

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

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

Chair: Diane Lepage

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

Directors Absent: Eleanor Zurbrigg

Birds Committee Liaison: Bob Cermak (instead of Marc Patry)

1. Minutes of the September 2017 Meeting

Moved by Lynn Ovenden/ Ted Farnworth that the October 2017 minutes be accepted. **CARRIED**

2. Business arising from minutes

a) Unveiling of the Plaque for James Fletcher

The ceremony took place on November 9, 2017 in the Neatby Building. There were short speeches by Catherine McKenna, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Michele Marcotte, Director of the Ottawa Research and Development Centre located at the Central Experimental Farm, and Diane Lepage, the OFNC's president. Dan Brunton brought James Fletcher's life and times to life with a fascinating and humorous presentation that everyone enjoyed. His account will also appear in T&L and the newsletter of the Friends of the Farm. The plaque itself will be installed at a later date.

3. Communications

The National Capital Commission hosted a workshop in mid-November on the urban landscape. The 2018 calendar of the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre includes two photos of FWG.

4. Issues for Discussion / Decision

a) Update on the new website

The working group intends to close the old website www.ofnc.ca hosted by Primus, and migrate to the new website www.ofnc.ca hosted by WebinOttawa, on January 8. Annie gave Directors a visual tour of the developmental website. Directors made several preliminary comments and were invited to send additional questions and suggestions to Lynn.

b) Annual Reports

In order to present members with committees' annual reports at the January 9 AGM, we want to approve them at the Dec.11 meeting of the Board. Before then, directors should provide their comments to the authors in case changes are required. The reports may differ in tone from one committee to another. We will try to use CFN's style elements.

5. Treasurer's Report

The year-end records were sent to the accountant by November 1. The Financial Statement should be ready before the December 11 meeting of the Board. Ann also asked the accountant to prepare OFNC's "Registered Charity Information Return" to the Canada Revenue Agency. This annual chore was previously done by treasurers; Ann will assess if it's worthwhile to have it done by the accountant. At the Nov.14 monthly meeting, Ann asked for help with finances of the Club. Two people offered to help with the Club's investments and with donation receipts.

6. New Business

a) Potential spokespersons for media requests.

Gord will distribute a list of club members with various expertise for directors to comment on.

b) The Dec.11 board meeting will be short to allow time for refreshments. Bring something.

c) Jill Sturdy, Nature Canada, would like to discuss ideas for collaboration related to their Naturehood program. We could ask her to attend a board meeting. Directors are interested in collaboration with Nature Canada and would like to re-establish a liaison.

7. Committee Updates

a) Awards. The committee needs nominations. They will meet on Dec.11.

b) Conservation. The Nature Conservancy has requested donations to help it buy a property in the Frontenac Arch on Whitefish Lake, 40 km northeast of Kingston. The committee is gathering information on the proposal. Owen will distribute this information to the Board along with a reminder of OFNC's previous donations to conserve land.

c) Education and Publicity. The winter posters for the storyboards at FWG will go up soon.

d) Events. The committee met last week. They need suggestions for winter events. Bird Committee will help find leaders for the Pelee trip.

e) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – 5 certificates of recognition will be presented at the volunteer brunch on November 26.

f) Macoun Field Club. The club continues to meet.

g) Publications

Anouk offered to give the committee a speaker phone which they need for meetings at FWG, so out-of-town members can participate.

The committee decided to raise CFN's annual subscription rate for institutions from \$60 to \$120. About

300 institutions subscribe. The board considered the idea of publishing annual committee reports in T&L instead of in CFN but decided to continue publishing them in the CFN. Board members are invited to inform Jeff if they want to receive a free hard copy of each issue of CFN; this might help them be ambassadors for the journal. Book reviews will be open to everyone. Bill Halliday and Dave Seburn are leads for an upcoming special issue on herpetology in honour of Francis Cook. Regarding the recent release of issue 131(2), Jeff assured directors that subscribers will receive all 4 issues of volume 131 and that delays due to changes in the publication team have been resolved.

h) Safe Wings

The semi-annual pub night for SafeWings volunteers is on November 29. This year’s annual display of window casualties will be in late afternoon, at City Hall. Last year, the bodies were then given to the Royal Alberta Museum.in Edmonton. Directors offered a few suggestions for institutions which might accept them this year. The committee is concerned that mass balloon releases are still permitted in Ottawa and would like Ottawa to ban them. The conservation committee will look at the issue.

i) Nominations

With few exceptions, board members are willing to serve again next year. Fenja is still looking for people who might be members-at-large, or liaise with Nature Canada, or be OFNC’s representative to Ontario Nature.

8. Motion to adjourn by Diane/ Annie. CARRIED

Recording Secretary: Lynn Ovenden

- December 11, 2017
- January 9, 2018 AGM
- January 15, 2018
- February 12, 2018
- March 19, 2018
- April 16, 2018
- May 14, 2018
- June 18, 2018

Diane Lepage
President
Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club

Date

Lynn Ovenden
Recording Secretary
Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club

Date