsten, Claudine, Judith and Magdeleen plus William, Karin and Andre Toich who assists.

**Thanks to:** Magdeleen taking over as Minutes Secretary from Frances and Margie for her assistance; Margie for her summary of Hamerkop's objectives and Management structure (as per item 11.6 AGM 2019 – Handing over to younger generation) ; Gerhard for taking over Maintenance from Gary; Mark Epstein for taking over as Transfer Secretary from Gail Cretchley (assisted by Steve); Karin for newsletters.

Emergence of **Whatsapp** has made communication easier, emails still for files.

**Aleck** has had some feedback from VFS today that he might get feedback re his work permit visa this year.

**Community Affairs:** Buffelsfontein Valley Conservatory appears to have folded. **RGKB Community** communication very active (Whatsapp group) and sadly shows a lot of crime in the valley. **Oracle Security** has come out a few times in response from calls from Aleck and Pretty but appeared to be false alarms. Hamerkop has 4 alarms buttons now that can be used to call Oracle.

**Swanepoel's dam:** first round of appeals against the province's authorization of Swanepoel's dam on our property was won, second was lost. Third round will resume and will probably end up in a court battle next year. Peter Lazarus will take the case pro-bono, but it will cost us attorney fees. Steve thanks Margie for her thorough work done there.

Lockdown has made getting out difficult this year.

Steve thanks Judith for driving the **Occupancy Scheme**; mentions that we do need a more structured way of communicating occupancy.

**Bushpig Trail:** new trail around bamboos into a ravine; Aleck working hard on trail with help from Steve, Karin, Claudine and Penny; renewed energy working on Pampas grass.

**Appeal:** complaints from Pretty that beneficiaries not clearing dog waste around the house, Steve asks everybody to comply.

7. **Treasurer's Report and Audited Financial Statement**

Financial Statements and report circulated with AGM documentation. Andre presented his summary report and budget proposals. Points out some extra revenue from Occupancy scheme. Year's expenses 1% less than previous year. Budget proposal reasonably conservative. Report proposed to be accepted by Annabe Pretorius, seconded by Duncan & Oliver Barker, Ray Basson and Steve Spottiswoode.

Alan Irvin – query about Trust bank details, Andre confirms that bank details will be sent with notice of new 2021 levy.

8. **Voting on proposed 2021 levy**
   The week levy increase proposed was R250. This is an increase taking last year's R3 600 per week to R3 850 (to be discounted by R200 as usual for early payment). Proposal for acceptance by Oliver Barker and Steve Spottiswoode and seconded by Magdeleen Enslin.

9. **Call for volunteers for a new treasurer**
   Steve calls for volunteers. Andre explains nature of job. Alan & Peter Irvin are willing to step in if there is a gentle handover. They are thanked by everyone.

10. **Call for volunteers for the management committee (NMC)**
    No resignations so all 2019 committee assumed to be prepared to continue serve next year. Serv Venter agrees to join. He is thanked by everyone. Duncan Barker is available if and when needed, but not "full time".
    First NMC meeting for January set for 14 January 2021 @ 17h30 at Margie's house or via Zoom.

11. **General**
    Steve mentions that he and Karin will take Eco-rangers, based at Maretlwane, to Hamerkop to teach them about invasive vegetation etc.
    Thanks was conveyed to Steve for his handling of the roles of Convenor of Trustees and chair of the Management Committee for 2020.

12. The meeting was officially **closed** at 21h05. A voice recording of the meeting is available from Magdeleen Enslin.