

**THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**March 19, 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, Jakob Mueller, Ann MacKenzie, Diane Kitching, Anouk Hoedeman, Fenja Brodo, Catherine Hessian, Ted Farnworth, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Owen Clarkin, Jeff Saarela, Ken Young

**Directors Absent:** Lynn Ovenden

**1. Minutes of the February 2018 Meeting**

**Moved by** Ted Farnworth, seconded by Gord Robertson, that the February 2018 minutes be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**2. Business arising from minutes**

- a. Directors' Handbook – Ann - The Director's Handbook has now been updated and the link sent to all the members of the Board. When the Handbook was first created in 2016 it was primarily a resource for new Board members and only secondarily a collection of some documents. With this update it has been expanded to include all agreements and important documents that a Director may wish for reference. For good governance it is important that all Directors are aware of, and have easy access to, documents related to the operation of the club. The Table of Contents was reviewed to ensure that everyone knew what was in the Handbook. Directors are encouraged to consider any aspects of their own area that should be included. The Handbook can be easily updated as warranted.
- b. Invoice from Ken Young for the Bequest – Ann – Invoice from Ken Young re trustee work for the estate of Violetta Czasak.  
Ann MacKenzie reported that Ken Young has asked that his invoice for this work be withdrawn. Upon further investigation it became apparent that processing such an invoice would require the club to set up an employer account with the related paperwork and employee deductions. Furthermore, the CRA would claw back a major part of the resulting payment. As such it was agreed, between Ken Young and the Treasurer that it was not worth pursuing.  
Ken thanks us for this idea. We thank him for his efforts.
- c. New Canadians  
Diane met with Suman Gupta to obtain more information about the program for new Canadians. It was determined that we can easily organize small groups. Also buses and translators will be available for the outings. These outings will mainly take place in the Vanier, South Keys, and Bayshore areas. The timing for doing something is in September. In May,

Diane will meet with Bonnie (Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization) to determine further steps.

It was noted by Bob that S. Gupta has been targeting funding for this program. From this point on she is not sure what more she could offer as an intermediary and will probably not be involved in the process.

### **3. Communications**

- a. Thank you e-mail from the teachers who won the award on Awards Night. They would also like to know if anyone at OFNC would be interested in leading a nature walk or providing nature education for the students.
- b. Globe and Mail article – Ted mentioned that Safe Wings was highlighted in the Globe and Mail in an article focused on the good work they are doing.
- c. Owen mentioned being in a Citizen article about a tree that was thought to be the tallest tree in Ottawa (though his measurements prove it is not).

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Ann MacKenzie reported that the OFNC had been advised that it was going to receive \$200 from the estate of Jeanne White for the benefit of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden. The estate is in the preliminary stages of being settled so it might be some time before we receive this money.

We had been advised last April that we were a beneficiary in the estate of Betty Marwood. Rather than a specific amount we are to receive one-sixth of a share of the residual. When the Treasurer contacted the trustee to determine when the estate was likely to be settled she was informed that it would be some time yet. Furthermore, because of the design of the will and the capital gains taxes on cottage property that would have to be paid we are not likely to receive very much if anything.

Ann will be out of the country for about 6 weeks starting March 25<sup>th</sup>. The direct deposit payment system, PLOOTO, has now been tested and is being used. This will enable Ann to make payments while travelling. To ensure a secure linkage she has arranged a program with her personal cell phone provider to use her data program in the U.S. The cost is \$7 per day that it is being used. It is expected that will only be about 10 times for a cost to the club of less than \$100. In addition, cheques may be issued by the President in cooperation with the bookkeeper.

### **5. Issues for Discussion / Decision**

- a. Recommendations for OFNC Research Fund  
Jeff reported that the Research Grant subcommittee received 9 applications, reviewed them, found one of them ineligible and recommends approval of the other eight. The applications cover a variety of topics and are mostly from students. The money is paid to the researcher by giving 75% up front and then 25% when the report is finished. Because we have been left with some money in the past, the researchers will be reminded at some point if they have not yet received the second portion. It would be great if they could also publish in the T&L but the money is not

tied to that.

**Moved by** Jeff Saarela, seconded by Ann MacKenzie, that OFNC accept the recommendation of the Research Grant Subcommittee to offer support to eight research projects as detailed in Annex 1.

**CARRIED**

## 5. Committee Updates

**a. Awards.** The Awards Night was a success and appreciated by all. Eleanor and Diane L. will be meeting.

### **b. Birds.**

Bob Cermak reported that the Birds committee is getting low on members, with 7 regularly attending members. As such, 4 people have been invited to be on the committee and 2 of these have accepted. They are Nick von Maltzahn, Professor of English at U of Ottawa, and Sophie Roy, biology student at U of Ottawa.

