

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

January 20, 2014

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

Chair: Fenja Brodo

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Dan Brunton, Julia Cipriani, Owen Clarkin, Barry Cottam, Diane Kitching, Lynn Ovenden, Rémy Poulin, Henry Steger, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Directors Absent: Carolyn Callaghan, Barbara Chouinard, Ian Davidson, Don Hackett, Ann MacKenzie, Karen McLachlan Hamilton

Guest: Bob Cermak from the Birds Committee

1. Minutes of the December 16, 2013 Meeting

Moved by A. Bélair/H. Steger that the December 16th minutes be accepted as distributed.

Carried

2. New Name of OFNC Council

As stated in the minutes of the December 2013 meeting, "The upcoming amendments to Ontario's *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* require us to make some changes. Those on Council will no longer be referred to as "Council members" because that implies another membership category."

Therefore, the OFNC Council is now referred to as the OFNC Board of Directors and its members, directors.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

The forward agenda stated: "Council to discuss the new position of volunteer coordinator for the OFNC."

Requests by individuals who write to the OFNC to offer to volunteer are already forwarded to the appropriate committee chair. Henry added that he mails a "new member package" to all new members. Dan pointed out that the OFNC used to hold a "new members night".

So although it was decided that the position of "volunteer coordinator" does not need to be created, the Board liked the idea of hosting an event for new members. Committee chairs could do a brief introduction, followed by a field trip.

ACTION: Julia and the Events Committee to organize a meeting/field trip for new members at the FWG in the spring, and coordinate with other committees such as FWG, Education and Publicity, Membership and Macoun as necessary.

4. Communications

- a) Fenja sent a letter to the Ottawa Society of Botanical Artists (OSBA) to thank them for the gift of \$200 they presented to the FWG. The OSBA has been coming to the FWG to do artwork for many years and wanted to show its gratitude.

- b) Ontario Nature sent a thank you letter to the OFNC for sponsoring a student to attend the Youth Summit in September 2013.

5. Nomination for Positions on OFNC Board of Directors for 2014

Following the approval of the slate of directors at the Annual Business Meeting on January 14, Fenja read the nominations for the officers, ex-officio members, committee chairs and members at large for 2014:

Officers

President — Fenja Brodo
1st vice-president — Henry Steger
2nd vice-president — Eleanor Zurbrigg
Treasurer — Ken Young
Recording secretary — Annie Bélair
Past-president - Ann MacKenzie

Ex-officio members

Editor, *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* — Carolyn Callaghan
Editor, *Trail & Landscape* — Karen McLachlan Hamilton

Committee chairs

Awards — Eleanor Zurbrigg
Conservation - Owen Clarkin
Education and Publicity — Lynn Ovenden
Events — Julia Cipriani
Nominations — Ann MacKenzie
Finance — Barbara Chouinard
Fletcher Wildlife Garden — vacant
Membership — Henry Steger
Publications — Daniel Brunton

Members at large

Barry Cottam (represents the Fletcher Wildlife Garden)
Ian Davidson
Don Hackett (represents Ontario Nature)
Diane Kitching (represents the Macoun Club)
Rémy Poulin (represents the Birds Committee)

MOTION: That the list of proposed officers, ex-officio members, committee chairs and members at large on the Board of Directors be approved for 2014.

Moved by A. Bélair/L. Ovenden

CARRIED

6. Dates of the Board of Directors' Meetings in 2014

Because of Easter Monday and Victoria Day, the directors decided to hold their meetings on the Tuesday after these holidays. (See [list of meeting dates](#).) It was then suggested that all board meetings be held on Tuesdays. As many directors were absent, the Board will wait until the June meeting to decide if it wishes to move its meetings to Tuesdays starting in September 2014.

