

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

March 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, Diane Lepage, Frank Pope, Jeff Saarela, Jeff Skevington, Henry Steger, Chris Traynor, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Council Members Absent: Sandy Garland, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Rémy Poulin

Guest: Yi Zhang. She responded to the request posted by the OFNC for someone to help with financial administration. She has had some experience with Pay Pal and will be helping Frank with business management.

1. Minutes of the February 21, 2011 meeting

Moved by A. Bélair/J. Saarela that the
February 21 minutes be accepted as distributed
Carried

2. Communications

- a. Phil Jenkins' two-part profile of the OFNC was published in the Ottawa Citizen.
ACTION: Ann to send him a thank you note.
- b. Ann sent a letter of congratulations to the new CEO of the Museum of Nature.

3. Treasurer's Report F. Pope

- a. Frank distributed a revised version of the claim form to committee chairs. He is asking that the relevant account number be included on each claim.
ACTION: All committee chairs to have a look at the revised claim form and let Frank know if it requires more modifications. Frank also invited the committee chairs to customize it for their own committee.
- b. The Finance committee has explored options for online payment systems; they concluded that PayPal was the best one. Sandy Garland and Gillian Marston are currently working on the web design. It will first be used for membership renewals, and then it will

be set up for donations and subscriptions to the CFN.
Motion: That Council signs a contract with PayPal to set up online payment for members.

Moved by B. Chouinard/F. Pope

CARRIED

4. Committee Reports

A) Awards E. Zurbrigg

Eleanor sent the citations for the 2010 awards to Council for comments by March 28.

B) Birds No report

C) Conservation K. Young

See [Annex 1](#) for Ken' report.

D) Education and Publicity No report

E) Excursions and Lectures No report

F) Executive No report

G) Finance No report

H) Fletcher Wildlife Garden No report

I) Macoun Field Club D. Kitching

On Feb. 26th they had a field trip to Pakenham, and on March 5th a Carleton University student gave a presentation about lichens. There were no activities on March 12th or March 19th because of March break. Their normal schedule of alternating between field trips and indoor meetings will resume on March 26th, when they will have a speaker to discuss "Living with Wildlife in the City".

J) Membership

During the second half of the meeting this March 21st OFNC Council, notes from the March 2010 Council meeting on membership were re-examined. See [Annex 2](#) for Ann's notes on the discussion.

K) Publications Committee D. Brunton

- a. See [Annex 3](#) for Dan's report.
- b. Dan invited all Council members to comment on the CFN issues.
- c. Jeff Saarela proposed that past issues of T&L be made available on the OFNC's website. He offered to prepare back issue for posting on the Club website.

ACTION: Jeff to contact Karen and Sandy to discuss this proposal

and report back to Council in April.

L) Ontario Nature No report

5. New Business

- a. Jeff Skevington asked if the FWG wanted to be part of the open doors event at the Central Experimental Farm's 125th anniversary on June 4 and 5. All agreed that it was a good idea, and that it will be a good opportunity to promote the FWG's annual native plant sale taking place on June 4th.
ACTION: Fenja and the Education and Publicity to help organize the OFNC's participation and find volunteers.
- b. There was a suggestion to make all Council minutes and committee reports available on the OFNC's website.
ACTION: All to think about this suggestion; Council will discuss it again at the April meeting.

6. Motion to adjourn:

Moved by F. Brodo/D. Kitching that the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

CARRIED

Next Meeting: April 18, 2011, Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

Recording Secretary: A. Bélair

Meetings in 2011:

April 18
May 16
June 20

**OFNC Conservation Committee:
Report to Council (March 2011)**

NCC Greenbelt Master Plan Review

1. Today (March 21) the NCC released a document described as follows:
The NCC is partnering with the City of Ottawa on a collaborative study to identify and mitigate the cumulative effects of transportation facilities across the Greenbelt. This study will recommend an evaluation framework to assess the sensitivity of the Greenbelt in relation to transportation and transit, and respond to the question of which transport infrastructure proposals may be considered by the NCC in the Greenbelt, subject to Federal Land Use & Design Approvals review and environmental assessment processes, while respecting Greenbelt landscape connectivity and minimizing land fragmentation.

They are asking for comments.

2. Best guess for the resumption of consultation on the Master Plan Review is May 7. Prior to that, the Greenbelt Coalition hopes to hold a workshop.

Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy

A meeting is scheduled for April 5 in Smiths Falls. Ken Young will attend.

University of Ottawa Student Request

Additional advice was provided to a UO student, Rachel MacDonald, after she decided to do a project on the South March Highlands.

Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement

The CBFA is an agreement between several major environmental organizations and the forestry industry, signed in May 2010. It applies to logging in the boreal forest, particularly woodland caribou habitat. The agreement has received wide approval in the press.

Nevertheless, there is some disagreement about it and consequently it has been discussed in the Education & Publicity Committee, and the Conservation Committee.

The issue is basically whether the agreement is a good compromise, from the point of view of preserving the boreal forest in general and caribou habitat in particular. Those in favour of the agreement focus on its achievement in bringing together industry and environmentalists to produce a “win-win” compromise. Those opposed focus on the limited nature (as they see it) of the commitments made by the forestry industry.

The Conservation Committee members tend to be sceptical of the CBFA. The E&P Committee would like to highlight it in the public display for the Wildlife Festival at Billings Bridge. The Conservation Committee is not opposed to that plan, but wonders whether it would be possible to include some sort of summary of the issues involved in assessing the CBFA.

It may not be possible. The disagreements are partly subjective. The substantive points at issue are fairly technical and are probably more suited to an article in T&L than to a display board. Any formal position would be controversial among the OFNC membership.

Conservation and the OFNC

The Committee should be ready to present a discussion paper about the type of work that the OFNC and the Conservation Committee should and could undertake in the area of conservation, at the April or later Council meeting.

Expanding and Engaging Membership - where are we?

	SUGGESTION	COUNCIL COMMENTS
	Monthly meetings	
1	Advertise our monthly meetings on the radio and in newspapers.	We can only get free coverage in the Citizen every 6 weeks (every other meeting). EMC and radio are occasional.
2	Promote our activities with the Museum of Nature.	Re-activated partnership with Museums. Still need to work out promotion. New museum newsletter might be used.
3	Name tags at the monthly meetings	Should have a brighter colour for non-members to identify them.
4	Greet members and new members at the door to meetings.	This is happening a bit more with the name tags. Council members could make extra efforts to mingle.
5	Start the monthly meetings with a 'Show and Tell' of member observations or photos.	We have started showing member photos before the speaker. This might detract from mingling in the lobby but it seems to be well received.
	Field trips	
6	More family oriented workshops and excursions	More excursions are labeled as 'kid-friendly'. Age is a parental judgement.
7	Have an electronic reminder to members of coming activities.	About a third of members are opting for this reminder.
8	Smaller groups for outings so people feel welcome.	Some trips we require registration. If not it is the leader who picks a co-leader if it is likely to be a large group.
9	Natural History outings based on a featured conservation area.	
	Membership forms	
10	Redesign membership application and renewal form.	This has been done for 2011 renewal but will always be a work-in-progress.
11	Amend the membership form to indicate the ages of children	
12	Start accepting credit card payments	We are putting Pay Pal in place for both membership fees and donations. Then

		we will add subscriptions and author fees.
	New Members	
13	Decide on the message we want to communicate re why someone should join – catchy phrase or motto.	We have put some messages on our renewal form but need a clear statement on the website ‘Why you should join the OFNC’.
14	New members – contact them immediately, determine their interests and assign a mentor to them.	Diane Lepage has been contacting some of them. We need to set up a system of new members being assigned to Council members to spread the workload.
15	Start a Student fee to get younger members – mentioned at ABM	Consider a free membership for university and college students – electronic only. Might tie in to #25 univ relations
	Club Communication	
16	Get with current technology and be on Twitter, Facebook, blogging. Create web forums allowing members to communicate with each other on issues of mutual interest or outings	We have a Facebook account but are not using it as much as we could. Jay has a blog for the OJS progress. Considering better use of Facebook or maybe Big Tent for dialogue among members.
17	Increase communication between council and membership by making committee reports available	Now, we only have the President’s Perspective in T&L and on the website. Consider posting Council minutes on the website after approval – they include the reports from committees.
18	Create a section on the website ‘Lend a Hand’ for posting short and long term volunteer possibilities.	We have a section on the Website but we do not use it much.
19	Distribute membership lists	Makes it more of a ‘Club’ but need to be cautious of privacy. Would need to let everyone decide what info was provided about them.
20	Orientation packages – for volunteers, council members and new club members	