**Moved by** Bob Cermak, seconded by Jakob, to accept these new members of the committee.

**CARRIED**

The Innis Point Bird Observatory is a major contributor to bird banding in Ontario but has always had problems with funding. They are a small organization, with approximately 30 members. Last year they requested \$4000 and said it was a one-time situation, so we gave them the money. This year they are looking for another \$4500, to pay a Head Bander. There is an unexpected shortfall in their finances due to a windstorm and equipment problems. Bob will take this request to the Birds committee for further discussion. The Board can vote on this by email as hiring a head bander is time-sensitive and the next Board meeting isn't until April 16. One suggestion for the future is that, since we continue to provide the bulk of their funding, we could roll them up as part of the OFNC. Bob will contact them and see if he can set up a meeting and he'll invite whoever is interested.

### **c. Conservation.**

The Conservation committee would like to add Jakob Mueller and Greg Lutick as members.

**Moved by** Owen Clarkin, seconded by Fenja Brodo, to accept them as members of the committee.

**CARRIED** (Jakob abstained)

Anouk and Owen were at the most recent meeting for the Ottawa Bird Strategy, which is now in the draft stage. There is a deadline to complete the strategy but the NCC may need longer to approve the document.

A Red Spruce population was found in the Anderson Road area. The Conservation Committee will lead a project to learn and document the extent of this species in and near the Ottawa district.

**d. Education and Publicity.**

New bookmarks are available, 5000 of them. Gordon Robertson reported that the committee is planning a Second Annual Open House at FWG for Sunday April 29 from 1:00 to 4:00. Every committee is welcome to participate and bring some information. The committee is working on information signs for the flowers and vegetation at FWG and new storyboards. Gord passed out fun crossword puzzles for kids, each on a different topic of nature. Caps have been ordered, both baseball and bucket type. They will be sold at the monthly meetings and possibly at other events, for example the plant sale.

**e. Fletcher Wildlife Garden.** Ted noted the date of April 22 for the Spring Fling.

**f. Events.**

Jakob Mueller is working on putting the events on the website. They will be published in the T&L. The last events planning session was done entirely by email and went smoothly. There will be an Events Committee meeting in April. After the next information meeting about the New Canadians, the Events Committee will take over that initiative.

**g. Ontario Nature.**

The next regional meeting of Ontario Nature is April 21 at Frontenac Park.

**h. Macoun Club.**

Diane Kitching received good feedback for the Nature Quiz at the awards night.

**i. Publications.**

Jeff Saarela reported that EBSCO will license our publications (older than 1 year) through their database. This agreement makes the CFN more widely available, at no cost to OFNC. In addition, we will receive royalties for the use of our content. EBSCO has also expressed interest in adding Trail & Landscape to the database.

CFN 131-3 has been published online and is going to the printers. T&L is also at the printers. Jeff and the Publications Committee have set a date to sort through the boxes of old CFNs and keep a minimum number of copies of each issue. The backlog will then be moved to an OFNC member's house in Constance Bay for storage. is in the process of getting rid of our old hard copy CFN issues.

**j. Safe Wings.**

Centretown News ran a nice article on Safe Wings and how the City of Ottawa is developing bird-friendly building guidelines. Anouk is looking for about 25 photos for the Ottawa Bird Strategy document. It would be advertised on the OFNC website and on Facebook.

Cynthia Paquin raised \$1500 for Safe Wings by organizing an auction. Diane L. will write to thank her.

Safe Wings has not yet persuaded the managers of dangerous buildings in the Kanata Research Park to do something to prevent collisions. Thousands of birds perish due to these glass buildings and smoking shelters. The volunteers are looking into several ideas, namely, talking to Sir Terrence Matthews, the owner of the holding company that owns KRP; talking to the local BIA; and approaching municipal candidates in Kanata North to make it an election issue.

Anouk is meeting with students at U of Ottawa who will re-design the Safe Wings website.

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

Recording Secretary: Catherine Hessian (for Lynn Ovenden)

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Upcoming Meeting Dates  
April 16, 2018  
May 14, 2018  
June 18, 2018

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Diane Lepage  
President  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Ovenden  
Recording Secretary  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Annex 1.

Recommendations for OFNC Research Fund							
Applicant	Affiliation	Request	Total cost	Topic		Recommend	Notes
Alicia Rochette	Carleton	1800	1800	<i>Hypena opulenta</i> as control agent for Dog-strangling Vine	student	1300	Did not fund travel to conference
Cécile Antoine	U Ottawa	3000	5400	Improving habitat of ground nesting bees	student	2280	
Jesse Fortier	U Ottawa	3000	3000	Urban Pond Characteristics Impacting Pollinator Abundance and diversity	student	2280	
David Seburn	private	1695	1695	Western Chorus Frog in eastern Ontario	non-studer	1695	
Francesco Janzen	U Ottawa	3000	26210	Migratory homing behaviour of channel catfish	student	2280	
Elena Ponomarenko	Pvt/U Ottawa	3000	5010	The origins of the Stony Swamp alvars: the fire story	non-studer	600	Did not fund lab-based work
Lauren Hooton	Trent U	2900	2900	Population levels of bat species at risk in Ontario	student	2280	
Rachel Dillon	Trent U/OMNR		22000	Snake fungal disease and its implications for wild snake populations	student		Not recommended, too far from Ottawa
Dominic Demers	U Ottawa	3000	3700	Abundance and diversity of cavity-nesting bees	student	2280	
Totals		21395	71715			14995	