

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

May 20, 2014

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

Chair: Fenja Brodo

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Barbara Chouinard, Julia Cipriani, Barry Cottam, Don Hackett, Ann MacKenzie, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Henry Steger, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Directors Absent: Dan Brunton, Carolyn Callaghan, Owen Clarkin, Diane Kitching, Lynn Ovenden, Rémy Poulin

Guests: Mark Brenchley, member of the Education and Publicity Committee
Bernie Ladouceur, member of the Birds Committee
Alex MacDonald, Manager, Protected Areas, Nature Canada

1. Minutes of the April 22, 2014 Meeting

Moved by Annie Bélair/Don Hackett that the April 22nd minutes be accepted as distributed.

Discussion: After the BOD received the first draft of the minutes, Lynn Ovenden asked to remove the action item recorded under the Membership Committee report which stated that The Education and Publicity was to contact the *Ottawa Citizen* regarding publishing advertisements for the OFNC. Annie deleted the action item and sent the revised version prior to today's meeting.

Ken pointed out that the action item should not have been deleted. He explained that the original minutes correctly reflected the discussion at the April meeting. If the Education and Publicity Committee feels the action item should be modified, it can be done during today's meeting following a proper discussion.

Modified motion: That the April 22nd minutes be accepted with the inclusion of the action item under the Membership Committee report.

CARRIED

2. Advertising the OFNC

At the April meeting, the BOD had discussed the possibility of advertising the OFNC in the *Ottawa Citizen*, and had asked the Education and Publicity Committee to contact the newspaper to inquire about advertising in print and online. Lynn has since expressed concerns with this action item.

Mark explained that the Education and Publicity Committee didn't feel it had enough guidance to do this task. He said that the OFNC would need a communication strategy to start any advertisement campaign.

This subject requires a lot more discussion and thought. Various ideas were shared afterwards, but no conclusion was reached in this short time:

- Since the target audience is people who would be interested in joining, ads should be placed next to nature-related articles in papers or webpages.
- Should a Communications Committee be created?
- What is the unique value of the OFNC that we can sell?
- How do we use social media?
- Are people learning from our website?
- Does our website entice people to join?
- Should we restrict part of our website to members? Would this be against our mandate?
- Our ads should be on other groups' websites.
- Is the name "Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club" too intimidating?

3. New Director on OFNC Board of Directors

Alex MacDonald has offered to replace Ian Davidson on the BOD as the Nature Canada representative.

MOTION: That Alex MacDonald be welcomed as a new director on the OFNC Board of Directors.

Moved by Ann MacKenzie/Don Hackett

CARRIED

4. Committee Reports

a) **Birds** – Bernie Ladouceur

Bernie described plans for issuing an update of the 1993 Bird Checklist. This update had previously been presented, in very general terms, to the OFNC Council at the time and Council approved it in principle. The plan was to have both a physical and an electronic version with the latter being kept up-to-date fairly easily. What Bernie described was a small booklet, about the size of the Larose Forest booklet, which would include the weekly status of birds in the Ottawa area and some comments. The goal is to have the booklet ready for the OFO meeting in September. The Board advised Bernie that he must get the approval of the Publications Committee. Alex Macdonald said he may know someone who could help with the excel program to make the status bars.

MOTION: That \$2000 be allocated for the creation and printing of the new Bird Status booklet.

Moved by Don Hackett/Julia Cipriani

CARRIED

b) **Conservation** – Dan Brunton

There was no report from Conservation Committee. Dan reported that "The Nature Conservancy has gathered the necessary information for the updated appraisal of the Gervais Property to be conducted, which will occur shortly and work on the acquisition is proceeding."

c) **Education and Publicity** – Mark Brenchley

This committee is continuing to work on developing a common look for all club publications and signs. The language policy of the club was discussed and it was agreed that it was ad hoc depending on the circumstances. Everything on the FWG property must be bilingual. Publications such as the Larose Forest booklet were bilingual because it is located in a largely francophone area of the city.

d) Events – Julia Cipriani

There was considerable discussion about the use of waivers for field trips. Many of the other field clubs in Ontario, who have the same insurance coverage as the OFNC, do not use waivers. Leaders do not always get waivers signed. Waivers help to reduce our liability provided the person signing understands what they are signing. They are also a good way of getting an attendance record. Ken pointed out that the most effective waiver is the one tailored to the particular type of activity and the more generic the waiver the less effective. Our current waiver does not mention leader negligence which it should. This discussion also led to the need to consider developing an information package for trip leaders.

