

**THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**

January 24, 2011

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

Chair: Ann MacKenzie

Council Members Present: Annie Bélair, Fenja Brodo, Dan Brunton, David Hobden, Diane Lepage, Frank Pope, Rémy Poulin, Jeff Saarela, Jeff Skevington, Chris Traynor, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Council Members Absent: Barbara Chouinard, Julia Cipriani, Diane Kitching, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Henry Steger

1. Minutes of the December 13, 2010 meeting

Moved by A. Bélair/D. Hobden that the
December 13 minutes be accepted as distributed
Carried

2. New Council members

The slate of Council members (including new members Dan Brunton, Carolyn Callaghan, Jeff Saarela and Ken Young) was accepted at the Annual Business Meeting on January 18, 2011. However, Rémy Poulin has since joined.

Moved by F. Pope/D. Brunton that Rémy Poulin be accepted as a
member-at-large of the OFNC Council.
Carried

3. Communications

- a. A card from Eric Wilson from the now defunct Rideau Valley Field Naturalists to say thank you to the OFNC for hosting the Ontario Nature meeting in October.
- b. A CD from the Nature Conservancy containing the document "Plan de conservation pour l'écorégion de la vallée du Saint-Laurent et du lac Champlain". It describes a procedure for determining priority areas for conservation and then develops a plan for doing that, based on the current ownership of the areas, their biodiversity, etc. It is also available online at:
http://science.natureconservancy.ca/resources/resources_w.php?key=saint-laurent+era

4. Treasurer's Report No report

5. Committee Reports

A) Awards E. Zurbrigg

Eleanor presented the nominees for the 2010 OFNC Council Awards. Council discussed each nomination and voted to approve them.

a. Honorary Members

- i. Moved by E. Zurbrigg/F. Brodo that Mike Cadman be awarded with an honorary membership. **Carried.**
- ii. Moved by E. Zurbrigg/C. Traynor that Dan Brunton be awarded an honorary membership. **Carried.**
- iii. Moved by E. Zurbrigg/D. Lepage that Ron Bedford be awarded an honorary membership. **Carried (1 abstention)**

b. Member of the Year

Moved by E. Zurbrigg/F. Pope that Francis Cook be awarded the Member of the Year Award. **Carried.**

c. George McGee Service Award

Moved by E. Zurbrigg/D. Lepage that Barbara Gaertner and Diane Kitching be awarded the George McGee Service Award. **Carried.**

d. Conservation Award for a non-member

Moved by E. Zurbrigg/D. Brunton that the Friends of the Limerick Forest be awarded the Conservation Award for a non-member. **Carried.**

e. Ann Haynes Natural History Award

Moved by E. Zurbrigg/C. Traynor that Monty Brigham be awarded the Ann Haynes Natural History Award. **Carried.**

f. Mary Stuart Education Award

Moved by E. Zurbrigg/D. Lepage that the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre be awarded the Mary Stuart Education Award. **Carried.**

ACTION: David to get a contact name for the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre to Eleanor.

Ann also announced that she will be awarding the President's Award to Janet Gehr who is now stepping down as the OFNC's auditor after 20 years of service.

Council members also pointed out that the awards insert that goes into T&L should be updated.

ACTION: Eleanor to lead the revision of the awards insert for T&L.

B) Birds C. Traynor

The Christmas Bird Count was held successfully in December.

C) Conservation K. Young

a. Greenbelt Coalition

The Coalition has not been active recently.

b. South March Highlands

The attempt to save lands owned by KNL (Beaver Pond Woods) continues, although it does not seem likely that the attempt will be successful. Land clearing is likely to begin in early February.

Local Algonquin organizations are at the forefront right now. There are threats of civil disobedience.

c. The Conservation Committee

The Committee needs to develop a realistic set of objectives. The membership is only likely to be four or five people, at least at the beginning of the year.

It is generally recognized that the Committee can engage in two types of activities, natural history and political activism. They are not mutually exclusive, but the emphasis changes based upon external events and the interests of Committee members. Addressing this issue will be the first order of business in 2011.

