

**THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**June 18, 2018**

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

**Chair:** Diane Lepage

**Directors and Ex Officio Members Present:** Annie Bélair, Gordon Robertson, Bob Cermak, Henry Steger, Jakob Mueller, Diane Kitching, Fenja Brodo, Ted Farnworth, Ann MacKenzie, Catherine Hessian, Owen Clarkin,

**Directors Absent:** Eleanor Zurbrigg, Jeff Saarela, Ken Young, Lynn Ovenden, Anouk Hoedeman

**1. Minutes of the May 2018 Meeting**

**Moved by** Catherine Hessian, seconded by Bob Cermak, that the May 2018 minutes be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**2. Business arising from minutes**

- a) New Canadians update. Fenja, Bob, and Diane met to plan for Sept 16. Leaders are needed for possibly 40 people. Discussed whether to break them into groups. Our role is limited providing leaders for a general nature walk, 1.5 hours, at Mer Bleue boardwalk and trails. The rain date is the next Saturday, the 23<sup>th</sup>. If there were at least 10 volunteers that would suffice. It is probably best to have a dedicated leader for each group. Fenja and Diane volunteer to be leaders, and Jakob can contribute leaders. The birds group can also contribute. If this is successful we would like to continue doing this, perhaps as early as next spring.
- b) Guidelines on requests for use of the FWG Resource Centre. As a result of the presentation from the Bateman group, we want to tighten up our guidelines. We are adding a few sentences regarding 1) requests to use or have access to the facility, 2) proof of liability insurance, and 3) granting access to the washrooms. The Bateman group were at the FWG last week and it went very well. The Board will use its discretion to grant access when members are involved.

**Moved by** Ted Farnworth, seconded by Gord Robertson, that the new guidelines be approved.

**CARRIED.**

c) Communications.

- We received thank you notes from children who toured the Bill Mason Centre.
- We received a Bird Survey Report of the Hunt Club golf course.
- Leslie Macpherson sent a letter from the Hon. Catherine McKenna inviting us to the unveiling of the plaque honoring John Macoun, on June 23 at the Nature Museum. Diane will be there.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

- a) Current Profit and Loss statement

Ann MacKenzie reported that the use of SQUARE to accept credit cards at the FWG Plant Sale worked really well. There were 19 transactions for a total of \$570. Next year we will include in our advertising that we accept credit cards. We may also use SQUARE to accept credit cards for membership payments at the monthly meetings in the fall.

Our direct deposit system, PLOOTO, is now working smoothly. We are continuing to issue cheques upon request or for one-time payments.

An Income statement as of mid-June was distributed in advance of the meeting. It is to inform Directors as well as to help with budget estimates and preparation for the September meeting. Some concern was expressed regarding the large shortfall of revenues relative to expenditures. The Board agreed to discuss this further at the September meeting in the context of the budget.

A further batch of receipts for donations was issued. The General and SafeWings thank you letters were translated into French by Jakob Mueller, assisted by Annie Belair. One French letter was sent out for SafeWings. We will have to consider how we might use the French versions of the letter in the future.

The Director's Handbook has been updated to include information on how to claim a reimbursement from the club as well as an article CRA and Partisan Activities. We still do not have anything on our Website Guidelines, Science Fair support and Lobbying/Advocacy. The newly approved Guidelines on the use of the FWG Resource Centre will replace the older version currently in the Handbook. Bob Cermak requested background information on the Czasak bequest. That information will also be added to the Handbook.

## 5. Issues for Discussion / Decision

- Budget for FY2019 (Oct.1, 2018 – Sept.30, 2019)
- CFN financial data
- Kanata Community Fair. That weekend already has two OFNC events. We will see if someone wants to put up a booth.
- Hydro One has sent us notice of a project for environmental assessment for a new facility. It does not look like they want our input as it appears to be an already cut Hydro corridor.

## 6. Committee Updates

- a) Birds. Bob would like to add to the committee: Jamie Spence and Rachelle Lapensée.  
**Moved by** Bob Cermak, seconded by Gord Robertson, to add Rachelle Lapensée.

