

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

November 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, Rémy Poulin, Jeff Saarela, Jeff Skevington, Henry Steger, Chris Traynor, Ken Young

Council Members Absent: Carolyn Callaghan, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Eleanor Zurbrigg

1. Minutes of the October 17, 2011 meeting

Moved by A. Bélair/H. Steger that the
October 17 minutes be accepted with one correction: to replace
“sustainable membership” by “sustaining membership” on page 2.

Carried

2. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- a. Dan contacted author Jan Rinik and wrote a short letter to support the publication of his “picture book” of Algonquin through the seasons. Dan read the letter to Council and Council endorsed it.
ACTION: Dan to send letter of support to Jan on behalf of the OFNC.
- b. Student Membership:
 - i. Ann circulated a draft of the poster that will be sent to the colleges and universities in Ottawa to promote the student membership.
ACTION: Ann to update draft based on comments and add the Facebook logo.
 - ii. To reach grad students, Jay Fitzsimmons recommended writing an email and sending it to the graduate student secretariat at the universities so it can be forwarded to students and faculty.
 - iii. In order to be circulated at La Cité Collégiale, the poster will need to be in French.
ACTION: Annie to translate the poster and return to Diane L.
- c. Yi will set up a payment option with Paypal for the 2012 Pelee trip.
- d. Ann wrote back to Lori Bilecki to wish her well with her proposed project of purchasing the Nature Lover’s Bookshop from Lanark

Village and moving it to Chelsea.

- e. The thank you note for the 100 copies of the Checklist of Ontario Odonata was sent to Colin D. Jones.

3. Treasurer's Report F. Pope

Frank announced that the first draft of the financial statement will be ready by December 1st.

4. Committee Reports

A) Ontario Nature D. Lepage

Diane gave a brief report on the presentations from the regional meeting that took place on Oct. 22.

Ian Wilkes is the new representative for Eastern Ontario.

B) Publications Committee D. Brunton

- a. Dan distributed the Publications Committee's annual report by email prior to the meeting. Jeff Saarela suggested posting it on the CFN website page.

Moved by D. Brunton/J. Saarela that the Publications Committee Annual Report for 2011 be accepted as distributed.

CARRIED

- b. Monthly report: See [Annex 1](#) for Dan's report.

Motion: That the OFNC registers with [OARE \(Online Access to Research in the Environment\)](#) in order to provide CFN in developing countries.

Moved by D. Brunton/F. Brodo

CARRIED

C) Macoun Field Club D. Kitching

The annual report was distributed by email prior to the meeting.

Moved by D. Kitching/D. Hobden that the Macoun Club Annual Report for 2011 be accepted as distributed.

CARRIED

D) Fletcher Wildlife Garden D. Hobden

The annual report was distributed by email prior to the meeting.

Moved by D. Hobden/C. Traynor that the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Annual Report for 2011 be accepted as distributed.

CARRIED

E) Conservation K. Young

- a. The annual report was distributed by email prior to the meeting.

Moved by K. Young/D. Hobden that the

Conservation Committee Annual Report for 2011
be accepted as distributed.

CARRIED

b. See [Annex 2](#) for Ken's monthly report.

As Ken will take over the position of treasurer for the OFNC in 2012, the position of chair of the Conservation Committee is vacant. The committee considered the options and Ken recommended to Council that an Internet-based discussion group be created in order to draw more people into discussion on the current issues and encourage them to volunteer.

Motion: That an online discussion group for conservation issues be created for OFNC members in lieu of a conservation committee. The Executive Committee will be asked for approval if someone from the online group wishes to speak or act on an issue on behalf of the OFNC.

Moved by K. Young/J. Skevington

CARRIED

The online group must be advertised at monthly meetings and in T&L.

c. The Conservation Committee asked Council to reconsider its decision not to circulate the Snapping Turtle petition as discussed in October. Council listened to Ken's arguments and agreed to have the link to the petition added to the OFNC's website and to have the petition available for signatures at the upcoming monthly meetings.

d. Council also agreed to tell its members about the Shell's Fuelling Change Program, where members can vote for the conservation projects of their choice.

ACTION: Ann to ask Sandy to add the link to Shell's Fuelling Change Program on the OFNC's website and to mention this program at the monthly meeting.

e. The Nature Conservancy of Canada has approached the OFNC regarding the purchase of more land in the Frontenac Arch. They need \$175,000 to complete the deal and enquired as to whether the OFNC could contribute. Council suggested donating \$5000 since the OFNC has a lot of other financial needs right now. Council will vote on this motion at the December meeting.

ACTIONS:

- i. Frank to tell Garry Bell of the Nature Conservancy that the OFNC is considering donating \$5000.
- ii. Ann to ask Sandy to put a link to the Nature Conservancy website on the OFNC's website along with a note urging members to personally support the project.

F) Macoun Field Club D. Kitching

See [Annex 3](#) for Diane's report.

5. Other Business

- a. Ann, Frank and Dan met with a city archivist to discuss the opportunity to have all the OFNC archives stored at the city of Ottawa archives. The next step is to gauge how much we have to archive. Dan pointed out that nothing should be thrown out though because the archivists will decide.

ACTIONS:

- i. Dan to speak to the volunteer who offered to help with archiving OFNC's papers.
 - ii. All committee chairs to report to Council on what documents they are holding and an indication of it volume.
- b. Following the talk on Important Bird Areas (IBA) at the November monthly meeting, Nature Canada encouraged the OFNC to get more involved in the local IBA (Lac Deschenes) and asked if we could promote International Migratory Bird Day and assist with the big Bird Life Conference in June 2013. Council agreed that the club should be supportive. It was recognized that it touched the activities of Excursions, Education and Publicity and the Birds Committee. More work is needed to determine a plan. Rémy Poulin volunteered to help coordinate and others have offered to assist as well.

