

**Minutes of ACRE Special and Annual General Meeting****Date:** April 3, 2025**Prepared by:** Gord Hill**Directors Present:**

- Stephen Woodley, President
- Gord Hill, Secretary
- Gary Fehr, Treasurer
- Heather Barna, Director
- Stephan Moresoli, Director
- Olga Tasci, Director

Regrets:

- Meredith Brown, Director

Members Present:

33 persons (including 25 members) attended the AGM, held at the Meredith Centre, 23 Chemin Cecil, Chelsea QC J9B 0A5.

See the PowerPoint presentation from the AGM: [Board Presentation to AGM - March 28, 2024.pptx](#)

The slides presented during the meeting accurately outline the matters discussed.

The AGM was hosted by Stephen Woodley and Valeria Kuzivanova.

1. Meeting Introduction (Slides 1-3)

Stephen Woodley opened the meeting by acknowledging that the meeting is being held on the unceded lands of the Anishinabe Algonquin people. He also reviewed the agenda, which had been sent to all ACRE members with the Notice of the Meeting on March 19, 2024.

2. Special General Meeting (Slide 4)

Draft AGM 2025 Minutes -to be approved by general membership at 2026 AGM

Gord Hill presented a resolution to amend the by-laws to set the quorum of members at the AGM to 15% of the membership.

Proposed Amendment:

Amend 6.6.5 Quorum by removing the reference to "Special" as follows:

"Unless otherwise provided in these by-laws, quorum at a Special General Meeting is 15% of the Company's Members. If a quorum is present at the opening of the meeting, the Members present may proceed with the business of the meeting and vote even if a quorum is not present throughout the meeting."

Motion:

Gord moved the resolution, seconded by Stephen.

The members voted in favour of the amendment, with three abstentions.

3. Adoption of Minutes from 2024 AGM (Slide 7)

Resolution:

Stephen proposed to approve the Minutes from the 2024 AGM, seconded by Gord.

Vote: The motion was carried with three abstentions.

4. Fun Quiz (Slides 8-12)

Valeria Kuzivanova presented an icebreaker conservation quiz.

5. President's Report (Slides 13-17)

Stephen Woodley presented the President's Report:

- ACRE now manages 11 properties, with the latest acquisition being the Brink Lands. Special thanks to Lars and Satya Brink for their generous donation.
- Administrative activities for the year were reviewed, including the introduction of new personal data protection policies.
- ACRE's new Strategic Plan was referenced.
- The re-assessment of the fair market value (FMV) of the Jolicoeur/McMartin lands by ECCC and its financial implications were discussed.

6. ACRE Stewardship Activities (Slides 19-21)

Valeria reviewed ACRE's stewardship activities for 2025, including:

- Bat surveys
- Tree planting
- Wild leeks restoration
- Permanent tree mortality plots
- Camera surveys
- Closure of trails, including one in the Larrimac Forest
- The Parent Creek Project in collaboration with CREDDO
- Light Pollution Project

7. 30 by 30 (Slides 22-23)

Stephan Moresoli presented the status of ACRE's involvement in the 30 by 30 initiative, which aims to protect 30% of lands outside the Gatineau Park by 2030. He discussed:

- Chelsea's 2022 resolution to protect 30% of lands outside the Gatineau Park.
- ACRE's support in identifying lands for protection.
- ACRE's participation in Quebec Government's call for projects on public lands concerning 880 acres of land in the region.
- The Outaouais Kidjīmāninān project, led by Kitigan Zibi.

8. Work Ahead for 2025 (Slide 25)

Stephen reviewed key priorities for 2025, including:

- Potential land acquisitions (5 active negotiations, with focus on two acquisitions in 2025)
- Stream restoration in Masham
- Pollinator habitat restoration at Hundred Acre Wood and Place Eco Rubin
- Trail upgrades and relocations across larger properties
- Organizing at least six nature walks, one public lecture, and two summer camp programs
- Light pollution measurements

9. St. Stephen's Forest and St-Jean-Lauzon Forest (Slides 26-27)

Stephen reported that ACRE is in the final stages of preparing a fundraising campaign for the St. Stephen's Forest and is also waiting for funding for the St-Jean-Lauzon forest.

10. ACRE's 25th Anniversary Celebration (Slide 28)

Stephen announced the planned celebration and dance to mark ACRE's 25th birthday, scheduled for May 10th, 2025, from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM at Camp Fortune, featuring the band WakedUp.

11. Thanks to Sponsors and Volunteers (Slide 29)

Stephen expressed gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions and support in 2024:

- Megan Throop
- Andy Shaw
- ACRE's Anonymous Donor
- Donors
- Stewardship Committees
- ACRE Board
- Municipality of Chelsea

12. Financial Report (Slides 30-36)

Gary Fehr presented the Treasurer's Report:

- ACRE's financial objectives include transparency, proper management of finances, and adherence to CRA guidelines for not-for-profit organizations.
- The financial statements were audited, and the conclusion was that they fairly represent ACRE's financial position for 2024. Full financial reports are available on ACRE's website.
- Gary reviewed the financial statements, with specific attention to the Stewardship Endowment Fund.
- **Motion:** Gary moved that the membership accept the audited financial statements. The members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

13. 2025 Budget (Slides 37-42)

Gary reviewed the approved 2025 budget, noting that ACRE has adopted a more conservative approach with regard to anticipated revenue from potential land acquisitions. He also discussed adjustments to the Stewardship Fund and the goal of setting aside 10% of the FMV of newly acquired lands.

14. Personal Data Protection (Slide 43)

Olga Tasci presented ACRE's new policies on personal data protection. She was appointed as ACRE's Privacy Officer. She highlighted ACRE's legal obligations to protect personal data and outlined the two new policies approved by the Board:

- Personal Data Governance Policy
- Privacy Policy

The primary obligation is to limit the use of data to the purposes for which it was collected.

15. Cycling on ACRE Lands (Slide 44)

Stephan reviewed the ongoing efforts with the Cycling Committee to secure insurance coverage through the Municipality's insurer or the Ontario Mountain Bike Association (OMBA). The only option identified so far is with the Municipality's insurer, at an annual cost of \$10,000. Several members asked if ACRE should include a line item in the budget to cover these additional insurance costs.

16. Stewardship Committee Reports (Slides 45-59)

Each of ACRE's four Stewardship Committees (Larrimac Forest, Hundred Acre Wood, Place Eco Rubin, and Forêt aux Étangs) presented their 2024 accomplishments, including tree planting, trail assessments, safety fence installations, forest management plans, beaver pond monitoring, camera trap use, public consultations, and other stewardship activities. Detailed information can be found in the presentation.

17. Membership Fees (Slide 60)

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Stephen proposed increasing ACRE's membership fees to \$30. The motion was approved unanimously by the members.

18. Election of New Directors

Two director positions were open for election this year.

- **Nominees:** Andy Shaw and François Leclerc
- The motion was moved by Stephen, with two abstentions. The members voted in favor of electing Andy Shaw and François Leclerc as new directors.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 PM

Minutes Approved by the Members of ACRE at the AGM 2026:

Chairperson: _____

Date: _____