

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

March 21, 2016

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

Chair: Fenja Brodo

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Owen Clarkin, Diane Kitching, Diane Lepage, Alex MacDonald, Ann MacKenzie, Jakob Mueller, Mark Patry, Rémy Poulin, Gordon Robertson, Jeff Saarela, Henry Steger, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Directors Absent: Carolyn Callaghan, Barry Cottam, Ted Farnworth, Lynn Ovenden

1. Minutes of the February 15, 2016 Meeting

Moved by Annie Bélair/Henry Steger that the February 15th minutes be accepted as distributed.
CARRIED

2. Communications

Michael Leveille and Helen Zettel, teachers from the St-Laurent Academy and St-Patrick's High School, wrote to Fenja to announce that they will present the OFNC with a Biodiversity Award on Earth Day. Diane Lepage will attend the gala on behalf of the club.

3. Committee Reports

a) Awards – Eleanor Zurbrigg

The 2016 Awards Night is on Saturday, April 2.

b) Birds – Mark Patry

Anouk Hoedeman will be displaying the dead birds collected by Safe Wings Ottawa at City Hall on March 29.

c) Conservation – Owen Clarkin

- i. The committee has written to the Species at Risk program of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to comment on the importance of listing the American Eel under the *Species at Risk Act*.
- ii. The committee was invited by the City of Ottawa to a citizen science event. Owen will attend and speak about conservation actions citizens can take.

d) Education and Publicity – Gordon Robertson

- i. The committee is preparing a workshop on birding and citizen science for students in education; it will apply to the elementary curriculum.
- ii. The committee is looking for judges for the upcoming Ottawa Regional Science Fair;

- money for prizes (3 x \$100) is already in the budget.
- iii. Gord asked if the club had a list of experts whose contact info could be passed on when a person (a journalist for example) or an organization asks for answers or opinions from the OFNC. Directors explained that such a list was compiled a few years ago but was not kept up to date. It was decided to revise it. Alex pointed out that these experts should be provided with some standard OFNC text, as the messaging should be uniform and consistent.
 - iv. On behalf of the web working group, Annie presented the updated OFNC logo that committee member Mark Brenchley has designed.



R IQF#Drjr#Sursrvd#P duK#54#53491r{sv

The owl image was cleaned up and improved, and a font was chosen to create a new bilingual linear logo, a French and an English graphical version, as well as secondary banner and box styles. The BoD was very pleased with Mark's work.

Some directors expressed concerns about the missing hyphen between the words 'field' and 'naturalists' in the English-only primary logo, as it is part of the club's name. It was explained that in this more graphic version, all punctuation was removed for aesthetic reasons.

Also, on the large vinyl samples Mark had printed for display, the size of the owl and font on the French-only primary logo were much smaller than on the English version. Annie will ask Mark about possible adjustments.

MOTION: That the BoD accept these proposed logos as part of the OFNC's new brand, with possible modifications to the size and layout of the French-only primary logo.

Moved by Annie Bélair/Gord Robertson

CARRIED

This is the first step to a branding exercise the web working group wishes to undertake. Mark has offered to continue his work and prepare an OFNC brand document with guidelines, outlining colours and fonts for the club to use. He asked to be paid for his work, which would be around \$600. Since this exercise was already in Education and Publicity's budget, the BoD said that Mark could go ahead with the project.

e) Membership – Henry Steger

Henry mentioned that 2016 membership renewals have been slow and his numbers to date for 2016 show a decrease in renewals and in new memberships.

f) Research Grants – Jeff Saarela

Before the meeting, Jeff emailed the proposals the club has received for the 2016 OFNC Research Grants competition. Tony Gaston, Owen Clarkin and Jeff each reviewed the proposals, following a standard set of criteria, and recommend funding 9 of the 11 projects. However, the total amount requested for these 9 projects is higher than the established \$15,000 we are awarding. He added that if the club would award \$20,000 instead of the \$15,000, all 9 projects could be fully funded.

MOTION 1: That the BoD increase the research grant total to \$20,000 for 2016.

Moved by Jeff Saarela/Diane Kitching

Discussion:

Although this shows that there is interest in the research grants the OFNC has created, directors pointed out that \$15,000 is the amount that was budgeted. There is also a risk of setting a precedent.

MOTION NOT CARRIED

MOTION 2: That the BoD accept to fund the 9 projects (for a total of \$15,000) recommended by the Research Grant Committee.

Moved by Jeff Saarela/Diane Lepage

CARRIED

g) Publications – Jeff Saarela

Jeff mentioned that the committee is looking for space to store the overstock of CFN copies. As there is no space in the FWG building, they will look into renting commercial storage space. They will go through the boxes and keep only what is needed, then look at prices of storage spaces. Jeff added that if anyone else needs to store OFNC items, they can let him know.

h) Nature Canada – Alex MacDonald

Alex said that Nature Canada recently launched its “Keep Cats Safe and Save Bird Lives” campaign, where cat owners can pledge to keep their cats indoors.

i) Ontario Nature – Barry Cottam

See report in [Annex 1](#).

4. Donation to the OCDSB Outdoor Education Centres

Prior to the meeting, Lynn sent a copy of the proposed donation agreement between the OFNC and the OCDSB Outdoor Education Centres (MacSkimming and Bill Mason) to enable more participation of socio-economically challenged schools. It amounts to \$25,000 (\$5,000 x 5 years) as discussed at the BoD meeting in December 2015. The agreement states that 90% of the donations will be used to rent buses and to cover program costs and 10% will be used to purchase field materials; the centres also agreed to report back to the OFNC.

MOTION: That the OFNC enter into an agreement with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to provide \$5,000 annually for 5 years to help classes from socio-economically challenged schools go to the MacSkimming and Bill Mason Outdoor Education Centres.

Moved by Ann MacKenzie/Gord Robertson

CARRIED

5. Motion to adjourn

Moved by Diane Kitching/Jeff Saarela that the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary: Annie Bélair

Meetings in 2016:

April 18

May 16

June 20

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 12

Fenja Brodo
President
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Annie Bélair
Recording Secretary
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Report from Ontario Nature (ON)

I'll be submitting an application to ON by March 31 with a recommendation (the name is not to be revealed yet) for consideration of the J.R. Dymond Service Award. This award is open to individuals, groups and government agencies. The criteria are: "Nominees must show distinguished public service that resulted in exceptional environmental achievement. This public service may include a change in legislation or policy, preservation of a species or area, or leadership in a particular environmental issue."

The Ontario East Regional Meeting is being hosted by the Prince Edward County FNC on April 2.

ON really appreciates the support we have given on various issues that have arisen these past few months. Thanks to all for responding.

Barry Cottam

[Back to Minutes](#)