Council members encouraged the Committee to approach municipalities, especially the Environmental Planning people with the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau, to determine if there are conservation initiatives or programs they feel the OFNC could assist them with.

ACTION: Ken to bring ideas about the objectives of the Conservation Committee to Council for discussion.

D) Education and Publicity F. Brodo

- a. On March 26 and 27, OFNC volunteers will be exhibiting the OFNC display at Billings Bridge during the Wildlife Festival.
- b. The OFNC will participate in the 2011 regional Science Fair.
- c. The Soirée will take place on April 16. Since the announcement of the Soirée was not included in the last T&L, measures will need to be taken to notify OFNC members such as an email notification.
- d. During the new year, the committee plans to work more closely with other OFNC committees and to continue discussions with the Museum of Nature about promoting each other's activities and the agreed discount for joint memberships.

E) Excursions and Lectures J. Skevington

Jeff pointed out that setting up an email system for OFNC members is a priority. Ken added that it would be an excellent way to notify members of critical conservation issues. Whatever system is set up, members need to be able to say if they want to be removed from the distribution list. We would also need a policy regarding who, when and why any communications system would be used.

ACTION:

- a. Rémy to look into email group options and other communication tools and discuss with Sandy Garland.

- b. All committee chairs to bring to Council ideas of how they would use such an email group.

F) Executive No report

G) Finance No report

H) Fletcher Wildlife Garden D. Hobden

Work on the bridge is almost complete. The ramps are in place and one more railing will be added to finish it. The beaver is still active. There is a picture from December 11 on the blog and it was seen again in January. It appears to be leaving the pond via the spillway and visiting the ravine.

I) Macoun Field Club D. Kitching

There have been 2 indoor meetings and 1 field trip since the Christmas Holidays.

Ann asked that the Macoun Club present a plan of how the donations received in memory of Martha Camfield will be used.

J) Membership Report sent by H. Steger prior to the meeting.

We are about at the same point in renewals as other years – 72 to 78% of members paid. Hence there is no discernible impact of raising rates.

Type	Total	Total Responded	# Hard Copy CFN
Life	55	28	5
Honorary	21	12	10 – No change from December
Others	692	521	33 – 17 have officially let their subscription lapse

188 annually-paying members have not yet responded. In the past, Henry has sent out 170 to 190 Second Notices for payment at the end of February.

There are eight members who submitted \$30 to receive a hard copy of CFN without sending a membership fee. Henry wrote to all before Christmas explaining the case but no one has replied.

In the new year, the Membership Committee will examine the idea of offering a student fee.

K) Publications Committee Dan Brunton

(received electronically after the meeting)

- a. The page proofs for 123(3) is almost complete. Galleys for 124(4) are set except for three articles
- b. 123 (3 and 4) will be off to the printer within the next two weeks.

Galleys for 124(1 and 2) are set and Francis is corresponding with authors for final approval.

- c. Francis is working on the Editor's report for 2010, and it will be printed in issue 125(2) as per usual.
- d. Carolyn has received several manuscripts, and all except one (just received) are out for review. Francis has passed a few other manuscripts to her in various stages of the editing process for volume 125. She has not yet settled on an Assistant Editor. The person she had in mind could not commit for two years, and she felt it is critical that we build a team that will remain throughout the two year period.

L) Ontario Nature D. Lepage

Diane asked Council if the OFNC would like to be involved in a fundraising event Ontario Nature would like to organize. It would be a "Green Tea" meeting at the Museum of Nature with presenters, music and a tour of the museum. Council declined.

There was a desire to see ON provide better 'umbrella' services for affiliates, such as on-line membership renewals, enhanced insurance options, etc., in order to increase its leadership profile outside the GTA. Such initiatives could provide significant fund-raising opportunities for ON as well.

Diane will also be circulating a petition to support the Biodiversity Charter.

6. Motion to adjourn:

Moved by D. Hobden/C. Traynor that the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

CARRIED

Next Meeting: February 21, 2011, Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, CEF, Ottawa

Recording Secretary: A. Bélair

Meetings in 2011:

February 21 (committee memberships will be finalized)

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20