

THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 12, 2018

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

Chair: Diane Lepage

Directors and Ex Officio Members Present: Annie Bélair, Gordon Robertson, Bob Cermak, Henry Steger, Lynn Ovenden, Jakob Mueller, Ann MacKenzie, Diane Kitching, Susan Phillips (in place of A.Hoedeman for SafeWings), Fenja Brodo, Catherine Hessian

Directors Absent: Owen Clarkin, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Jeff Saarela, Ken Young, Ted Farnworth

1. Minutes of the January 2018 Meeting

Moved by Lynn Ovenden/ Gord Robertson that the January 2018 minutes be accepted with correction to list of attendees.

CARRIED

2. Business arising from minutes

a) Introduce new Canadians to Canadian nature and wildlife.

Several directors met with Suman Gupta to consider the idea of helping with her wish to offer nature walks for new Canadians who may not speak English. It was a preliminary meeting; the group will meet with her again to develop a concept for OFNC's involvement.

b) Facebook Group.

The administrators asked for guidance on requests from other organizations to post something about an upcoming event on the OFNC Facebook group. Directors suggest declining notices for events with a fee but accepting notices of free events that are aligned with OFNC's objectives. The OFNC Facebook page does not accept (paid) advertisements at this time.

3. Treasurer's Report

The club has received an invoice addressed to the Estate of Violetta Czasak for the work of Ken Young as trustee and executor of the estate. Since the OFNC was the sole beneficiary of the estate the invoice for \$15,000 has been sent to us. The Board was aware that this invoice was going to be sent and discussed it informally at the November and December Board meetings. All Directors at that time commented on the exceptional work Ken had done for the estate and agreed that such an invoice would be most welcome. Because Ken was an Officer and Director at the time the club needs to get approval to pay him for services. We have referred the matter to our lawyer, Karen Cooper at Drache Aptowitz LLP to obtain a clearance letter from the Ontario government. The lawyer does not anticipate any problem with this letter because the amount of the invoice is less than 25% of the guideline rates for a Trustee.

At the suggestion of the bookkeeper, Ann is considering two software programs for payments, namely Plotoo (for payment by electronic transfer) and Square (to accept payment by credit card).

4. Issues for Discussion / Decision

- a) Kenauk nature reserve. OFNC received a request for a grant in support of bird surveys on the nature reserve in 2018-19. Directors decided not to offer funds for this work. Diane will reply to Kenauk with this message and confirm OFNC's interest in participating voluntarily in the survey.
- b) Advocacy. OFNC received a request from Ontario Nature in late January, to help build support for a "Protected Places Declaration". Several directors personally supported the declaration and wondered if OFNC members should be informed of the campaign but no message was sent. In a discussion of when and how the OFNC might encourage people to support a cause, Directors said:
 - A message expressing OFNC's support or asking OFNC members to support a cause must be approved by the board. If a member asks the board to consider something, the board can decide at a meeting or by email.
 - OFNC members probably don't want to receive frequent advocacy emails. Perhaps one or two email blasts/year would be okay. Perhaps members should be asked if they want more or less advocacy messages.
 - The conservation committee can use the "Recent action" box on the conservation page of ofnc.ca to inform readers of relevant regulatory proposals on Ontario's environmental registry.
 - It would be helpful to have a regular place on the website for links to news and campaigns of Ontario Nature. For any message needing timely supportive action, Gord can make a slider.
 - If the board approves OFNC's support for a cause, a member of the OFNC Facebook Group may say so in a post about the issue to the OFNC Facebook group.
- c) Ottawa River Watershed Study. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is collecting information from diverse interest groups with the intent to form a Watershed Council. They have invited OFNC to participate via an engagement platform called PlaceSpeak. Bob Cermak is participating on behalf of Ontario Field Ornithologists. He will keep the board informed.
- d) Directors' Handbook. Ann MacKenzie is updating documents in the collection. Some additional items might be the policies for keys, use of the Resource Centre, insurance, directors' responsibilities, and new types of grants, awards and certificates.

