

THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 20, 2017

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

Chair: Diane Lepage

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Ann MacKenzie, Gordon Robertson, Diane Kitching, Ann MacKenzie, Remy Poulin, Ted Farnworth, Jeff Saarela, Fenja Brodo, Lynn Ovenden, Jakob Mueller

Birds Committee Liaison: Marc Patry

Directors Absent: Henry Steger, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Owen Clarkin

1. Minutes of the February 2017 Meeting

Moved by Diane Kitching/Annie Bélair that the February 2017 minutes be accepted with three minor changes, and redistributed.

CARRIED

2. Communications

New issues of Wood Duck and Quatre Temps were circulated.

3. Issues for Discussion / Decision

a) Safe Wings Ottawa and an Ottawa Bird Strategy

Anouk Hoedeman and Sarah Kirkpatrick-Wahl described two ongoing projects of Safe Wings. One is to develop an Ottawa Bird Strategy. With a 2016 \$3,220 grant from the Community Foundation of Ottawa, they completed phase 1 of this project: forming an Advisory committee with the Wild Bird Care Centre, Nature Canada and Bird Studies Canada, and drafting an outline. They provided the Foundation with a report and have applied for \$8635 support for phase 2, which will be the writing of the Ottawa Bird Strategy (but will not include its printing/distribution). The strategy may include topics such as habitat protection and restoration, conservation, bird collisions, bird tourism and biodiversity.

Safe Wings is also developing a brochure to develop awareness among homeowners and builders about bird collisions with buildings and how to prevent them. Anouk has met builders and developers to present strategies and techniques to make buildings safer for birds. She has been invited to speak at the North American Birds and Buildings symposium in Pittsburgh in April.

The board thanked Sarah and Anouk for coming to describe these fine initiatives and results. Directors expressed interest in having a workshop at FWG or at the Gatineau Park June 10/11 bioblitz on window treatments.

Safe Wings is currently a project of the OFNC and applies for grants as such. OFNC provides

some support to Safe Wings through the Birds Committee budget. The Treasurer keeps track of donations made to OFNC that are intended for Safe Wings. Ann will share this info with Anouk.

b) Ottawa Park Summit

Ecology Ottawa invited OFNC to cohost a celebration of Ottawa parks and Earth Day on April 22. Gord Robertson noted that OFNC is already committed to two other Earth Day events this year; he will reply to Ecology Ottawa.

d) 100in1day

Renata forwarded to Diane Lepage an invitation for OFNC to have an event on June 3, 2017 as part of a celebration of community events. Ted will reply to Renata, saying that the Native Plant Sale at FWG can be listed as OFNC's contribution.

e) OFNC Research Grants

Jeff had previously distributed (March 6 email) four research proposals and the research grant subcommittee's recommendations for support. They are recommending: Perron: \$3000, Catling: \$3000, Murphy: \$2400, Seburn: \$1695, for a total of \$10,095.

Moved by Jeff Saarela/ Gord Robertson to approve the Research Grant Subcommittee's recommendations for support to the four submitted research proposals.

CARRIED

f) Binoculars

The family of a member who recently died has donated some binoculars, a spotting scope, tripod and canon camera lenses to OFNC. The board considered who might best use them. Ideas include: available at FWG for visitors on guided walks, as a prize or award, auction to members (lenses), gift to Bill Mason or MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre.

g) Projects on Turtle Road Mortality Mitigation and Monarch Recovery Program

Diane, Jakob, Ted and Gord met to decide how to proceed. Diane signed the contribution agreement. Contracts will be offered to Dave Seburn and Holly Bickerton.

Gord will arrange a meeting with them to determine the payment schedule, allowing for HST, and stewardship of data. Diane will inform Carolyn of their decision and ask her for a contract template.

4. Committee Updates

a) Birds

The committee will meet next week. They are considering what to do with old records and publications (Shrike, Auk) in members' basements.

b) Education and Publicity

The committee met last week. Members will bring the OFNC display or lead a nature walk at several public events this spring including:

- April 6 City of Ottawa Wildlife series, Michael Runtz speaker

- April 15, Open House at FWG, for National Wildlife Week
- April 22, Earth Day, nature walk at McCarthy Woods.

Mark is working up an idea for OFNC baseball hats. He built the first of 6 display boxes for the seasonal storyboards to be posted at 6 locations around FWG. Bilingual text pages have been prepared for the spring edition featuring tree swallow, wood frog, snapping turtle, spring azure, mourning cloak, and orange-belted bumblebee.

c) Events

The spring program is coming together. Jakob is considering a September trip to Presqu'ile.

d) Fletcher Wildlife Garden

Ted showed the Backyard Garden to staff from AAFC and informed them that OFNC has asked an arborist to remove/reduce some of the black locust on its periphery. Ted is consulting others about who should use the building.

5. Motion to adjourn by Rémy Poulin/ Annie Bélair. **CARRIED**

Recording Secretary: Lynn Ovenden

Meetings in 2017

- April 10
- May 15
- June 19
- September 18
- October 16
- November 20
- December 11

Diane LePage
President
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Lynn Ovenden
Recording Secretary
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date