

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

February 27, 2017

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

Chair: Diane Lepage

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Ann MacKenzie, Gordon Robertson, Diane Kitching, Henry Steger, Ann MacKenzie, Remy Poulin, Ted Farnworth, Jeff Saarela, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Owen Clarkin, Fenja Brodo

Birds Committee Liaison: Marc Patry

Directors Absent: Lynn Ovenden, Jakob Mueller

1. Minutes of the January 2017 Meeting

Moved by Diane Kitching/Annie Bélair that the January 2017 minutes be accepted as distributed.

CARRIED

2. Correspondence: The Club received letters of thanks for our donations from the Wild Bird Care Centre, McSkimming, and the organizers of the 150th Bioblitz.

3. Turtle Road Mortality Mitigation in Eastern Ontario Project and Monarch Recovery Program

Carolyn Callaghan of the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) presented an opportunity to partner with the CWF on two projects. One project, to be undertaken under a contract with Dave Seburn, will examine turtle mortality hot spots and seek ways to mitigate the death toll. The other is an opportunity to develop partnerships with companies, municipalities, etc. to preserve and/or restore Monarch habitat. In short, the Club is being offered funds from the CWF to enable programming for turtles and monarchs. We would let the contracts, with the responsibility to pay the money and oversee the work. There was a discussion about how this could be done: would the contracts be sole-sourced or through a competitive process? Do we need to advertise on our website for interested parties? For the turtle project, the contract~~er~~ will be sole-sourced (tight timeline and few persons with the required expertise).

The second project is to promote a recovery plan for Monarch Butterflies. The decline of milkweed, and of weeds generally, due to herbicides and monoculture, is accelerating. The CWF is promoting this as a partnership opportunity for companies, municipalities, community groups, etc. to preserve and restore Monarch habitat. The Club's role is to engage a contractor to do the actual work.

Motion: That we enter into partnership with the CWF to undertake two projects, one for turtle road mortality mitigation and one for Monarch butterfly habitat rehabilitation.

Moved by Ann MacKenzie/Gordon Robertson. Carried, 1 opposed.

Motion: That an *ad hoc* committee will be formed to oversee the partnership with CWF and the contracts for Monarch habitat restoration and turtle road mortality mitigation.

Moved by Jeff Saarela/Gordon Robertson . Carried, 1 opposed

5. Committee Rosters

Motion: That we approve the 2017 committee rosters as circulated by e-mail

Moved by Annie Bélair/Henry Steger. Carried.

6. Portable PA System

Background: At a previous meeting the Board discussed difficulties the Club has been experiencing with the PA system available to us for monthly meetings in the Neatby Building. In addition, there may be other occasions when it would be useful to have a portable PA system for our own use elsewhere. Because of the importance of having a reliable PA system for monthly meetings, Jakob had notified the Board (via email) that he would propose we waive the two month policy (notification one month, voting the following month) and acquire a suitable system as soon as possible.

Motion: That the Board agrees to waive the two month policy and immediately proceed to the purchase of a portable PA system for the Club up to a cost of \$1,000.

7. Requests to us from outside groups to use the FWG for meetings

Ted (on behalf of Sandy, who receives the mail) said we have had numerous requests from external groups to use our space for meetings. Various points were raised:

- We need to look at the terms of our current agreement with Ag Canada
- The building is for the use of the Club, but should we allow it to be used by others whose interests are commensurate with ours?
- Insurance

Ted will look into this and come back to the Board with recommendations.

8. March meeting

- a. Development of an Ottawa Bird Strategy
- b. Presentation from Anouk re Safe Wings

9. CFN Storage (Jeff)

Jeff told us that all back copies of the CFN have been digitized.

We have a large archive of hard copies of CFN, which to date have been stored in various places in the Neatby Building. But the Neatby Building is about to undergo a massive renovation, and the CFN will have to be moved, raising important questions. How much storage do we need? How many back issues do we have? How many do we need to keep? Where can we store them? Should we consider commercial long-term storage? A temporary solution could be to store them in the red barn, where they could be sorted, counted, etc. Once this is done, we would have a better picture of how many issues we have, what they contain, and their historical importance.

10. Subpoena regarding a club award (Eleanor)

Eleanor reported that the requested documentation was provided; attendance in court was cancelled

11. Awards Night (Eleanor)

The Board agreed that Awards Night was very successful and that the last weekend in February was preferable to the usual April dates. However, Annie pointed out that the timeline for including the summary of the event in T&L was extremely short and could cause difficulties. One possible solution would be to report on Awards in one issue and the more detailed summary of the event in the next issue. This will be discussed at a later date.

12. Birds Committee

Bird summary – no report. The results will be included in next month's report.

Anouk (Safe Wings) will be asked to give a presentation to the Board at the next meeting.

Gord wants to lead a bird walk on April 15 – details to be arranged.

The Birds Committee is wondering about progress on the new website, which seems to be at a standstill.

The Bird Studies Committee is in sleep mode: there is a lack of volunteers.

There is some uncertainty with the new commanding officer at Shirley's Bay about allowing birders to have access to the site.

There has been some discussion about the Bird Strategy and where it's going.

IBA/Nature Canada has proposed a simultaneous bird count at a certain place and time (probably in October).

13. Macoun Club

No report, but thanks for the small card table that has been added to the room and makes set up for slide shows and talks at our meetings infinitely easier.

Moved by Fenja Brodo/Eleanor Zurbrigg that the meeting be

adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Recording Secretary: Diane Kitching (acting)

Meetings in 2017:

March 20

April 10

May 15

June 19

September 18

October 16

November 20

December 11

Diane LePage
President
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Diane Kitching
Recording Secretary (acting)
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date