5. Committee Updates

- a) Birds. The committee is inviting 4 more members and will meet 5x/year. The municipality of North Grenville asked for help in identifying birds on Libby Island, near Kemptonville.
- b) Education and Publicity. Earth Day events are planned for McCarthy Woods and DND.
- c) Events. Rather than meet, the committee (just 4 people) will plan the spring program by email. The biennial trip to Point Pelee is not possible this year and is being deferred to spring 2019.
- d) Macoun Club. The club met 3 times indoors and had one field trip. One of the teenagers will prepare an article on Awards Night (Feb.24) for T&L.

e) Publications.

- The CFN team is ready to proceed with a new initiative to recognize "Great Canadian Naturalists" of the past. After much discussion, a set of criteria was developed by a subcommittee of the Publications Committee that will be chaired by Dan Brunton. There is close collaboration with Canadian Wildlife Federation for this project, particularly in disseminating the tributes via their networks. There will be a page on OFNC's website about the criteria and the Great Canadian Naturalists. Overall, this is a great project showing national leadership in recognizing Canada's greatest naturalists. The criteria for selection are attached (**Annex A**) and will be published in CFN. Directors should notify Jeff if they have comments on this "OFNC initiative".
- OFNC Research Grants 2018. We received 9 applications. One was well beyond the geographic limit so was disqualified on that basis. The subcommittee is reviewing the 8 contenders and should have funding recommendations at the March Board meeting.

f) Safe Wings. For the annual bird display at City Hall on February 26, Gord will prepare a slider for the website and Henry will email members. SafeWings' new brochure has been printed. OFNC's website calendar will include SafeWings' orientation sessions for volunteers.

g) Website. The working group met January 25 and will manage the new website as a team, rotating the job of organizing meetings. Sandra Garland, webmaster, handles all contact with Osamu (ZenIdeas) and WebinOttawa, the hosting company. The Treasurer holds the account with WebinOttawa. Most of the initial problems (broken links, missing documents, mobile layout, search engine access) are fixed.

7. **Motion** to adjourn, by Fenja Brodo. **CARRIED**

Recording Secretary: Lynn Ovenden

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- March 19, 2018
- April 16, 2018
- May 14, 2018
- June 18, 2018

Diane Lepage
 President
 Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Lynn Ovenden
 Recording Secretary
 Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Annex A. **Great Canadian Field Naturalists**

As part of Canada's 150th birthday celebration, the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (OFNC) is initiating the formal recognition of Canada's greatest field naturalists: individuals who made significant contributions to our knowledge of the natural history of Canada. This recognition will include various forms, including:

- i) Developing a Great Canadian Field-Naturalist 'Hall of Fame' on the OFNC website, and posting tributes with a description of each naturalist and a summary of his/her accomplishments;
- ii) Publishing the tributes in a special section in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN);
- iii) Partnering with the Canadian Wildlife Federation and potentially other national conservation organizations, for dissemination on their websites, social media, and/or magazines.

Selection Process:

The selection will be made by a sub-committee of the OFNC Publications Committee. The sub-committee will solicit and accept nominations. The call for nominations will be disseminated broadly, including through publication in CFN, posting on the OFNC website, and through the various channels of communication with partners. Nominations should consist of a few paragraphs outlining the candidate's accomplishments against the selection criteria and be sent to editor@canadianfieldnaturalist.ca. Previously published Great Canadian Field-Naturalists tributes also should be reviewed. Nominations will be assessed as they are received. When a nominee is selected, a Great Canadian Field-Naturalist tribute will be prepared, ideally by the person making the nomination. Nomination and selection will be ongoing.

Criteria for Selection:

Potential Candidates:

- Deceased individuals who were Canadian citizens or long-time, including seasonally recurring, residents of Canada;
- Recognition acknowledges lifetime achievement or many years of contribution within the scientific community;
- Contributions can be in either a professional or amateur capacity.

Character of Contributions:

- Significant contributions to our knowledge of the natural history of Canada.
- Contributions predominantly field biology investigations and analyses within a single (e.g., botany, entomology, or zoology) or multi-disciplinary (e.g., botany and entomology) field and, not predominantly geological, cultural/educational, conservation, or resource management in orientation;
- Activities/contributions predominantly made in Canada and at least at a regional rather than a localized geographic scale;
- Contributions were documented in credible literature and/or with fully curated, publicly accessible specimen collections.