

THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 18, 2019

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

Chair: Diane Lepage

Directors and Ex Officio Members Present: Annie Belair, Diane Kitching, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Henry Steger, Jakob Mueller, Fenja Brodo, Gordon Robertson, Bob Cermak, Ted Farnworth, Catherine Hessian, Anouk Hoedeman, Elizabeth Moore, Jeff Saarela, Owen Clarkin

Directors Absent: Ann Mackenzie, Ken Young, Bev McBride

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the February 2019 Meeting

Moved by Fenja Brodo, seconded by Jakob Mueller, acceptance of the February 2019 minutes. **CARRIED**

2. Business Arising from Minutes

(a) Facebook: **Action: Jakob will set up a meeting with the FB group administrators.**

(b) Territorial land acknowledgment: Gord had circulated examples of policies adopted by various local organisations and suggestions for adoption by OFNC (appended). Some members of the BoD were very strongly in favour of implementing such an acknowledgement while others remained more reluctant to do so. Ted reminded the BoD that, with respect to FWG, AAFC had advised waiting until a policy is adopted by Treasury Board. With respect to monthly meetings, Fenja pointed out that the Neatby Building is also AAFC property. Diane suggested awaiting Treasury Board's decision. **Deferred**

3. Communications

Various magazines had been received. Kingston Field Naturalists have sent a flyer advertising their bioblitz on June 14, 2019.

4. Treasurer's Report (none)

5. Issues for Discussion/Decisions

(a) AAFC Building 138 renewal agreement: renewal due date coming up soon. **Diane will sign the agreement** for a further period of 5 years.

(b) Cormorant hunt update – Annie was commended for her participation in an interview with CBC Radio Canada on this subject. The start date of the proposed hunt has been delayed, suggesting the proposal is being reviewed. The Federal Government has advised the Ontario Government that any cormorant hunter disrupting any mixed bird colonies including protected species risks being charged. A provincial government update is likely soon.

(c) It was noted that concerns expressed by interested parties have led to the cancellation of the 'open for business' bylaw, a section (10) of Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018. This bylaw would, essentially, have permitted municipalities working on a specific development project to pass a by-law to request provincial approval to override certain regulations including environmental protection regulations. OFNC had submitted comments.

6. Committee Updates

(a) Awards – Eleanor: Awards for 2018 were presented at Awards Night. A report is being prepared for CFN and the website. Diane has now awarded Ann the President's Prize. Awards Night went satisfactorily. Diane felt it needed more content. There is to be a silent auction or similar next year. The Nature Quiz should be extended. The next Awards Night will be held on February 22nd 2020.

(b) Conservation – Owen: following the decision of the group to focus on herpetology this year, they have started scouting sites for surveying, particularly in the eastern part of the area around Ottawa where there is heavy agricultural land use and few records. The Committee has submitted its comments on the Review of Ontario's Endangered Species Act: Discussion Paper (EBR 013–4143).

(c) Education & Publicity – Gord: the web committee has made changes to the display of the OFNC calendar because it was difficult to find on phones – it is now necessary to click "Events" to display the calendar. Gord's photography talk at the Kanata Seniors' Club went well. Lynn & Gord will again be organising an Open House & Jane's walks at FWG. Gord has a kindergarten talk coming up. Gord asked whether anyone might be able to help with the Regional Science Fair at Carleton University where OFNC awards three \$100 prizes. Lucy Patterson has left the committee and, although Kathleen Conlan will help, they have no French speakers. Diane will see if she can help and will also ask Lynn. Alexandra Brett has also left the committee. More members are needed.

(d) Ontario Nature meeting (Kingston) Saturday April 13th - Gord will be attending

(e) Events – Jakob: a busy spring schedule has been planned. Some additional events that are not in T & L will be advertised on the website. The Point Pelee trip is now full with 38 participants, three leaders and administrative support. A number of participants will be from the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalist's Club which had been trying to plan a similar trip.

(f) Finance – nil

(g) FWG – Ted: 10 new volunteers and three corporate groups have already expressed interest. Activity underway with some Plant Sale seeds already planted

(h) Membership - nil

(i) Macoun Club – Diane: Little to report. The youth have been on March Break and one field trip was cancelled due to bad weather. They will meet Saturday, March 23.

(j) Publications: Jeff – a nice email had been received from the James Fletcher Award recipient who had expressed appreciation of the OFNC’s support of preliminary natural history research rather than more established research. Committee will be ready shortly to recommend which applicants should receive research grants. They will submit their nominations by email and request approval before the next BoD meeting.

(k) Safe wings – Anouk: the annual bird display will take place at City Hall on Wednesday, March 20. The CSA Group (formerly the Canadian Standards Association; CSA), is adding bird friendly guidelines to its standards. NCC is also working on some guidelines. The City was planning to have prepared guidelines a year ago but the person involved left suddenly. Trying to get documents from them and hoping to get this done this year. It would be ideal if the City could make guidelines generalised rather than per development. The City has been talking about murals and Anouk wonders whether they could be applied to glass bus shelters. Should try to involve OC Transpo.

