

**THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)
MINUTES OF MEETING**

November 16, 2015

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, CEF, Ottawa, 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Fenja Brodo

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Julia Cipriani, Owen Clarkin, Barry Cottam, Ted Farnworth, Diane Kitching, Louis L'Arrivée, Alex MacDonald, Ann MacKenzie, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Lynn Ovenden, Rémy Poulin, Henry Steger, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Directors Absent: Carolyn Callaghan, Barbara Chouinard, Jeff Saarela

Guests: Ivan Whitehall, member of the Finance Committee, and Georga Whitehall
Richard Hinchliff, Kate Harrigan, and Judy Dodds from the Friends of the Farm

1. Minutes of the October 19, 2015 Meeting

Moved by Annie Bélair/Louis L'Arrivée that the October 19th minutes
be accepted as distributed.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the October Minutes

- a) Most of the renovations of the FWG Interpretation Centre are done; Ken said he will send the total costs so far to the directors. Fenja thanked the people who coordinated the whole operation, and thanked everyone who helped empty the building and are still putting things back in.

This is also an opportunity to have a second door installed in the back of the meeting area for security reasons; the matter is being discussed and an OFNC member, who is an architect, has volunteered his services to design a doorway for the centre.

- b) Louis has formatted some of the committees' terms of reference; see [item 6](#) for details.

3. Communications

Ontario Nature has sent a letter to thank the club for its sponsorships for the 2015 Youth Summit. Since only one of the two candidates who were selected by the OFNC went, the OFNC donated the unused sponsorship money to the summit.

4. Possible Changes to the OFNC's Incorporation – Ann MacKenzie

Ann reminded everyone that the club is in the process of changing its constitution (Articles) and updating its By-Laws to comply with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. However, the proclamation of that act has been delayed and there is no target date. The Finance Committee would now like to consider changing to being federally incorporated. As a charity, the club falls under federal oversight and this would simplify things administratively.

She then introduced her guests, Ivan and Georga Whitehall. Ivan has been a member of the Finance Committee for the past year and has agreed to be our point person on insurance.

Now that the possibility of changing our jurisdiction of incorporation has come up, Ivan, who's had a long career in law, has agreed to lead the file and be the link with the OFNC's lawyer.

Ivan proposed to get a legal opinion on the matter before the annual general meeting (AGM) in January 2016; the goal would then be to ask our membership, during the AGM, for the authority to proceed with the change.

MOTION: That the OFNC explore the feasibility and implications of changing its incorporation from being provincially incorporated to being federally incorporated, and that it authorize Ivan Whitehall to retain our counsel, Karen Cooper, to advise on this issue.

Moved by Ann MacKenzie/Barry Cottam

CARRIED

5. Request for Donation

Richard Hinchliff, Kate Harrigan, and Judy Dodds attended the meeting on behalf of the Friends of the Farm. Richard, who is a co-author of *For the Love of Trees: A Guide to the Trees of Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm Arboretum*, has written a new book called *Blooms: A History of the Gardens at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm*. They asked the OFNC for a donation to help with the printing and publishing costs.

Richard gave an overview of the contents of the new book: the major figures in the development of the gardens (some of whom are significant names in OFNC's history), the historic buildings on the site, and the feature plants and hybridizations. The goals of the book are to raise public awareness and appreciation of the ornamental gardens, to educate, and to raise funds to support the work of the Friends of the Farm.

The target is to launch the book in October 2016 with perhaps 3000 copies, in time for holiday shopping and Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017. They will need \$50,000 to achieve this, and asked the OFNC for a donation of any amount. They assured us that the OFNC's contribution would be recognized in the book. They pointed out that the first 2000 copies of *For the Love of Trees* sold out in three months when it was first published in 2007, that the book is now in its third set of 2000 copies, and it has since amassed a profit of \$47,000.

Richard, Kate and Judy gave an information kit to the BoD, along with a business proposal, and left the meeting.

Discussion:

The publication of such a book fits into the second point of the OFNC's mandate, which is "To encourage investigation, publish the results of research in all fields of natural history, and diffuse the information as widely as possible". Also, some of the OFNC's historic figures are part of the Central Experimental Farm's and the ornamental gardens' history as well. Raising public awareness of the site may also help the CEF protect its land.

It was also suggested that money from the Czasak bequest be used for the donation.

MOTION: That the OFNC donate \$10,000 to the Friends of the Farm to help with the printing and publishing of their new book

Blooms: A History of the Gardens at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm.

Moved by Barry Cottam/Julia Cipriani

As per the OFNC board of directors' policy, directors will vote on

this motion at the December meeting.

6. Terms of Reference – Louis L'Arrivée

Louis has formatted the updated committees' terms of reference that have been submitted so far: the font and structure are now the same in each document. The BoD was pleased with the result, and asked for a final proofreading as well as uniform headers with the last revision date in each document.

Included were the terms of reference for the following committees: Education and Publicity, Membership, Finance, Awards, Publications, Research Fund Grant, and Events.

ACTION: The remaining committees to send their updated terms of reference to Louis for formatting.

