

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

September 19, 2016

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

Chair: Fenja Brodo

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Lynn Ovenden, Gordon Robertson, Henry Steger, Ken Young, Diane Kitching, Barry Cottam, Owen Clarkin, Rémy Poulin, Diane Lepage

Directors Absent: Eleanor Zurbrigg, Ted Farnworth, Ann MacKenzie, Jakob Mueller, Jeff Saarela

Bird Committee Liaison: Mark Patry

1) Minutes of the June 20, 2016 Meeting

Moved by Lynn Ovenden/Gord Robertson that the June 20 minutes be accepted.

CARRIED

2) Business arising from the June meeting

a) Bug Day, Sept. 10

This public event was organized by the Entomological Society of Ontario and AAFC staff at the Neatby Building. About 2000 people attended. Guided walks with nets were offered frequently, outside to the meadow behind the building. The 4 OFNC members who staffed OFNC's display all day (10am-4pm) were very busy helping excited young children view caterpillars and mantids using microscopes; next year, we'll need more volunteers to staff 2 shifts. The Neatby Building was convenient (good parking and washrooms) as a venue, though crowded and hot.

Ken has reminded the Bug Day organizers to invoice OFNC for the \$1000 donation that OFNC offered them last spring.

b) Key Policy

AAFC has replaced the door and lock to FWG, given Ted 8 keys, and will install a lockbox.

MOTION: that Eleanor (as co-manager of the building) decide who may have a key, in accordance with the key policy, and that she may produce more keys if needed.

Moved by Fenja Brodo/ Diane Lepage

CARRIED

c) Internet Access at FWG

Ted reported there is no cable line from the road to the building. It is up to the BoD to decide

what to do. Annie will ask Jeff to consider our options.

3) Communications

- a) Alex Macdonald has accepted a new position in Halifax and resigned from the OFNC BoD. He will be missed for his skills and enthusiasm in organizing public events about nature, and for his contributions to these BoD meetings. Fenja will ask him to suggest a replacement.
- b) The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm invited directors to attend the book launch for “Blooms: An Illustrated History of the Ornamental Gardens at Ottawa’s CEF” on Oct.18.
- c) Ottawa’s Community Environmental Projects Grant Program (CEPGP) awarded SafeWings \$5000 funding for its project to design, edit, translate and print a brochure.
- d) Passing of Dr. Edward L. Bousfield, OFNC Honorary Member

4) Budget FY 2017

Rémy reviewed the draft budget for FY Oct.1 2016 – Sept.30, 2017 which he sent us on Sept.13. He answered questions and invited Directors to send him any changes by October 7. He will then send it around again before the BoD’s final discussion and vote on October 17.

5) Committee Reports

- a) Awards
Fenja offered to recruit members to organize refreshments for Awards Night; she will also hire people to staff the kitchen during the party.
- b) Birds – Mark Patry
The committee met in August and plans to meet 4x/year rather than monthly. OFNC has a new 5-year agreement with DND and PWGS allowing OFNC members to access Shirley’s Bay Causeway for wildlife viewing. As stated in the October issue of T&L and on <http://www.ofnc.ca/breports.php>, members must call the Range Control Office before entering DND property and identify themselves as OFNC members, to be informed how far down the causeway they may go. Directors expressed interest in providing all members with an annual membership card, perhaps in a personal pdf that could be emailed. No decision was made.
- c) Conservation – Owen Clarkin
The committee recently discussed the remaining articles they plan to write for T&L and OFNC’s blog; articles on ‘brushpiles’ and ‘snags and downed logs’ have already been published. They participated in 2 recent vegetation surveys in McCarthy Woods and at Macoun Marsh near St Laurent Blvd. Carlington Community Association asks them to plan an educational event regarding the proposed OMBA Mountain Bike Park on Carlington Hill.
- d) Education & Publicity – Gordon Robertson
For FWG, the committee plans to develop a set of 3 or 4 small sign-boards and seasonal explanations of what a visitor might be seeing at the spot where the sign is placed. Gord noted that OFNC’s Facebook Group administrators actively monitor posts and enforce

guidelines.

