

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

February 21, 2011

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

Chair: Ann MacKenzie

Council Members Present: Annie Bélair, Fenja Brodo, Dan Brunton, Barbara Chouinard, Julia Cipriani, David Hobden, Diane Kitching, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Frank Pope, Jeff Saarela, Jeff Skevington, Henry Steger, Ken Young

Council Members Absent: Diane Lepage, Rémy Poulin, Chris Traynor, Eleanor Zurbrigg

1. Minutes of the January 24, 2011 meeting

Moved by A. Bélair/D. Kitching that the
January 24 minutes be accepted as distributed

Carried

2. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- a. Diane K. explained that the Macoun Club doesn't have a plan yet of how the donations from the endowment in memory of Martha Camfield will be used. She pointed out that the donation money is currently considered to be the operating budget of the Macoun Club. It has been used to buy baseball caps with the Macoun logo and to finance a Mudpuppy Night on February 19. It will also be used for an honorarium for an upcoming speaker, to publish the Little Bear in June and possibly to have a new brochure done and printed. The Macoun committee met with a marketing consultant in the fall who suggested getting in touch with Algonquin College to find a student who would be interested in designing a marketing blitz for the Macoun Club as a school project.
- b. Ann announced that she will be awarding the President's Prize to Janet Gehr who is now stepping down as the OFNC's auditor after 20 years of service; she suggested giving her a gift card.

Motion: That Council agrees to give a \$100 gift card to Janet Gehr as the President's Prize.

Moved by A. MacKenzie/J. Cipriani

CARRIED

3. Communications

Dan said that Phil Jenkins will do a two-part profile of the OFNC in the Ottawa

Citizen.

4. Treasurer's Report F. Pope

The OFNC's Charitable and Corporate returns have been filed and the insurance premium for 2011 has been paid.

5. Committee Reports

A) Awards No report

B) Birds No report

C) Conservation K. Young

a. Greenbelt Coalition

The Coalition has not been active recently.

b. South March Highlands

Land clearing on the lands owned by KNL (the Beaver Pond Woods) has begun. There have been some demonstrations at the site, and the media campaign continues.

c. Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy

The OFNC received an email from an organization called the Rideau Roundtable, concerning a Parks Canada project called the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy. The project apparently stems from the designation of the canal system as a World Heritage Site, and concerns the "visual character" of the canal system. The website is <http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/ne/ne5.aspx>.

At some point, Parks Canada wants to do some consultation. The Rideau Roundtable proposes, more or less, to act as a spokesperson or representative of environmental organizations vis-a-vis Parks Canada for the purposes of this consultation.

Members of the Conservation Committee are not familiar with the Rideau Roundtable. Kingston Field Naturalists haven't heard of them either.

However, the chair of KFN's conservation committee will attend a meeting about this in Smiths Falls on February 24. Ken will attend as well.

d. University of Ottawa Student Request

A UO student, Rachel MacDonald, requested some advice on a project. This was provided through an email exchange.

e. The Conservation Committee

At its last committee meeting, the future direction of the committee was discussed. As well, Ken wrote a discussion paper for the committee, and has received some additional comments on that. Council members also made suggestions at the January Council meeting. At the next committee meeting (March 1), the matter will be discussed again, and hopefully we will develop a strategy.

Ken will update the discussion paper and forward to Council prior to the

March meeting.

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.
ACTION: Anyone on Council can tell Fenja if he/she is interested in volunteering at Billings Bridge.
- b. The Soirée will take place on April 16.
- c. Ann explained that discussions with the Museum of Nature are still ongoing regarding promoting each other's activities. For example, it was suggested that a 14-month membership at the Museum could be available with an OFNC membership. A rep from the Museum will attend the OFNC Council meeting in March.

E) Excursions and Lectures No report

F) Executive No report

G) Finance No report

H) Fletcher Wildlife Garden D. Hobden

- a. The committee is renewing its efforts to create a long term plan, as well as working on plans for 2011.
- b. Last Friday (Feb 18th) a group of four volunteers spent about 2 hours birding around FWG and the Arboretum area to compile a list for the Great Backyard Bird Count. A fifth volunteer came later and was added to the list. The conditions were good and birds were active. The final list includes 14 species and over 100 individual birds.

I) Macoun Field Club D. Kitching

There were 2 field trips, 2 indoor talks and a Mudpuppy Night in Oxford Mills since the last Council meeting.

J) Membership

Henry indicated that 74% of members have renewed their membership for the new year.

An urban tree planting NGO contacted the OFNC, asking to distribute their communications to the OFNC's membership. Council agreed that posting their information on the OFNC website was sufficient.

K) Publications Committee D. Brunton

- a. CFN volumes 123 and 124: all outstanding issues are on schedule to be completed by the end of March 2011.
- b. The preference of Council, as discussed in late 2010, is to have issued all of Volume 124 prior to the release of the first issue of

Volume 125. However, if volume 124 is not complete when volume 125(1) is ready and due for release, the committee will review the publication scheduling options and discuss them with Council.

- c. All associate editors under Carolyn Callaghan have been confirmed.
- d. The idea of special CFN issues was discussed favorably by the committee.
- e. The committee received a request by a federal government department for a site license to facilitate distribution of the CFN to 13 geographic sites within the department; the committee does not have a policy on this and is investigating further.
- f. There have been discussions of various internal and external opportunities for recognition of Francis Cook for his historic contribution as the longest serving and most prolific CFN editor.
- g. The committee was pleased to be able to thank Ron Bedford who attended the committee meeting for his stalwart and steady direction of OFNC publications since the late 1970s (and since 1981 as Chair of the Publication Committee).

L) Ontario Nature No report

6. Committee Rosters

All committees presented their 2011 rosters.

Motion: That Council accepts the committee rosters as presented.

Moved by F. Pope /B. Chouinard

CARRIED

7. Motion to adjourn:

Moved by D. Kitching/D. Hobden that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

CARRIED

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

Recording Secretary: A. Bélair

Meetings in 2011:

March 21 – Possible discussion on including ads in the T&L, the Big Tent, and last year’s membership meeting at Council. Also, a guest (Debra Beattie) from the Museum of Nature will be coming to the meeting.

April 18

May 16

June 20