



New Animal Shelter
FOR UXBRIDGE-SCUGOG

Minutes

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 7:00 pm

Location: Virtual Zoom Call

Call to Order and Welcome 7:00 pm (Tara Rosen, President)

Introduction of Directors (Tara Rosen)

Tara Rosen, President

Amy Stevenson, Vice-President

Mel Diebel, Treasurer

Susan Long, Secretary

Buck Sully

Paul Bussiere

Opening Remarks (Tara Rosen)

Financial Report From NASUS Treasurer (Mel Diebel)

Please see the attached Financial Statement and Notice to Reader report prepared by BDO Uxbridge.

A few highlights on our activities during 2020 financial year:

- NASUS raised just under \$13k during 2020; earning net receipts after costs of over \$11k.
- Costs included: accounting fees for preparation and filing of our annual report, Quickbooks licensing fees, rental of a Post Office Box and merchant fees charged on donations received.
- Over the last couple years we have shifted to a more passive phase of fundraising as the Township explores potential partnerships to help us get the shelter build that we want and for the animals and people of Uxbridge and Scugog. Despite this, we continue to collect money on behalf of the shelter & will do so until the shelter is done.
- At the end of 2020, the organization maintained a bank balance of \$61,400 and owed just over \$2,100 for normal course expenses.
- Our latest filed Registered Charity Information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5k3ckur> under "Quick View".

A Timeline of This Project and Update on Current Status as at February 2022:

The New Animal Shelter for Uxbridge-Scugog organization was formed as a registered charity in 2011 to raise funds to build a new facility to care for lost, abandoned, and neglected animals within the two townships. The original fundraising target for this project was \$1 million with the goal of building a large and modern facility to serve the community for at least 50 years.

In 2017, the Board of Directors of NASUS (“the Board”) presented a build plan to the Township of Uxbridge. This plan would have seen NASUS and the Townships work with George Brown College to start building the shelter that year using the money raised to date of \$1.1 million and potential bridge funding of \$300k from each of Uxbridge and Scugog. The Township of Uxbridge (“the Township”) voted against this option, severing the involvement of George Brown, and stated that they would be “relieving NASUS’ build committee of the burden [of planning and managing the build], leaving NASUS to concentrate on fund-raising”. Following this decision, the Board signed a Gift Agreement with the Township of Uxbridge and transferred the bulk of its assets, approximately \$652k in cash & previously deposited funds and costs, to the Township in preparation for the shelter build.

Per both NASUS’ gift agreement and the agreement between the Townships of Scugog and Uxbridge, the responsibility for the shelter build (including the planning, scheduling and oversight of the build) has been held by the Township of Uxbridge since that time.

In 2018, as NASUS continued to receive donations towards this project, an additional \$50k was transferred to the Township of Uxbridge. At that time the Board elected to retain a minor balance in their accounts to cover certain shelter-related projects, upcoming costs with respect to professional fees and other amounts related to the wind-down of the NASUS registered organization.

To-date NASUS has transferred over \$700k (approximately \$130k over our expected contribution of \$570k) to the Township of Uxbridge. Both the Township of Uxbridge and the Township of Scugog have pledged \$540k each towards the joint shelter build. The total budget for the build, based on the expected NASUS contribution of \$570k, was set at \$1.65m. The Township of Uxbridge has since indicated that this budget is insufficient and should be raised. The Townships are unwilling to commit additional funds for the build and have declared the build delayed indefinitely.

In 2019, following the Townships’ announcement of the pause of the shelter build, the Board elected to discontinue transfers of capital to the Township until a build plan and timetable is provided. NASUS has also elected to stop active fundraising.

Since the beginning, NASUS has been 100 percent volunteer-run; with over 300 volunteers giving over 21,000 hours towards over 500 fundraising campaigns. These figures are exclusive of community events and fundraising activities done independently from NASUS. These independent activities would likely represent thousands of additional hours invested into this project by our communities.

To date NASUS has officially raised over \$1 million dollars before event & operating costs (Over \$800 thousand after these costs). These totals are exclusive of the \$540 thousand dollars that each of the

Townships of Uxbridge and Scugog have pledged towards this project. To date, NASUS has transferred over \$700k to the Township of Uxbridge. NASUS currently maintains a bank balance of over \$70k in additional donations for use towards the shelter build, continuing costs for NASUS and the eventual wind-down of the NASUS organization.

The Township of Uxbridge has retained all unspent funds from the \$700k transferred to them by NASUS and remains responsible for all aspects of the planning, scheduling, and management of the shelter build. At last update, the Township's Animal Shelter Build Fund showed a current balance of \$588 thousand.

