

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

**May 16, 2016**

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

**Chair:** Fenja Brodo

**Directors Present:** Annie Bélair, Owen Clarkin, Ted Farnworth, Ann MacKenzie, Lynn Ovenden, Gordon Robertson, Henry Steger, Ken Young, Diane Kitching, Alex MacDonald, Jakob Mueller, Rémy Poulin, Jeff Saarela

**Directors Absent:** Barry Cottam, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Diane Lepage,

**Bird Committee Liaison:** Mark Patry

**1) Minutes of the April 18, 2016 Meeting**

**Moved by** Annie Bélair/Henry Steger that the April 18th minutes be accepted as distributed.

**CARRIED**

**2) Business arising from the April meeting**

- a) Donations to Wild Bird Care Centre  
Fenja will ask the Centre's chair how a donation from OFNC might best be used.
- b) Key Policy  
Send comments to Eleanor on proposed policy. For discussion at June meeting.

**3) Communications**

- a) Friends Central Experimental Farm report satisfactory funds and a schedule for producing their Ornamental Gardens book.
- b) Community Foundation of Ottawa awarded SafeWings \$3200.
- c) Bug Day will be September 10, 2016. OFNC will support the event.
- d) On May 5, 2016, OFNC sent a letter and the donation of \$5000 to OCDSB Outdoor Education Centres for the 2016-2017 school year.

**4) Mud Lake Vegetation Management Plan**

Geneviève Mercier (Senior Environmental Strategy Officer for National Capital Commission, 613-239-5678 x5639) and two colleagues presented the NCC's plan to remove invasive species and replant, on the west side of Mud Lake this summer and next. They will invite community groups to help during the main work weeks May 30-June 3, June 13-17 and Sept 26-30. They welcome help from OFNC. FWG people offered advice for buckthorn removal. More broadly, Genevieve told us that NCC has been monitoring the presence of invasive species on 75 transects all over NCC's urban lands, since 2008. She requested help in locating nesting birds before removal of vegetation takes place. Mark Patry promised to ask Birds Committee for help in this matter.

## 5) Committee Reports

### a) **Birds** - Mark Patry

Birds Committee's recent meeting was sparsely attended, so they will meet less frequently in the future. They discussed OFNC's Facebook group. The fall bird count is unlikely to happen. Images from the Innis Point webcam are reaching [www.ofnc.ca](http://www.ofnc.ca); IPBO people will try to improve the feed. International Migratory Bird Day on May 14 at Brewer Park was well attended. OFNC people brought a table display and led birding walks.

The Bird Records Sub-committee will provide a summary of their activities in 2015 in the summer issue of T&L. This will include a list of the Rare Bird Reports that were reviewed during that calendar year.

### b) **Conservation** – Owen Clarkin

The committee supports three letters of comment by Dave Seburn, on the government's draft recovery strategies for blanding's turtle, snapping turtle and spotted turtle. Some directors suggested giving more visibility to the letters by posting them to OFNC's blog.

Moved by Owen Clarkin/Alex MacDonald that Fenja Brodo sign the letters on behalf of OFNC and submit them to the government.

**CARRIED**

### c) **Education & Publicity** – Gordon Robertson

OFNC awarded prizes to three projects at the Ottawa Regional Science Fair. OFNC's table display was brought to the Earth Day walk at McCarthy woods, the showing of Love Thy Nature at the Mayfair Theatre, and the Dept of Defence. Gord will lead a nature walk for Girl Guides in Winchester. To celebrate the new logo, Mark is preparing a sticker for distribution with the next T&L.

#### Website Working Group – Lynn Ovenden

The working group met with our website consultants on April 26 to review the sitemap and consider how membership and payment data might be managed on the website. We considered some donation and volunteer management software packages but are not pursuing them further. We agreed to ZenIdeas' scope of work for the project and Osamu outlined the sequence of tasks for us and himself through May and June. The working group met again on May 10 to prepare for this work. Currently we are trying to decide on the hosting company for OFNC's new website.

### d) **Events** – Jakob Mueller

Persistent participation by some non-members on OFNC walks is contributing to uncomfortably large groups. The committee requested suggestions from the BoD and support to change the statement on [www.ofnc.ca](http://www.ofnc.ca) that says: "Prospective members are welcome unless the notice indicates that participation is limited, or that bus travel is involved." Ideas

include: \$5 fee for non-members, close some events to non-members, issue membership cards, distribute membership form to non-members, require signup with the event leader, require pre-registration through EventBrite.

Jakob asked for names of people who could lead a mushroom event this fall.

**e) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted Farnworth**

- i. The Wednesday and Friday gardening groups began working last week.
- ii. FWG renewed its membership with Volunteer Ottawa, updated FWG's posting on VO's website and received inquiries from 4 new volunteers after just one week.
- iii. There was an attempted break-in to the tool shed and interpretive centre.
- iv. The committee decided to take down the bird feeder in the backyard garden. Several board members said they liked having the bird feeder there.

**f) Macoun Field Club – Diane Kitching**

MFC had 2 field trips and 2 indoor meetings over the past month. Also, Macoun leaders led a special nature walk for 40 school children to Stony Swamp.

**g) Publications – Annie Bélair and Jeff Saarela**

- i. Annie has 15 articles for the summer issue of T&L. Wendy Cotie is preparing design work for the new colour version of T&L in 2017.
- ii. The first 2017 issue of CFN will be ready soon. Dr. Dwayne Lepitzki is shadowing Carolyn as editor and will take over soon. The paywall is up so online access to the four most recent issue requires log-in.

**h) Nature Canada – Alex MacDonald**

Nature Canada hosted Bird Day at Brewer Park on May 14; there were 300 participants. The NatureBlitz at MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre on May 13-14 attracted about 150 people. Both events were successful. Alex will lead a Migration Parade with 6 classes along the Ottawa River next week.

**6) OFNC Facebook Group – Ken Young**

On May 5, the administrators of the OFNC FB group changed it from a public group to a closed group. As a result of this change, non-members of the FB group can no longer see any of the information posted by the FB group. BoD members were unaware of discussions within the FB group which precipitated this change. The BoD wants to become more familiar with the FB group and for it to be represented to the board. We agreed to invite the FB group administrators to a BoD meeting to describe their experiences running the OFNC Facebook page, in particular issues related to moderation and the membership of the Facebook group, and why the group is closed.

**7) Motion to adjourn**

Moved by Annie Bélair/Lynn Ovenden that the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Recording Secretary: Lynn Ovenden

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Meetings in 2016:

June 20

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 12

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Fenja Brodo  
President  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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Date

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Lynn Ovenden  
Recording Secretary  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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Date