7. Committee Reports

a) Ontario Nature – Barry Cottam

The OFNC received an email from Ontario Nature regarding the proposed exemption from the *Environmental Protection Act* requirements for reflected light that kills or injures birds. Ontario Nature asked the OFNC to sign their letter of protest, explaining that: "The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) is proposing a draft regulatory amendment to exempt radiation (reflected light) emitted from buildings from requiring an Environmental Compliance Approval. We are deeply troubled by this proposal as light reflected from buildings is known to lead to the death or injury of millions of migratory birds every year."

MOTION: That Fenja co-sign the letter from Ontario Nature, on behalf of the OFNC, objecting to the proposed amendment to exempt radiation (reflected light) emitted from buildings from requiring an Environmental Compliance Approval.

Moved by Barry Cottam/Alex MacDonald

CARRIED

Rémy added that Safe Wings Ottawa will also be responding directly to the Ministry of the Environment.

b) Macoun Club – Diane Kitching

See report in [Annex 1](#).

c) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted Farnworth

- i. Because of high winds on Oct. 30, the FWG sign at the entrance on Prince of Wales was seriously damaged. An estimate for replacing the sign's structure was submitted to the FWG by Mark Brenchley and was accepted by email by the BoD. The new, sturdier sign was installed within one week. There was a discussion on how to make it more visible at night; installed solar-powered spot lights was one suggestion.
- ii. The end-of-season volunteer appreciation potluck lunch will be on Sunday Nov. 29.

d) Finance – Ken Young

The preparation of the annual financial report has started.

e) Events – Julia Cipriani

- i. The 2016 Awards Night was changed from March 12th to Saturday April 2. This is a better date than in the past (where the event was later in April) as is it before the bird migration season and the NHL playoffs.
- ii. The committee is looking into getting a good, portable sound system to be used at the meetings at the Neatby building, as the in-house system is not working.

f) Education and Publicity – Lynn Ovenden

- i. The website working group has met 2 times since the last BoD meeting. Suggestions for a revised OFNC logo will be presented by the consultant to the group on Dec. 4.
- ii. It is now important to do an inventory of all the current OFNC web pages in order to help structure the new website. An example of a “web content inventory” spreadsheet has been sent to the people in charge of inventorying the different sections. This should be done by Dec. 7.

g) Conservation – Owen Clarkin

The article on the OFNC blog entitled *Victory for the Snapping Turtles!* (<https://ofnc.wordpress.com/2015/11/13/victory-for-the-snapping-turtles/>) has become extremely popular. On top of being a great success story, it is good publicity for the club, and a good indication that blogs are an effective communication tool.

h) Birds – Rémy Poulin

- i. Safe Wings Ottawa, formerly known as the Ottawa chapter of FLAP Canada, presented their letter to FLAP Canada, along with a \$1,000 donation, thanking them for past help but saying that they wished to remain independent.
- ii. In 2015, Safe Wings Ottawa recorded more than 1,200 bird collisions (compared to 550 in 2014) and the overall species list has climbed to 93 (from 66 last year).
- iii. The Birds Committee is working with the Publications Committee to publish the updated Bird Field Checklist.

i) Awards – Eleanor Zurbrigg

The call for nominations for the 2015 OFNC awards has been posted on the website, and an email has been sent to the membership.

j) Nature Canada – Alex MacDonald

Alex asked the BoD about supporting a resolution adopted this year by Nature Canada. This resolution, which was presented to Nature Canada by members of the Sidney-based Friends of Shoal Harbour Sanctuary Society in British Columbia, asks the federal government to commemorate John Macoun's legacy in some way, in Sidney, BC and in other places in Canada. Because he is such an important figure in the history of the OFNC, and because this would raise awareness of Macoun's many contributions, directors discussed how meaningful it would be to support this resolution in principle.

MOTION: That the OFNC contact the Friends of Shoal Harbour to offer our

support in principle towards their effort to commemorate John Macoun for his contributions to the study of natural history in Canada.

Moved by Alex MacDonald/Owen Clarkin

CARRIED

The BoD thought it would also be a good idea to provide them with suggestions on how this could be achieved. Some ideas that were presented were the creation of a stamp, a Google Doodle, and a garden in Macoun's honour.

ACTION: Alex to draft letter and sent to BoD for feedback.

8. Motion to adjourn

Moved by Owen Clarkin/Alex MacDonald that the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary: Annie Bélair

Last meeting of 2015 at the FWG:

December 14

MFC Report
16 November 2015

We have been on three field trips since my last report, all in the Study Area. We've examined mosses, chosen study trees, tasted Bitternut Hickory buds, played in an old field, and looked for signs of activity in the *Lasius minutus* ant mounds. The ants were no longer visible, having retreated deep into their mounds as the weather turned colder. However, we did find a few of the aphids that are farmed by the ants. This as an exciting find, as they have yet to be recorded, and an entomologist at AAFC is going to try to determine what species they are, or if they are a previously unknown species.

On November 14 we were happy to return to FWG and resume our normal schedule of alternate indoor meetings and field trips and to see some familiar faces who, for various reasons, are unable to find the time for field trips. There were lots of favourable comments about how clean and bright the meeting room looked.

Diane Kitching

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