6. Motion to adjourn:

Moved by J. Cipriani/D. Hobden that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

CARRIED

Next Meeting: December 12, 2011, Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. (Council members Ann will bring wine and non-alcoholic drinks and snacks for a little holiday celebration. It is also the last Council meeting for some members.)

Recording Secretary: A. Bélair

Meetings in 2011:

December 12 (Party for last half of meeting.)

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE
Monthly Report to Council
November 21, 2011**

Our 5th meeting of 2011 was held 15 November. The following summarizes issues and discussions addressed at the meeting.

Ctee Membership 2012

- all committee members are serving again in 2012; we are looking to expand the Ctee by one member, targeting an individual with considerable experience with biological/ scientific publication;

2011 Publication Ctee report

- the draft Annual Report was approved for submission to Council.

Publication Status : *Trail & Landscape*

- all continues to unfold appropriately with no problems or complications raised since our last (August) discussions.

Publication Status: *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*

- manuscripts are incoming at a reasonable and accelerating rate; the expectation is that issue 125(2) will be published (electronically) in December;
- Carolyn introduced Assistant CFN Editor Trina Rytwinski and described her areas of focus, including primary responsibility for the News & Comments Section; discussion was held regarding enhancements of that, making content more timely and diverse;
- a new Instructions to Contributors is being drafted;
- further consideration of Special Issues was discussed; Carolyn would like to see one such issue per year; with a one year lead time required the first Special Issue likely could not be expected before 2013;

2012 Budget

- there is a need to track issue by issue costs with CFN, especially as the full financial benefits of the electronic publication process become evident with 125(2); OFNC Accountant Wendy Mosher is to be asked to provide line by line expenditure info for recent issues and to provide that information to the Ctee on future issues.

Third World Assistance to CFN

- OFNC support of field biology studies in the Third World is consistent with the OFNC mandate and objectives but previous consideration of possible initiatives were inhibited by the absence of a manageable way to regulate such a contribution; Jay and Liz Morton recommended the OARE (Online Access to Research in the Environment <http://oare.oaresciences.org/content/en/partners.php>); OARE determines which countries qualify for access and handles all the paperwork, passwords, etc. We provide an online access to an IP address range that they've already provided. The Ctee supports this as an appropriate initiative requiring little work on our end, no financial implications and providing CFN in developing countries where it otherwise would not be found. **Council to be asked for approval (policy issue)**

SCOPUS: English Abstracts and Ethics Statement

- a major Abstracting service that is preparing to renew its coverage of the CFN requires that the publication include a standard scientific Ethics Statement in the publication, stating that only original research is being published, that the peer review process is legitimate, etc. This will be drafted and included in the new Instructions to Contributors.

Enhancing CFN's viability

- Carolyn and Jay recently attended a workshop that provided many useful ideas on promoting and managing scholarly publications, particularly in regards to electronic publishing.

Dan Brunton,
Chair, Publications Committee

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Monthly Report to Council
November 21, 2011**

Land Trusts

The City of Ottawa held a meeting on the subject of land trusts. It was an information meeting, with no decisions made. No immediate action is foreseen.

Snapping Turtles

At the October 17 Council meeting, Council decided not to circulate the FROST petition advocating a ban on the hunting of snapping turtles. From the October 17 minutes:

E) Ontario Nature D. Lepage

The regional meeting will take place on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Mill of Kintail. Diane mentioned that she will bring up the email received by the OFNC asking to pass around a petition to request the OMNR to prohibit the hunting of snapping turtles. Council agreed that it is more of Ontario Nature's role to circulate such petitions.

The Conservation Committee asks Council to reconsider this decision. We agree that Ontario Nature should have primary responsibility for developing provincial policy proposals. However, that is not what this is about. It is about getting written signatures on a paper petition. We are in a situation in which we have an actual MPP (Conservative, in fact) who is willing to table a petition in the Legislature. For this to be effective, we need old-fashioned written signatures. Such a petition might actually have an impact on MNR policy.

What we are asking is:

- 1) post the petition for download on the OFNC website, or link to the ON link
<http://www.ontarionature.org/protect/campaigns/PDFs/frostpetition.pdf>)
- 2) make the petition available for signing at the OFNC monthly meeting.

Rideau Roundtable

The RR is organizing an all-day meeting about various environmental issues, with one session devoted to the Rideau Corridor Landscape Assessment project. The meeting is Friday, November 25 in Smiths Falls. No members of the Conservation Committee were available to attend.

Conservation Committee Future

Next year, Ken Young will be resigning as chairperson of the committee, and so far a new chairperson has not emerged. Two options for future OFNC activity in the area of conservation seem possible.

- 1) Continue the committee, without a chairperson.
- 2) Create some type of Internet-based discussion group. This might attract the participation of a wider group of OFNC members, who could let the group know of issues as they arise, and permit interested volunteers to take on responsibility for issues that interest them. There are various forms of this, such as:
 - A listserv;
 - A Yahoo or Google group;
 - A Facebook page.

Ken Young,
Chair, Conservation Committee

**MACOUN CLUB COMMITTEE
October-November Report to Council
November 21, 2011**

We have had two indoor meetings and three field trips since the last Council meeting. On October 22nd Rob read "The Thousand-Year Pine" by Enos Mills to the junior group; the older group discussed how we would explain our Study Area to those attending an OFNC field trip to that area. On November 12th, we held a combined meeting when Dave Seburn gave a most interesting presentation on the flora and fauna of Cuba. The field trips were to Pakenham (one) and the Study Area (two). Sadly, only two OFNC members participated in the special field trip to our Study Area on November 5th, but they were heard to remark that they learned a lot!

Diane Kitching,
Macoun Club rep