

Guatemala Stove Project Volunteer Meeting Sept 6, 2022

1) Meeting called to order at 07:09 pm

Those in attendance: Tom, Lynn, Bob, Terri, Norah, Elaine, Phill, Rita, Janet, Ken, Paul, Joni, Liz, Clara, Ishim, Lesley, Erika

Regrets: Rob Bowyer, Bill Gardiner, Lynne Porter, Ian Gibb, Ann Hannewyk

Chair, Phill Secretary, Paul

Note - action items are in red.

2) Rita managed zoom attendees.

3) Review Agenda and additions.

Janet-Algonquin College update

Paul- Stanleyville bottle discussion

Civitan for fall fundraiser update

Lime/Cal discussion

4) Review and acceptance of minutes of May 17, 2022 moved by Paul, second by Phill.

5) News from Guatemala, highlights by Ishim.

Covid forced the closure of markets where many people earned their money so food was scarce and malnutrition was a serious issue. Children had no school and in many cases were home without access to learning materials, computer/internet, and parents with limited education, so learning was stalled.

Things are getting back to normal after covid, schools are operating more or less as normal, markets are reopening and operating again, however prices remain high, often double what they used to be for food staples.

The corn crops seem to be doing better than last year so far. It is the rainy season with more rain than normal causing floods with mudslides, destruction to homes and some deaths

Ishim estimates about 90 percent of the population has had covid so some resistance is being built up to the virus. People are not dying as they had been in the past heavy covid years.

Tom added that about 50 percent of the population will never have access to a vaccine.

Ishim advised she has made a video of a school stove with students she will translate into English and share with us. She suggested WhatsApp for sharing of this video.

6) Past Events:

June 4 Ottawa garage sale for student bursaries. Liz and Janet advise \$1205.00 was raised at this event as well from proceeds of some items which were sold on Kijiji.

June 11 GSP AGM held at the Perth Bandshell behind Town hall and via zoom. It was a good meeting , well attended.

July 7 Zoom presentation to Ottawa South Rotary Environmental Committee. Janet advises this group is reviewing how they may be able to help our programs.

July 15-18 Stewart Park Festival raised \$993.00 in donations and many people expressed interest in the GSP. Lots of good discussion and sharing of information.

July 29-Aug 1 Blue Skies music festival and GSP bottle collection raised \$800.00 in bottle collections, \$400.00 in donations after Tom's on-stage appeal plus an additional 2 stoves donated later. This is also an event which is an excellent vehicle to spread information on our GSP programs.

7) Upcoming Events

Sept 24 Smartnet Sustainability Showcase Lansdowne Park, Ottawa 10am-4pm. Tom advises GSP has been invited to set up a booth at this event which can showcase GSP ability to offset carbon emissions and help sustain the environment. Very important global impact issues which will help to sustain the GSP in the years ahead. Many volunteers have offered to assist with the booth on this day, Tom will coordinate this effort.

Tom advised the group that due to the number of stove the GSP has had constructed, approximately 191,400 tons of CO2 has been offset, 46,000 people are living healthier lives and that the funding of one stove per year can offset an individual Canadian's annual CO2 production.

November 4-14 Online Auction Janet advises an email will follow to form a committee and appoint a Chair. Volunteers who wish to help with this very lucrative but time-consuming event are urged to contact Janet.

Perth Fall Fundraiser Sat Nov 19. Paul advised that the Perth Civitan Hall has been secured and paid for.

Rita has secured the band DLUX and will endeavour to access some material from the band and forward to the committee, it will be used to produce a poster as well as a Facebook add.

Committee volunteers Norah, Bob, Tammy, Elaine, Al, Paul to meet at Norah's house 28 Cockburn St Sept 20 at 07:00pm.

February Volunteer trip to Guatemala. The BOD has decided to wait until the November 1st to decide whether the GSP will be taking volunteers to Guatemala this year

Ishim Between now and November 1st, Ishim will find a suitable village for the volunteer group to work in, ideally the village should be within 20-30 minute drive from Xela. Ishim will also secure 4-5 qualified skilled masons to work with volunteers. Ishim also needs to arrange for transport of volunteers throughout the workdays and volunteer excursion time frame. Ishim will also determine arrangements for delivery materials including all stove components, sufficient amounts of sand and puma to each individual home where volunteers will help build stoves. Tom will need Ishim's assistance to round up any existing GSP tools, wheelbarrows, coolers, and purchase remaining required tools for the volunteer trip before the main group of volunteers arrive in Xela. That is a lot of stuff for Ishim to do, all of which our good amigo José used to do for us. Good luck Ishim! We know you are very capable.

Algonquin College Janet advised that she and Liz will be making a presentation again this year with a group of Ottawa Algonquin College Child and Youth Care students. This is the fourth year GSP has been invited to interact with this group. The students have found some interesting methods of fundraising for GSP and we are hopeful for another good experience together.

8) Calendars for 2023 have gone to print, should be ready next week and will be distributed . 60 to Ottawa and 100 to Perth. Cost is \$15 dollars each. Tom advised that one of our big donors, Tom Sullivan from Connecticut has spoken and paid for 20 calendars.

9) VFX Transfers Tom is now using this British service to handle our transfers online. They offer at least as good rates as Knightsbridge and they handle the complete transfer. No longer a need for two GSP members to go to TD bank to do transfers.

10) Stove Updates Ishim tells us that 25 of the last transfer for 50 stoves have been completed, the remaining 25 will be done by months end. Following this, the two funded school stoves will be built in Cantel.

11) Other

Funds have been sent for the correction of cleft pallet for a young boy and a young girl. Ishim tells us José has had an operation and is doing well, Cinderella is awaiting her procedure by Operation Smile which she thinks is in January in Antigua. To say this is life changing for these young children is a huge understatement. Personally, it does my heart good to know we can make such a difference in these lives.

Tom told the group that Rob Bowyer, volunteer and BOD member, has been diagnosed with being in the early stages a slow progressing form of leukemia. Rob plans to continue to remain a member of the board for a few years yet. We wish him well.

Hazards of Hydrated Lime - Paul advised the group he learned from Dodds and Erwin that Hydrated Lime is a known carcinogen as well as being a very strong irritant to skin, eyes and respiratory system. Upon further study Paul discovered it is not the lime itself that is the carcinogen but the Crystalline Silica which is found in small amounts within the lime. Suffice to say it is nasty stuff and all PPE and precautions need to be followed when working around this substance. This need to be stressed to volunteers when trips resume.

Bottle collection at Stanleyville Dump - There was some discussion around this possibility but it has not yet been offered to GSP. Decision will be discussed should we be offered. The proceeds seem to be in the \$8000.00 per year range. It would be a weekly commitment with travel to the dump and a return beer store. Possibility of a three-month trial period suggested by Norah.

12) Next BOD Meeting Sept 20

13) Next General Volunteer Meeting Tuesday, Oct 18, 07:00pm