

## **GSP Volunteer Meeting Minutes September 19 2023**

**Present:** Norah Hall, Rita Redner, Bob Klatt, Peter McCracken, Lorraine Ryan, Tim Wilson, Terri Henderson, Bev Ferlatte, Susan Heavens, Isabel Potvin, Paul Hauraney, Tom Clarke, Rob Bowyer, Hans Buser and Erika Johner

**Present via Zoom:** Al Teflissi, Joni Seligman, Phill Brackenbury

1. **Greetings and Introductions**

Welcome to 4 people attending the meeting for the first time... Lorraine, Bev, Susan, Isabel

2. Chair: Paul Secretary: Rob

3. **Agenda**

Copies handed out, no new items added.

4. **Review and acceptance of minutes from May 30, 2023**

Minutes reviewed, action items completed.

Minutes accepted by Bob, second by Norah

**Action:** Rita to add the email addresses of the 4 new people to the mailing list.

5. **News from Guatemala**

Ishim sent her regrets and was unable to provide the group with an update from Guatemala.

Tom spoke about the recent Guatemalan Election. A new president was elected, Bernardo Arevalo, who ran under the mandate of ending corruption. Unfortunately the previous regime is contesting the election results and the country is currently rife with protests and much political tension. The new president takes power January 4 and we wait and see what may come of it.

6. **Past Events**

There were several successful events that took place over the summer.

**a.** Tom went to Guatemala and documented 50 more stove in late June, early July.

**b.** Many volunteers worked the GSP booth at the Stewart Park Festival mid July.

A few hundred dollars were received, pamphlets were handed out, plenty of conversations held.

On a down note the GSP tent collapsed from heavy rains. A volunteer has offered to buy a new one.

**c.** Over the August long weekend volunteers worked the Blue Skies Festival bringing in close to \$1200 through the collection of empty beer and liquor bottles.

**d.** In September Tom and new volunteer Susan put on a presentation at the Carp Ridge Wellness Center. Susan and Tom tell us there was a wonderful turnout of interested people.

## 7. **Upcoming Events**

**a.** This year's online auction will take place Wednesday Nov. 1 to Monday Nov. 6  
The GSP is looking for quality items to sell, starting at the \$50 + range.  
To access the site: [www.32auctions.com/GSP2023](http://www.32auctions.com/GSP2023)

**b.** The fall dance will again be in Perth, on Saturday Nov. 18  
Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be held at the dance.  
An organizational committee has been formed: Norah, Tammy, Paul, Peter  
Rita, Phill, Terri, Rob will also pitch in.  
The dance band, Detour, has been hired and are raring to go.  
The first dance committee meeting will be held Tuesday Oct. 3, 7pm at Norah's  
home.

More volunteers are welcome to join in.

**Action:** Paul to contact his brother re Photo Shoot.

**c.** As mentioned above: items are needed for both auctions, please contact Phill or  
Janet if you have donated items.

**d.** The 2024 stove building trip to Guatemala is a go.

Dates are Saturday Feb. 3 to Monday Feb. 12, 2024

If interested and for information contact Phill.

Let it be known the GSP reserves the right to cancel the trip if conditions in the  
country present a risk and are not acceptable.

## 8. **Other**

**a.** Tom has been in communication with a group called Apala out of Barbados  
who bring together people/groups/companies re carbon offsetting. The Apala Group  
require from the GSP how much carbon is actually reduced from our stove models and  
asked for a recommendation from the designer. The benefit for the GSP would be in the  
future we may be able to sell stoves as carbon off setters.

Tom contacted Dean Stills of Aprovecho Research who originally helped design  
and test our stoves.

For uncertain reasons Dean would provide a recommendation only under the  
condition that the GSP install a new device called a jet flame into each new stove (A  
jet flame greatly increases the efficiency of the stove) even though our stoves have  
proven much more efficient and safe than open cooking fires.

From the GSP's perspective installing jet flame devices are impractical for several  
reasons. (increased costs, a requirement for electricity)

Dean is sending Tom a couple of jet flame devices for the GSP to try out.

However, at this time there will be no recommendation coming from Dean which  
may prevent us from proceeding forward with the Apala Group.

**b.** A discussion about possible ways the GSP might raise their social presence was  
not held.

**Action:** push forward to the next meeting.

c. The 2024 GSP calendar will soon be ready for distribution. Volunteers are requested to take several to sell over the remaining months of the year.

d. iLUNA

Action: Phill to send a letter re donations.

9. Next Board of Directors meeting: October 23, 2023, 7pm via zoom

10. Date of next Volunteer meeting: Monday October 30, 2023 7pm. Location to be determined.