

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

**November 19, 2012**

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

**Chair:** Ann MacKenzie

**Council Members Present:** Annie Bélair, Fenja Brodo, Barbara Chouinard, Owen Clarkin, Barry Cottam, Don Hackett, Diane Kitching, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Diane Lepage, Jeff Skevington, Henry Steger, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

**Council Members Absent:** Dan Brunton, David Hobden, Rémy Poulin, Jeff Saarela

**1. Minutes of the October 15, 2012 meeting**

Under the Publications Report, in the sentence that starts with "Some Council members...", Ann asked to add "of membership revenue and overhead expenses" after the word "allocations".

**Moved by** A. Bélair/H. Steger that the  
Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> minutes be accepted with this modification.

**Carried**

**2. Communications**

A letter was received from Wild Birds Unlimited, thanking the OFNC for the purchase of bird seeds for the seed-a-thon.

**3. Treasurer's Report** K. Young

See [Annex 1](#) for report.

**4. Cleaners for the FWG**

At the October meeting, Council voted to hire Best Maid Services. However, since they increased their price to a much higher amount that was quoted, Ann recommends hiring another company.

**MOTION:** That Council amends its decision from October and hires the services of Ultimate Cleaning Services for \$60 + tax every 2 weeks, plus the cost of the initial cleaning.

**Moved by** A. MacKenzie/D. Lepage

**CARRIED**

**5. 2011-2012 Committee Annual Reports**

The annual reports of the Membership, Finance, Macoun Club, Awards and FWG Committees were circulated by email prior to the Council meeting.

**MOTION:** That Council approves the five annual reports distributed by the Membership, Finance, Macoun Club, Awards and FWG Committees.

**Moved by** A. MacKenzie/B. Chouinard

**CARRIED**

#### **6. New Council Member**

**MOTION:** That Council accepts the nomination of Owen Clarkin as chair of the Conservation Committee and as a member of Council effective immediately.

**Moved by** A. MacKenzie/E. Zurbrigg

**CARRIED**

#### **7. IBA Studio Tour, November 3** D. Hackett

At the October meeting, Don explained that Nature Canada was in the process of organizing a “Studio Tour” of the IBA at Lac Deschênes on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> and had asked for the OFNC’s help. He therefore oversaw the recruiting of volunteers and the preparations and was proud to say that the OFNC was well represented. However, because of the lack of publicity by Nature Canada and the poor weather, very few visitors attended the event.

Ann thanked Don for his efforts in ensuring that the Club fulfilled its obligations in its partnership with Nature Canada.

#### **8. Annual Business Meeting in January 2013**

Council decided that the 2012 ABM will take place on Tuesday January 15 at the FWG. (The Council meeting will be on the following Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup>.)

Since it is too late to publish the announcement in T&L, Council agreed that an email to all members should be sent. It will be announced on the OFNC website as well.

**ACTION:** Henry to send an email to all members alerting them to the date of the Annual Business Meeting.

#### **9. Conservation Committee** O. Clarkin

##### **a. Cottage lease renewal in Algonquin Park.**

A letter from the OMNR was circulated to Council by email, inviting review and comment on a proposal that would allow existing cottage owners in Algonquin Provincial Park to hold tenure for a further 21 years. Dan Brunton replied to Council by saying that the lease should not be renewed; Owen said the Conservation Committee agrees.

Jeff suggested that 1) Ann sends a letter on behalf of the Club to state that we are opposed to the lease renewal and 2) that a template letter is made available on our website and Facebook page for club members to send on their own. It was also suggested that we approach Ontario Nature regarding them supporting our position on no further renewals.

**ACTIONS:** Owen to draft both letters; Ann to approve both and sign the letter from the OFNC. Diane L. to follow up with Ontario Nature.

**b. Housecats and Wildlife Issues**

An OFNC member wrote to Owen asking what the position of the club was towards cats and urban wildlife. Council agreed that a longer discussion is needed on the subject and that data should be gathered to guide future decisions.

**ACTION:** Annie to send Owen links to news articles and education material on cats and wildlife and on bird collisions with houses and buildings.

**c. Role of the Conservation Committee**

As the new chair of the committee, Owen wishes to get a better idea of the role of the Conservation Committee and how to make their decisions and actions relevant. He will share his thoughts with Council when ready.

**10. FWG Volunteer Party, Nov. 25**

Diane invited all Council members to the “Hibernation Party” for volunteers on November 25, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the FWG.

**11. Publication of T&L Articles Online**

The author of an article in T&L asked Karen if his article could be published on the OFNC website. Council agreed that this is a great idea and that it could be quite useful, in fact, to have some of the articles available online.

**12. Macoun Club** D. Kitching

See [Annex 2](#) for report.

**13. Publications report**

The report was supplied to Annie by email prior to the meeting. See [Annex 3](#).

**14. Motion to adjourn:**

**Moved by** H. Steger/D. Kitching that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Recording Secretary: A. Bélair

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Upcoming Meetings:

December 17, 2012 - Council meeting with holiday potluck; bring your own glass/cup.

January 15, 2013 - Annual Business Meeting

January 21, 2013 - Council meeting

### Treasurer's Report to Council

November 19, 2012

By Ken Young, Treasurer

#### Financial Statements

We still do not have financial statements for fiscal year 2011-12 ready. Ann and I are meeting with the reviewer on Tuesday, however. I've reviewed the year's transactions and draft totals, and everything seems to be in order.

#### Seedathon Accounting

The accounts have been reviewed, and this is the result for Seedathon revenues (Seedathon donations) and expenses (purchases of bird seed).

| Seedathon         | 2012   |          | 2011   |        |
|-------------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| Opening balance   |        | 231.20   |        | 21.28  |
| + Revenues        | 864.20 |          | 965.00 |        |
|                   | 636.00 | 1,500.20 |        | 965.00 |
| - Expenses        |        | 943.20   |        | 755.08 |
| = Closing balance |        | 788.20   |        | 231.20 |

**Macoun Field Club Report for November 19, 2012**

We have had two meetings and three field trips since my last report. On October 27th, Dave Seburn told us about a study he had conducted, monitoring the movement and behaviour of Blanding's Turtles on the base at Innis Point. On November 10th, Tony Gaston introduced us to the world of Thick-billed Murres in northern Canada.

Our field trips were all in Stony Swamp. One was to the Lime Kiln Trail, where, when we could drag ourselves away from the chickadees, we looked at the restored lime kiln, fire devastation and forest regeneration, and several snakes (Water, Garter and Red-bellied). The other two trips were in our study area, when we visited places familiar and not so familiar, and gave new members a chance to see just how large and diverse the study area is.

Diane Kitching

**Publications Report for November 19, 2012**

The various tasks necessary to produce T&L and CFN are proceeding on course and with no unforeseen problems. CFN issue 126(2) is now at the printers (release is imminent) and much of 126(3) has been assembled.

The issue about CFN financial reporting will be addressed by Ann MacKenzie; the consensus of the Publication Ctee is that while not the preferred approach (as described at last month's Council meeting), folding expenses and income into the overall OFNC Financial Statement is more acceptable than the practice followed the last several years.

Dan Brunton  
Chair