7. Committee Reports

a) Awards – Eleanor Zurbrigg

The committee will meet in February to discuss the nominations that have been received; Eleanor pointed out that there is still time to submit nominations.

b) Birds – Rémy Poulin

- a. Rémy reported that over 100 observers took part in the 2013 Christmas Bird Count; the official results will be published on the OFNC website.
- b. There has been no development to the OspreyCam project, though Rémy asked to let him know if anyone knew a knowledgeable person who could help with the technical aspect of web broadcasting.
- c. Bob Cermak gave an update on the preparations for the Ontario Federation of Ornithologist (OFO) 2014 Convention. As it will be held in Ottawa on September 26-28, the OFNC Birds Committee is heavily involved; an ad-hoc committee has been created to help organize the event. He said that they are expecting 250 to 300 guests. The Birds Committee will provide regular updates to the Board of Directors.

c) Conservation – Owen Clarkin and Dan Brunton

Owen and Dan informed the Board that a 30.2 hectare property on the Ottawa River, in Renfrew County, is for sale. On top of its regionally, provincially and nationally significant species, its geological assets are remarkable Dan described its exceptional karst landscape and large sinkholes, and stated that the property stands over part of the largest underwater cave system in Canada. The Nature Conservancy of Canada is interested in protecting this site and is prepared to contribute financially. Dan and Owen recommended that the Board consider this opportunity to contribute to the conservation of this property.

Some directors asked how OFNC members would feel about purchasing land that is outside the 50-km circle of the club. Dan replied that this is on the Ottawa River, in the Ottawa Valley, and that the OFNC should take part in preserving ecological jewels such as this property. The consensus of the Board was that especially considering past OFNC contributions to land acquisitions in the Frontenac Axis, the Alfred Bog and elsewhere, the Renfrew County site was within the Club's primary area of interest.

Owen reported that the Conservation Committee would review this proposal and report back at the next to the Board meeting.

d) Events – Julia Cipriani

- a. The May 2014 trip to Pelee is full.
- b. The committee is looking for a coordinator for the refreshments at the monthly meetings.

e) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Barry Cottam

- a. The document for the Feb. 17 board meeting on the future direction of the FWG is being finalized and will be shared with the directors prior to the meeting.
- b. The collaborative and lease agreements between OFNC and AAFC must be renewed before the end of March. The FWG Committee has looked at the documents and is satisfied; Barry offered to share them with the Board.
ACTION: Barry to send the draft collaborative and lease agreements between OFNC and AAFC to the directors for review.
- f) **Macoun Club** – Diane Kitching
 See [Annex 1](#) for the report that was sent by email.
- g) **Membership** - Henry Steger
 Henry will be sending reminders shortly to members who haven't renewed yet.

8. Update on the Violetta Czasak Bequest

Ken reported that Violetta Czasak's condo has been sold, with a closing date of March 7th. As she named the OFNC sole beneficiary of her estate, Ken is in the process of finalizing the procedures.

Meanwhile, an ad-hoc committee was formed to discuss potential best uses of the bequest consisting of Ann Mackenzie, Fenja Brodo, Ken Young, Owen Clarkin, Barry Cottam, Dan Brunton, and someone from the Birds Committee.

9. Motion to adjourn:

Moved by D. Kitching/B. Cottam that the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary: A. Bélair

Meetings in 2014:

- Monday, February 17 – Meeting dedicated to the FWG
- Monday, March 17
- Tuesday, April 22 (because of Easter Monday)
- Tuesday, May 20 (because of Victoria Day)
- Monday, June 16

Tentative dates for fall:

- Monday, September 15
- Monday, October 20
- Monday, November 17
- Monday, December 15

MFC Report, 20 January 2014

Macoun Club activities resumed on January 11, 2014, with a meeting at FWG. Robbie Stewart, a former member who is now a second-year student at Carleton, did an excellent job of engaging the members in a talk about fossils, with a particular emphasis on fossils to be found in the Ottawa area. On January 18th, we had a field trip to Rob's house at White Lake. With everyone wearing snowshoes, we walked around in the woods, looking for tracks, listening for birds, and gathering wood for our lunch fire. After lunch, we went into Rob's house, where half of the Macoun Club library is now housed. (The other half is being set up at Barbara's house on Darling Road). This was the first time that most members have been able to explore our extensive collection of more than 1,000 books. An online index enables members to ask for particular books they would like to borrow. When the Museum of Nature was closed for renovations, our collections went into (inaccessible) museum storage, but now all our materials have to be removed. Therefore our next meeting, on January 25th, will be the first "great Macoun give-away", when we will distribute some of our collection of rocks and minerals to interested members.

Diane Kitching