8. Adjournment – there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Apr. 15, 2019

May 13, 2019

June 17, 2019

September 16, 2019

Diane Lepage
President
Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club

Date

Elizabeth Moore
Recording Secretary
Ottawa Field-Naturalists’ Club

Date

Annexes

A Territorial Land Acknowledgement proposal

Indigenous statements / Statements of Reconciliation

uOttawa

Rationale:

The University of Ottawa's Indigenous Affirmation was written by the Indigenous Affairs team in partnership with the Indigenous Education Council, Indigenous Student groups, and members of the local Indigenous community. It is a special acknowledgment of the Algonquin nation as well as the rich and diverse Indigenous population in Ottawa. The Indigenous Affirmation is a living piece of truth and reconciliation and is intended to promote a spirit of awareness of Indigenous people both historically and today.

Traditionally, Indigenous people did not use land acknowledgements, but instead gave statements to recognize the hospitality shown to them when visiting other territories, to honour their ancestors, as well as to acknowledge the ongoing relationship of people to place.

The Indigenous Affirmation is intended to be read once at the commencement of events or conferences; repetition for each speaker is not necessary and may detract from the significance of the statement. This is the traditional approach to this type of acknowledgment and affirms the intention at the opening of the event.

Statement:

We pay respect to the Algonquin people, who are the traditional guardians of this land. We acknowledge their longstanding relationship with this territory, which remains unceded.

We pay respect to all Indigenous people in this region, from all nations across Canada, who call Ottawa home.

We acknowledge the traditional knowledge keepers, both young and old.

And we honour their courageous leaders: past, present, and future.

City of Ottawa:

The Statement of Reconciliation is as follows:

Ottawa City Council recognizes the significance of the undertaking of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with the release of the TRC's final report and its recommendations. It took many decades of advocacy by residential school survivors to establish the Commission, and the several years of gathering testimony, evidence and developing recommendations have been a difficult and exhausting process for survivors and Commissioners alike. We recognize the deep and lasting traumatic impact that Canada's Indian Residential Schools had on individuals, their families, and communities both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. The

history of these schools is one of pain and gross injustice that requires us all to make ongoing and concerted efforts to learn the truth about residential schools, acknowledge this history and its modern legacies in our cities and begin a shared journey of reconciliation. Many Aboriginal people now living in Canada's largest cities continue to grapple with the most severe consequences of the intergenerational trauma caused by residential schools - but we are committed to supporting and delivering real change, working together with Aboriginal leaders.

Today we declare that we stand with Canada's big city mayors and with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and commit ourselves to learning from the lessons of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and taking action to ensure the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people are fully acknowledged in policy, and in the great cities we seek to build. We stand together today in committing to a new equal partnership with Aboriginal people in Canada; one based on truth, dignity, and mutual respect.

uCarleton:

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation.

Acknowledgement of the traditional territory is an important cultural protocol for many Indigenous peoples, nations and cultures both in Canada and abroad. The practice demonstrates respect for the traditional custodians of a particular region or area, and serves to strengthen relationships.

Carleton University recognizes the Algonquin peoples as the traditional custodians of the land in which the campus is located. Carleton faculty, professional services staff, students, representatives and members are encouraged to acknowledge the First Peoples on whose traditional territory we work. Acknowledging territory shows recognition of and respect for the host nation, the Omàmiwininiwag (Algonquin peoples, in the Algonquin language).

This acknowledgement appropriately takes place at the commencement of conferences, workshops, public lectures, presentations and other events held on- or off-campus in the National Capital Region, hosted by Carleton University, particularly those pertaining to Indigenous communities, and diversity and inclusion-related events. For speaking engagements taking place outside the National Capital Region, determine which Indigenous territory you are presenting in and make an appropriate acknowledgement for that territory. There are several ways to make an acknowledgement:

A formal welcome to the traditional and shared territory by an Elder. If possible, invite an Elder to share a welcome, song and/or opening remarks. For more information on extending invitations to Elders, see our resource: [Guidelines for Working with Elders](#)

An acknowledgement of the traditional and shared territory by the host. Suggested script for acknowledgement:

“We/I would like to acknowledge the Algonquin nation whose traditional and unceded territory we are gathered upon today.” “We/I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin nation.” Acknowledging territory is only the beginning of cultivating meaningful and reciprocal relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and communities. We encourage you to reach out to local Indigenous communities to open pathways for dialogue, where the shared history and separate histories of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples and Canadians may be explored.

Ontario Nature

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People.

Suggested for FWG

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which the Fletcher Wildlife Garden is located is the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People.

Suggested for OFNC

We would like to acknowledge that the land on which this meeting is located is the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People.