ACTION: Ken and Julia to agree on some new language for the waiver and bring it to the Board in June.

e) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Barry Cottam

See report in [Annex 1](#).

f) Macoun Club – Diane Kitching

See report in [Annex 2](#).

g) Membership – Henry Steger

There has been a number of new members in the last month that may be partially a result of Mark Brenchley promoting the club at a class on bird identification by song.

h) Publications – Dan Brunton

- a. Both Editors are moving ahead on schedule with coming issues.
- b. The Publications Committee has made arrangements to engage a graduate student as an intern from Trent University for three months. The student will provide the CFN with an electronic manuscript management system and address some invoicing issues. In turn the student will get a course credit for experience is a scholarly publication.

There was considerable discussion of this issue when it was learned by the directors that the treasurer, Ken Young, had expressed serious concern with this arrangement previously and yet it was going ahead. The basis for the concern is that the Ministry of Labour is cracking down on interns being used as unpaid labour. In the unlikely event that the student filed a complaint with Labour then the club would likely lose, having to pay not only a salary but possibly penalties as well. The problem is that the CFN will be getting something of value from the work of the student ('significant benefit to the organization') and that is contrary to the stated rules of the internship program.

The directors agreed that we needed to see a copy of the formal agreement our Club has with Trent University and that we may need to make arrangements to pay the student.

ACTION: Fenja is to request such a document from Trent University.

i) **Treasurer** – Ken Young

The first disbursement of \$200,000 from the Estate of Violetta Czasak has been made to the club's account.

S

5. Motion to adjourn:

Moved by Henry Steger/Barbara Chouinard that the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

CARRIED

Recording Secretaries: Annie Bélair and Ann MacKenzie

Meetings in 2014:

Monday, June 16

Tentative dates for fall:

Monday, September 15

Monday, October 20

Monday, November 17

Monday, December 15

FWG REPORT TO OFNC BOARD OF DIRECTORS – May 20, 2014

For April-May 2014

The main work groups are underway, with the Friday morning group – including four new, young (!) volunteers – starting on May 1, followed by the Butterfly Meadow group on May 6 and the Invasive Species Group on May 21.

Sandy Garland reports that 56 of the 100 ash trees planted in 1967, the origins of the Ash Woods, will be cut down and removed by the AAFC. This will have a huge impact on the Woods as well as the Fern Garden that has been planted in the middle of it. The Woods will most likely be cordoned off for the summer. Sandy has seedlings already for replanting the area in the fall when the work is finished.

A plan has been developed with AAFC for the DSV test area, subject to FWG management committee approval. A small area in the far west end of the New Woods, north of the barn, will be sprayed with Glyphosate twice this summer and twice again next summer. The area around it will be mowed so that we can gauge the effectiveness of these two techniques. AAFC will put up signage for the 72-hour period during which the spraying takes place while we will post signs for the full period about the test area as a whole. Mark Brenchly has provided an estimate of about 30.00 per sign. At our meeting next week we will be addressed several concerns raised regarding this plan.

The FWG Bioblitz proposed for June 2014 has been postponed until next year.

One of our IC managers, Brenda MacRae, has resigned. One of the stated issues was the lack of budgets for managing the IC and the plant sale.

An Artists' Garden is being established this summer on the grassy areas surrounding the AAFC research plots south of the Barn. June 26 is the projected opening day and programmed events will be held in September. While the AG itself is not anticipated to have much effect on the FWG, some of the programmed events could be of interest and / or some concern. The Artist's Garden is in part a promotion for the Canadensis Botanical Garden Society and Flora Ottawa. The anticipated presentation on the CBGS did not materialize at the CEFAC meeting, held May 8.

The latest edition of "What's Growing On? The FWG Newsletter" will be out very soon.

Barry Cottam

[Back to minutes](#)

MFC Report – May 20, 2014

MFC has had two indoor meetings and one field trip since my last report. Natalie Sopinka had everyone's attention as she talked about Pacific salmon in the Fraser River and its tributaries, and her specific studies of Sockeye salmon. On May 10, we held a drawing workshop for The Little Bear. We started indoors, but it was a beautiful day and most participants soon gravitated to the garden and a nearby pond in search of things to draw.

The planned field trip to Brewer Park Pond was postponed to a later – and we hope warmer – date, so we went to Pakenham instead. Occasionally there was light rain and drizzle, but not enough to dampen us or our lunch fires. Spring peepers called frequently, and a quite striking tachinid fly sat for a long time on a closed umbrella. At Gerry Lee's cabin, we had an introduction to beaver anatomy (finding and removing the castor gland), followed by a close examination of the feathers on a (dead) turkey. On our walk back to the road, we sat and watched a Blanding's Turtle as she gradually withdrew her head and pretended she wasn't there. It's no wonder our field trips sometimes do not end on time!

Diane Kitching

[Back to minutes](#)