	External Communication	
21	FWG signage - Install a sign with the FWG road sign identifying it as part of the OFNC. Paint www.ofnc.ca on the FWG Interpretation Centre	This needs to be done.
22	Have bigger (Bilingual) signs advertising the OFNC in trail parking lots around the Greenbelt and Gatineau Park.	It is very difficult to get permission to put up permanent signs. It is easier to get permission to have a person at the trail head occasionally talking to people.
23.	Issue press releases or position statements on stories in the news and conservation issues.	
24	Write a monthly / weekly article for one of the local newspapers.	Heavy load for one person but could be shared. Newspapers like to deal with one person and have style consistency.
25	Universities – establish relationships with biology professors, invite student to lead walks and advertise on college websites.	
	Miscellaneous	
26	When people leave thank them formally for their contribution - letters, Christmas toasting, etc	This is being done
27	Add a social component to Council	We had a half social half meeting in December. Maybe a potluck or pizza in June or September.
28	More emphasis on members being pushed to do things to help nature and conservation – not just entertainment.	

**OFNC Publications Committee:
Report to Council (March 2011)**

Committee met on 14 March 2011; the following summarizes progress and actions subsequent to the last report to Council.

Trail & Landscape

expecting 45(2) to be mailed 25-26 March; this is intentionally early in order to promote the Soiree.

CFN (volume 123-124)

123 (4) to be mailed within two week; issues 124 (1) and (2) ready shortly thereafter; issue 124 (3) in early April; issue 124 (4) slightly delayed by indexing requirements but all expected to be issued by end of April; if this schedule achieved, the delay (4 week) does not present a problem for issue 125 (1).

Publication Status: CFN (volume 125)

- considerable material in hand (combination of material passed on by Francis Cook and new material); expecting 'publication ready' date for issue 125 (1) is end of April; a slight delay to wait for release of final volume 124 material is not seen as a problem.

- two new Associate Editors recommended by Editor; Tom Jung (Yukon) as Northern Associate Editor (a new position for the journal) and Claude Renault (Ottawa) as Ichthyology Associate Editor (replacing retiring Brian Coad); Committee approved Editor's recommendations.

- fee schedule for CFN and CFN products unclear; need to produce clear, up-to-date version is apparent and being worked upon by the Ctee.

Software Upgrades

- up-grading CFN software to include subscription management and improved author submission capacity is required (cost \$95.00); Ctee approved the purchase.

Electronic Publication Conference

- one-day conference being held in Washington, DC (14 Apr 2011) through Allen Press, covering production and financial aspects of electronic publishing of scholarly material; Ctee felt that the subject matter was pertinent and it would be useful to have the Editor and probably Jay Fitzsimmons attend; Ctee consensus was that with no budget for such an undertaking and without new funding, we should not go to Council to a request drawing expenses (ca. \$2,000) against existing Club finances. Will need to consider how to accommodate such

opportunities in the future.

Manning Fund

- wide-ranging discussion held on Manning Fund and potential for enhancement; could do many things associated with Manning's desire to encourage OFNC investigation and documentation of northern themes; discussed experience of other similar organizations with such funds;
- could it serve as the core for an endowment which could more aggressively support/ promote CFN (e.g. eliminate page charges and/ or pdf charges at least for independent authors?; Eventually under-write cost of publication of journal?); feeling expressed that a number of OFNC members would be willing to bequest substantial amounts to such a fund, if it is properly set up and promoted;
- consensus that encouragement of independent (amateur) authors is a core concept of the OFNC mandate and the Manning Fund could be effectively used to more conspicuously promote this; Ctee will clarify history, Council decision record and present circumstances of the Fund, etc. and bringing a review/ proposal to Council in due course.

Council Review of Publications

- it is important that Councillors, as OFNC directors, being fully aware of latest publications, this being the largest program element and the most important scientific contribution of the OFNC; from hereon in, Ctee will provide brief overview of CFN publications released since last Council meeting, providing highlights (and low lights!), inviting discussion on format, content, structure, etc.; Councillors will of course be asked to have reviewed hard copy or electronic versions of pertinent publications.

Recognition of contribution of Editor Francis Cook

- progress on several options have been discussed; initiatives are proceeding and will be brought to Council when more fully formed.

Next meeting

No meeting scheduled for the immediate future.

Dan Brunton,
Chair, Publications Ctee