

**THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)
MINUTES OF MEETING**

May 19, 2015

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

Chair: Henry Steger

Directors Present: Barbara Chouinard, Julia Cipriani, Owen Clarkin, Barry Cottam, Ted Farnworth, Diane Kitching, Louis L'Arrivée, Ann MacKenzie, Lynn Ovenden, Rémy Poulin, Jeff Saarela, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Directors Absent: Annie Bélair, Fenja Brodo, Carolyn Callaghan, Alex MacDonald, Karen McLachlan Hamilton

Guests: Linda Burr, member of Education and Publicity Committee
Heather Badenoch, Communications Consultant from Village PR

1. Minutes of the April 20, 2015 Meeting

Moved by Ken Young/Barry Cottam that the April 20th minutes be accepted.

CARRIED

2. Status of the Mineralogy Group within the OFNC

Ken Young began a discussion about whether the mineralogy group is a committee of the OFNC, advertised to members. He proposed that its status be regularized, with monthly reports to the Board and advertised field trips. (Field trips are currently advertised.) Should it receive a budget? Ann said that the group broadens the scope of the Club and enriches it. Ken pointed out that if insurance is to be available to participants on mineralogy field trips, the group should become an officially recognized OFNC activity. Other points: what is the status of the art group? What guidelines do we have for a group that wishes to be associated with the OFNC? What guidelines do we have for who can use the OFNC name and the FWG building?

MOTION: Moved by Ken Young, seconded by Lynn Ovenden, that the Board recognizes the Mineralogy Group as an activity of the OFNC. **CARRIED**

This was followed by a discussion about how many persons have keys to the FWG and whether the lock on the door should be/could be changed. It was agreed that this issue is really a subset of the building use policy.

MOTION: Moved by Jeff Saarela, seconded by Ted Farnworth, that the Board find a way to develop an access and use policy for the FWG building. **CARRIED**

3. Communications Plan: Presentation by Heather Badenoch, Village PR, on her recommendations for a new communications plan for the OFNC.

Heather summarized the purpose of the project, her findings to date, and her recommendations for a new communications plan. She encouraged the Board to think about and discuss the contents of the presentation in the coming weeks, after which she will submit a final report and an implementation plan. In reply to a question from Jeff, she said implementation would cost between \$3,000 and \$10,000.

4. Bill Cody Fern Garden Commemoration

Motion: Moved by Barry Cottam, seconded by Ann MacKenzie, that the Board will provide financial support for an event to commemorate the creation and unveiling of the Cody Fern Garden in the shady corner of the FWG. **CARRIED**

5. Gervais Property Surplus – Alfred Bog

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) sent a letter of clarification with respect to some OFNC money that had been sent to the NCC for purchase of the Gervais property. The NCC assured the OFNC that the OFNC money that was surplus to the requirement for the Gervais property was being held by the NCC and had not been transferred to any other proposed acquisition.

MOTION: Moved by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Julia Cipriani, that the NCC be advised to use the \$25,000 left in the account as they see fit. **CARRIED**

6. Charitable donations and tax receipts – Ken Young

The Board needs to consider: (1) issuing charitable receipts for gifts of goods (2) issuing charitable receipts for membership fees and (3) TORS for the Finance Committee. Our current policy does allow for receipts for gifts of goods, but it is complicated and difficult to administer fairly. In view of the fact that such receipts are very, very rarely requested, Ken recommends that we change the policy to not give receipts. After some discussion about how to determine value, a motion was proposed to deal with the request currently before the Board.

MOTION: Moved by Louis L'Arrivée, seconded by Owen Clarkin, that the treasurer make a one-time tax receipt after we have the gift evaluated by the Finance Committee. **CARRIED**

The Finance Committee will consider a new policy on charitable donations.

With respect to issuing tax receipts for membership fees, the Board referred this to the Finance Committee for further study.

With respect to the TORS for the Finance Committee, it needs Board approval.

7. Other items/Committee Reports

a) Conservation – Owen Clarkin

- i. Conservation Committee and other groups have recommended that the height of the curb around Mud Lake be lowered to a point where there will not be a barrier to young turtles trying to reach the water; Mayor Watson is reported to be receptive to this proposal.
- ii. Dave Seburn will be conducting a survey of the Gervais property in June (reptiles and amphibians).
- iii. Julia Cipriani asked about the proposed new plan for the Ottawa River Parkway and possible changes to Mud Lake; Owen said he would raise this at a Conservation Committee meeting

b) Publications – Jeff Saarela

Jeff reported that the CFN has received 11 submissions for grants under its new research program. Judges are Jeff Saarela, Owen Clarkin and Fred Schueler.

- c)** Transport Canada has shut off public access to the popular bird-watching area to the south of the airport.

d) Macoun Club – Diane Kitching

See report in [Annex 2](#).

3. Motion to adjourn

Moved by Eleanor Zurbrigg/Barry Cottam that the meeting be adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary (Acting): Diane Kitching

Meetings in 2015 at the FWG:

June 15

September 21

October 19

November 16

December 14

MFC Report, May 2015

We have had two field trips and one meeting since my last report.

On April 25 we had a very special field trip, starting at 3 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m. We met at Barbara Gaertner's place in the countryside near Tatlock. After we arrived, we explored the woods and creek until early evening, had supper around two campfires, tried to see the spring peepers that were so numerous that their voices seemed to drown out those of the members, and eventually, when it was almost dark, made our way back to the old field near Barbara's house where some woodcock were just beginning their sky dance.

On May 9 we went to the study area. Despite the heat and humidity, we kept active: some waded in temporary ponds, looking for caddis fly larvae and other interesting things; some watched from the pond edges or wandered off in search of insects, flowers and frogs. We noticed many more trilliums than usual, and in the deer enclosure we counted a record number (76). At our lunch spot, we heard several species of birds, including Hermit Thrushes and a Barred Owl. Macouners weren't the only bodies looking for interesting things; a few mosquitoes took an interest in us....

On May 2, we had an indoor meeting. Rob gave a talk about bird intelligence, resulting in lots of feedback and participation from the members.

Diane Kitching

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