Please see attached PDF of Financial Report

Q&A With the Township (Mayor Barton and Debbie Leroux)

Mayor Barton stated that the project is short about \$1 million. He has been actively seeking partnerships and the Town has a potential partner, but the timing is not right. Without a partner, this project will not take place. Scugog Council agree. Due to the pandemic, both Townships have seen a serious decline in income; Uxbridge lost \$1.7 million. Debbie Leroux mentioned that the cost of building materials has also increased substantially.

Mayor Barton mentioned that the money is in an interest-bearing account and that the money can be returned to NASUS if requested. He says the new shelter was never in Uxbridge's plans. Mel Diebel stated that NASUS is a registered charity whose charitable object is to raise money to build a new animal shelter in conjunction with the existing shelter in the Townships of Uxbridge and Scugog. Therefore, the money raised cannot be used for anything else.

The NASUS group is not giving up; Mel Diebel stated that she would consider this a grave disservice to everyone who has given so much time, money and energy towards this project.

Erica Dale questioned when Mayor Barton thought the timing would be right for this partner – 2 years, 10 years? Mayor Barton had hoped that it would have happened a year ago, but the partner has been focused on other projects. Mayor Barton said the money from this anonymous partner would represent fees associated with work the partner wants to do in the Township and the fees would cover the additional cost of the new build. He further stated that the money could be used for any Township project but the current Council chose to apply it to the shelter build.

Amy Stevenson asked if a new Council is elected this year, how might this affect the project and potential partnership. Mayor Barton stated that he expects the new partner to provide some additional clarity before the fall; the current Council chose NASUS as the project. A new Council may choose another project, or the partner may choose another project.

Erica Dale asked if a Letter of Trust could be drawn up between Uxbridge Township and the partner. Mayor Barton said that if that was possible, it would have been done.

Mayor Barton said anyone can contact him 24 hours a day. His cell number is available; google Uxbridge Mayor Dave.

Debbie Leroux said that Uxbridge Township has made a commitment to meet NASUS quarterly to keep NASUS up to date.

Mayor Barton said that they will contact NASUS as soon as any information is available.

Roger Varley asked what has caused the delay in the potential partner's decision-making. Mayor Barton said he cannot speak on behalf of the partner but believes that it is a matter of timing.

Roger Varley asked how much money is in the reserve account and where is the money that Uxbridge and Scugog Townships are to contribute.

Debbie Leroux stated that the NASUS reserve account shows \$588,090.52 as of December 3.

The Uxbridge contribution is in a separate account. She will check amount tomorrow.

Mel Diebel said NASUS has approximately \$70,000 in its own bank account.

Mayor Barton said that some of the NASUS reserve account money was given to the original tenderer.

Mayor Barton stated that the money pledged by Uxbridge Township will not be required if the partner comes through.

Tara Rosen thanked everyone for attending and for their support over the years.

A Message from NASUS President (Tara Rosen)

On December 3rd, we had a meeting with the Townships of Uxbridge and Scugog to review project status and future plans. At that time, we were reassured that monies raised by NASUS through fundraising, along with the contributions promised by Townships are being held in reserve for the project. They further advised that they are still looking for project partners and funding opportunities. We are currently awaiting an NDA agreement from the Township in order to further discuss the current status. We have also agreed to meet for quarterly meetings for further updates.

The current shelter, located on Reach St. in Port Perry, is jointly operated by the Municipalities of Uxbridge and Scugog. The aging facility requires maintenance and updating and is undersized for the number of animals it supports. It also needs potable water. In 2018 pre-pandemic, there were 71 dogs and 163 cats taken in. Other local rescue groups provided emergency housing for 97 dogs, numerous cats and other animals. Additionally, private cat rescues have taken in, vetted and found homes for over 200 cats so far this year, while still maintaining a growing waitlist of at least another 300 local cats in need of help. Clearly, there is a growing need for animal services in our community.

With that being said, we are excited for a new shelter, which is the proper size to accommodate the needs of our community including a quarantine area, public adoption area, proper wash area, potable water and additional room for enrichment. There will also be a cat window outside with a park bench to

watch the cats, walking trails and hopefully opportunities for volunteer programs. Once the Townships find a partner(s), NASUS is excited to start exploring fundraising opportunities for such as sponsorships of rooms/bricks/paws, etc.

The NASUS Board of Directors and both Townships are committed to providing a quality shelter for animals needing care now and in the future. NASUS remains committed to seeing this project through. Once the township has secured a partner, you better believe we will be excited to start this build. We all will be. In the meantime, we can't thank you enough for your patience, your commitment and donations over the years. Together we can make this happen.

Meeting Adjourned – approximately 7:45pm