

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

September 21, 2015

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

Chair: Fenja Brodo

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Julia Cipriani, Owen Clarkin, Barry Cottam, Ted Farnworth, Diane Kitching, Alex MacDonald, Ann MacKenzie, Lynn Ovenden, Rémy Poulin, Jeff Saarela, Henry Steger, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Directors Absent: Carolyn Callaghan, Barbara Chouinard, Louis L'Arrivée, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Ken Young

Guests: Anouk Hoedeman and Sarah Kirkpatrick-Wahl

1. Minutes of the June 15, 2015 Meeting

Moved by Annie Bélair/Ann MacKenzie that the June 15th minutes
be accepted as distributed.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the May Minutes

- a) Bug Day will be held on Sept 26. With the \$1000 the OFNC contributed, the organizers will buy t-shirts for the volunteers that will be used year over year.

3. Communications

- a) Fenja has signed the Agreement for the Community Service Learning Program with the University of Ottawa
- b) She will also attend the inauguration of the new Percy Taverner Park at Woodbine Place on September 24.
- c) She has not heard back from the Airport Authority regarding granting special access to the "sparrow fields" (airport lands south of Leitrim Road along Bowesville Road) where the OFNC used to go for birding.

4. 2015-2016 Budget – Ann MacKenzie

The draft budget was circulated by email to board members prior to the meeting. The Finance Committee has received some comments; there is still time to send more.

The revised budget will be circulated before the October 19th meeting.

5. Committee Reports

- a) **Awards – Eleanor Zurbrigg**

The committee has updated its terms of reference. There will be a discussion on all the committees' terms of reference at a later BoD meeting.

b) Birds – Rémy Poulin, Anouk Hoedeman and Sarah Kirkpatrick-Wahl

- i. Anouk and Sarah attended the BoD meeting to explain that the Ottawa chapter of FLAP Canada does not wish to be part of FLAP Canada. Even though FLAP Canada had helped them get the Ottawa chapter running with meetings and materials, Anouk and Sarah felt they were not letting them be independent enough. So on behalf of the Birds Committee, they recommended disconnecting from FLAP Canada, changing their group's name to Safe Wings Ottawa and developing their own logo, all under the OFNC. The BoD supported the recommendation.

However, they still hope to keep a liaison with FLAP Canada. They will write a letter to thank them; the BoD even suggested making a donation.

MOTION: That the OFNC donate \$1000 to FLAP Canada to thank them for their help.

Moved by Rémy Poulin/Barry Cottam

CARRIED

ACTION: Anouk and Sarah will draft the letter; Fenja will sign and send with the donation.

Anouk and Sarah pointed out that they will need to adapt the OFNC waivers to the activities of Safe Wings Ottawa. They will send a mock-up of the waiver to Ken for feedback before asking their current volunteers to sign.

- ii. Approximately \$700 was raised during the Seedathon on Aug. 23.
- iii. The Fall Bird Count will take place on Oct. 17-18.
- iv. Progress has been made in updating the bird checklist with the aim of getting it published in 2016.
- v. The Innis Point Bird Observatory (IPBO) has sent a request for financial assistance to the OFNC, asking for a donation of \$4500 to hire a bander-in-charge for the 2016 Spring Migration Monitoring Program.

MOTION: That the OFNC donate \$4500 to the IPBO to help them hire a bander-in-charge for the 2016 Spring Migration Monitoring Program.

Moved by Rémy Poulin/Barry Cottam

CARRIED, with 1 abstention

Jeff asked if we could ask the IPBO to acknowledge the donation in their communications, like on their Facebook page for example. Rémy will transmit the request.

Rémy will also initiate discussions between Julia and the IPBO to organize an OFNC event at the IPBO during the banding season so as to expose the OFNC membership to that activity and to introduce the IPBO to a pool of potential new members and volunteers.

Additional note: Directors noticed that in the Toronto Field Naturalists' publication, they list the organizations to which they have donated money. The BoD liked the idea and thought the OFNC could do the same. Annie suggested adding that to the

summary of annual committee reports she prepares for T&L.

c) Conservation – Owen Clarkin

- i. The year-long Constance Bay Biothon ended in August; Owen is now working on the report.
- ii. The club has received a request from the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust (MMLT), asking if the OFNC would like to become a “Friend of the Keddy Nature Sanctuary”, to help develop and maintain property and conservation management plans. The BoD declined.

ACTION: Fenja will write a reply to the MMLT, explaining that the OFNC does not want to manage properties and does not want to undertake this kind of work.

d) Education and Publicity – Lynn Ovenden

- i. The committee has decided to add more educational elements to the OFNC display.
- ii. Two candidates have been selected for the 2015 Youth Summit.
- iii. The committee has contacted the Centre for Global and Community Engagement at the University of Ottawa to look for a student volunteer to write blog posts.
- iv. The committee has received the Communication Strategy prepared by Heather Badenoch. Some directors pointed out that there were some factual errors: Lynn asked that comments and corrections can be sent to Linda Burr and herself by Oct. 1. The committee also got 2 estimates for the website revamps and tweaking of the logos. They will be reviewed with Heather; Lynn will report back to the BoD at the October meeting.

e) Events – Julia Cipriani

- i. Julia will be stepping down as chair of the Events Committee; Jakob Mueller will take her place.
- ii. In the spring, OFNC grants were awarded to 8 research projects. One researcher is interested in giving a talk to the OFNC. The BoD suggested asking all recipients to do the same. Jeff and Julia will discuss this; Jeff also pointed out that the Publications Committee will write about the research grants.

f) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted Farnworth

- i. There is a new shed at the FWG.
- ii. The concept of both work and education nodes was introduced at the beginning of the summer at the FWG, and Ted reported that it has caught on. Volunteers were invited to select a small section of the garden to work on, at their own pace, independently of the fixed times for volunteer group work. Also, on the education side, bilingual informative signs will be set up at selected areas with interesting features.
- iii. The floor of the Interpretive Centre will be painted.

g) Macoun Club – Diane Kitching

The first meeting of 2015-2016 took place on Sept. 12, and was followed by a field trip on the 19th.

h) Membership – Henry Steger

Per Henry's request, Diane will ask Rob Lee to contact him to discuss OFNC memberships for new and returning Macoun Club families.

i) Ontario Nature – Barry Cottam

The Eastern Ontario Regional Meeting will be in Kingston on Oct. 3

j) Nature Canada – Alex MacDonald

- i. Alex brought an ultrasonic bat detector to show, and explained that volunteers can use this to do bat surveys.
- ii. The Swift Evening Out event on Aug. 12 at the Dominican University College was really successful.

k) Publications – Jeff Saarela

Jeff passed on a message from Carolyn Callaghan who asked that the minutes of the annual business meetings and the financial reports be sent to the CFN editor before March 31 of each year.

l) Nominations – Ann MacKenzie

Ann has been asking the directors if they will be back on the board in 2016. She invited everyone who had a suggestion for empty seats to contact her.

6. New Business

As a consideration to all the directors, Fenja has asked everyone who has material they would like others to read prior to board meetings to send it before 8:00 pm on the Sunday before the day of the meeting.

7. Motion to adjourn

Moved by Jeff Saarela/Alex MacDonald that the meeting be adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary: Annie Bélair

Meetings in 2015 at the FWG:

October 19

November 16

December 14