**CARRIED**

The Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club Bird Survey report was received by Diane. In 2008, there had been a request to do a bio-blitz of the golf course to certify the course as environmentally-friendly. Since then Dave Moore and Roy John have done this survey every year, although it does not involve us. It is mostly a bird survey.

#### b) Conservation

Owen and Bob attended a Friends of the Carp Hills meeting to discuss what to do about the increased bicycle traffic. There were many people at the meeting. The main result is that Janet Mason, lead of Friends of Carp Hills, and Nick Stowe from City of Ottawa, are asking for help as to how to conserve the area. There is a large mountain-biking community in the South March Highlands. They are asking for our help in identifying sensitive or vulnerable plants or areas. There is habitat in that area for birds and animals that may be rare or endangered. The bikers are requesting an environmental study for multi-use trails.

There is a red spruce project event, June 30, Anderson Rd., Leitrim, near highway 417, for a bio-inventory. Bio-blitzes are needed for gathering good data for conservation.

Mowing in the City can have adverse impact on nature. We have sent a letter asking for mowing at times that do not harm the animal life.

#### c) Education and Publicity.

Environmental Week at DND went well. Summer storyboards have been posted. Summer scavenger hunt flyers printed. Trail maps and FWG flyers are updated with new website address.

##### Recent Tours and Talks:

- 17th Ottawa Scouts, FWG, Mon 14 May 7-8 pm, Gord
- Opeongo High School, FWG, Thu 17 May 12-1:30 pm, Gord
- Home School Group tour, FWG, Tue 22 May 2-3 pm, Gord
- NatureSketch, FWG, Sat 9 Jun 1-3 pm, Ted
- St Thomas More School tour, FWG, Mon 11 Jun 9 am-1:30 pm, Gord
- DND presentation, Wed Jun 11, Diane, Elizabeth
- Garden Days tours, FWG, Sun 17 Jun 1-4 pm, Ted, Sandy, Tony, Gretchen

##### Scheduled Tours and Talks:

- Ogilvie Villa by Revera, seniors talk on Songbirds, Wed 26 Jun 10:15-11:15, Gord
- Home School Group tour, FWG, Wed 20 June - 10 am, Gord

Two youth applied for the Youth Summit sponsorship. The Youth at Fletcher programme is going well, Gord may need more volunteers to help out, we should consider reaching out to members.

#### d) Fletcher Wildlife Garden

As of last Wednesday 43 people signed into the volunteer book. The Tues, Wed, and Fri volunteers are mostly new people. The plant sale brought in \$4498 in sales. Many of those sales were by credit card. The committee will be looking for new leadership for this event. The parking set-up went well. We used the space next to the baseball diamond and the space behind the Red Barn.

The biggest project this summer is the pond. It is subject to a lot of erosion. We are going to dig a trench with a pipe so that the water flows into the pipe instead of eroding the bank. The Fletcher Wildlife Garden is popular and well-used. We are also putting in three new benches.

e) Macoun Club is continuing with meetings and outdoor activities. For the most recent activity we went to Pakenham and enjoyed the day in nature. The last outing is June 23.

f) Events

Jakob will ask to have the first part of July events put up on the website. The next big event is the Kenauk nature inventory. July 21 and 22.

g) Publications.

T&L is at the printers. There are changes to the prices for single issues. The last issue cost us \$5.65 per copy. We will sell single issues, starting with the first color issue (in 2017), at \$6.00, or \$10.00 if mailed. Ones older than the first color issue will still be \$2 each.

7. **Motion** to adjourn, by Catherine Hessian. **CARRIED**

Recording Secretary: Catherine Hessian

Upcoming Meeting Dates (to be confirmed)

- Sept 17, 2018
- Oct. 15, 2018
- Nov. 19, 2018
- Dec. 17, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Lepage  
President  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Hessian for Lynn Ovenden  
Recording Secretary  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date