Website Working Group – Lynn Ovenden

Osamu will offer training on how to create wordpress webpages, on September 22, to members who will be managing various parts of the new website.

- e) Finance Committee Report – Rémy Poulin
The committee met in August to prepare the draft budget, previously discussed.
- f) FWG – Ted Farnworth see Annex 1.
- g) Macoun Field Club – Diane Kitching
The club met on Sept.10 and will go to the study area on Sept.17 and 24. Membership has grown to 27, including 6 new members. On Oct.7, MFC leaders will lead a walk for 1st year biology students of Carleton University to the ant mounds study area. Does MFC need more leaders?... there are usually enough adults on field trips, they sometimes need speakers.
- h) Membership – Henry Steger
Several people joined OFNC over the past month. Henry suggests increasing T&L printing from 800 to 850 copies. <50% of OFNC members request access to online CFN.
- i) Publications –Annie Belair
The committee will meet in late September and in November. They are working on a new design for T&L and aim to unveil it in early 2017. Barry is the new Book Review editor for CFN, replacing Roy John who has retired from that role.
- j) Ontario Nature Canada – Barry Cottam
Barry is looking for someone to replace him as OFNC's rep and to attend the Oct.1 regional meeting in Quinte Conservation Area.

6) New Business

- a) A telescope given to OFNC years ago will be stored somewhere and might be used for a workshop.
- b) A name for FWG Interpretation Centre: Fenja suggested Fletcher Centre or Fletcher House.
- c) Fenja will send out two videos about bees and bats at FWG.

7) Motion to adjourn

Moved by Gord Robertson/Henry Steger that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary: Lynn Ovenden

Meetings in 2016:

October 17

November 21

December 12

Fenja Brodo
President
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Lynn Ovenden
Recording Secretary
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Annex 1. Fletcher Wildlife Garden Report, September, 2016

Prepared by: Ted Farnworth

- the summer season is the busiest part of the year for the FWG
- using the Volunteer Ottawa website, we have managed to attract a large number of new volunteers
- due to the many hours of volunteer time there are now many places (path from IC to baseball diamond, butterfly meadow, old forest) in the FWG where it is obvious that our efforts to combat dog strangling vine are showing some success
- the long waited “pond dredging” project has now been done – many thanks to Diane Lepage for her patience and perseverance
- a volunteer newsletter was produced and circulated to all FWG volunteers – thanks to John Walmsley and Sandy Garland for their work on this important communication tool with our volunteers
- the Tuesday afternoon group, the Wednesday evening group and the Friday morning group continue as our main volunteer work groups
- again this year we have several “work nodes” where individuals take ownership of a small part of the Garden and under the supervision of one of our work group leaders, visit the Garden at their convenience to do their volunteer work; signage has been put up in the Garden to acknowledge this work and encourage others to volunteer to take on a work node
- The Fletcher Wildlife Garden Management Committee (FWGMC) presented certificates of appreciation to Barbara Riley and Marilyn Letts for their work on the FWG plant sale
- The FWGMC purchased Fletcher volunteer t-shirts and has started giving them out to “deserving” volunteers
- A new door was installed at the FWG Interpretation Centre building; a lock box is being installed to facilitate access to the front door key
- The FWGMC had Jay Ladel (landscape specialist; former FWG volunteer) visit the Back Yard Garden to give his expert opinion on various aspects of the maturing garden. Jay with input from FWG volunteers a “to do” list will be drawn up to help plan and organize future changes to the Back Yard Garden
- This summer the Price Waterhouse Coopers, the Ernst and Young Company, and the Royal Ottawa Hospital have volunteered at the FWG as part of their community outreach programs
- We had a bat location workshop in cooperation with Nature Canada - <https://vimeo.com/182880223>
- And 4 bumblebee workshops in cooperation with Friends of the Earth, which brought us a huge amount of publicity in terms of CBC radio and TV reports, recorded at the FWG in the Butterfly Meadow. One example - <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/bee-census-ottawa-1.3689857>
- John Davidson’s video can be found at : <https://vimeo.com/183215123>