

THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 17, 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, Diane Kitching, Fenja Brodo, Ted Farnworth, Ann MacKenzie, Catherine Hessian, Owen Clarkin, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Jeff Saarela, Ken Young, Lynn Ovenden, Anouk Hoedeman

Directors Absent:

1. Minutes of the June 2018 Meeting

Moved by Lynn Ovenden, seconded by Bob Cermak, that the June 2018 minutes be accepted.

CARRIED

2. Business arising from minutes

- a) Bilingual Donation Receipts. Receipts for recent donations received by September 30 will be sent out in English. Ann asked for comment on a proposal to use bilingual receipts in the future. Though the OFNC conducts most events in English and has no plan to translate other communications, a bilingual donation letter might better express OFNC's gratitude to Francophone donors.

Moved by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Bob Cermak that, starting in FY 2018-2019, we send out donation letters in bilingual format. **CARRIED.**

3. Treasurer's Report

Ann reported that she was getting ready for the fiscal year end on Sept 30th. She is receiving several claims for reimbursement as a result of her earlier email to directors and others. This is important so that we can code expenses to the fiscal year in which they are incurred. As happened at this time last year, the cash in the bank account is low. Membership and subscription renewals will be soon coming in and an investment is maturing in mid-October. Until then payment of some of the claims will be held with payment priority being given to outside suppliers such as printers.

4. Issues for Discussion / Decision

- a) Budget for FY2019 (Oct.1, 2018 – Sept.30, 2019)
Ken reviewed the draft budget assembled by the Finance Committee and noted that forecast expenses are significantly greater than revenues. We are gradually spending the large bequest received in 2015 and should re-examine how to spend the remainder. Directors asked about grouping bequest expenses in the budget, like a separate program. Interest income from investments is significant. Catherine offered to do a financial analysis of expense/income at various interest rates.

Ken has asked some Directors to consider ways to reduce costs. He asked Directors to send him other expenses/income that should be included in the budget.

Bob recommends that the two Facebook administrators each be offered an honorarium of \$1500/yr. Jakob will bring a Facebook proposal to the October meeting for discussion and decision in November. Directors agreed to add \$3000 to the Website line in the budget, as a placeholder, subject to the Board's discussion of an honorarium for Facebook and decision, in November 2018. Finding more administrators for the Facebook page to share the work might make the role less onerous for each.

b) Discount offer on purchase of the new Birds of Nunavut book.

The publisher offers a 20% discount to OFNC members purchasing the book. A code is in the fall T&L.

c) Occupancy Renewal

Corey Reany (AAFC) notified Eleanor that OFNC's leases for the FWG building and property (see Director's Handbook) must be renewed this winter. Ken will review them and distribute for consideration at a Board meeting.

d) Possible acquisition of land on Carillon Island

In August the Club was approached by Annie Luttgen the Estate Executor for Lucienne Gliberte Gerondeau asking if we would be interested in a donation of land. Upon further inquiry we determined that this was a small parcel of land (about 0.25 acres) on Carillon Island and was only accessible by boat. Given the distance from Ottawa, its small size and its inaccessibility for field trips, it was not a good acquisition for the club. The estate would like the club to pay any legal costs associated with the land transfer and would provide a charitable donation receipt to the estate.

Moved by Ann Mackenzie, seconded by Henry Steger, that the OFNC decline the offered donation of land on Carillon Island, Province of Quebec.

CARRIED

6. Committee Updates

a) Safewings. Volunteers are overwhelmed by an increase in calls (> 2000/month), Facebook and email requests for help. Many calls are after business hours. The increase is due to media exposure, referrals from city staff, and Safewings' reputation for offering a free driver to come rescue a bird and take it to care. Safewings needs more volunteers and more access to vet clinics.

Safewings may need to focus on its central mandate – prevention of building collisions. An email was sent to all municipal candidates asking for support of the bird-friendly guidelines for the city, which Ottawa has not yet endorsed. Collision specimens from 2017 were sent to the Royal Albert Museum. The Wild Bird Care Centre lost their bid for a former NCC site and must develop a new building plan.

b) Publications. CFN vol.132(1) is a special issue on reptiles and amphibians, in honour of Francis Cook. It is now online and will go to printer shortly. The number of print subscribers (now 225) continues to decline while costs continue to rise. A call for research proposals will appear in the fall T&L.

c) Macoun Field Club has a few new members and several returning members.

- d) Fletcher Wildlife Garden. Several corporate groups volunteered this summer and accomplished much. It was a great summer for butterflies and rearing caterpillars to adult stage. We have two new benches overlooking the ravine and amphibian pond. New signs to identify habitats around FWG are being made. Volunteers will do the work for erosion control/drainage above the amphibian pond.
- e) Events. OFNC participated in a bio-inventory of the NCC's Kenauk nature reserve near Montebello and provided leaders for an introductory nature walk at Mer Bleu with clients of Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization. The January AGM will be in Neatby Building. The committee is considering no longer publishing the upcoming program of events in T&L, to save page costs and because most members now rely on the website for the up-to-date program. Events Committee could create a permanent record of the year's events by listing them in its annual report.
- f) Education & Publicity. Two youth were offered OFNC's sponsorship to the Ontario Nature Youth Summit. BugDay at the Neatby Bldg was a huge success; 13 members helped visitors use microscopes to see insects that Fenja had brought. Sophie Cardinal wants to locate some of OFNC's volunteers at other tables next year. Gord prepared new storyboards for FWG, a scavenger hunt brochure for Petrie Island, and a flyer for the Mer Bleu walk with new Canadians. He has scheduled tours of FWG for four groups of brownies and beavers. Directors support the idea of making a plaque for Viola Czesak. Two people have expressed interest in joining the committee but are not yet OFNC members.
- g) Ontario Nature. Gord will attend the regional meeting. Jakob requested he bring back 10 packs of Xmas cards, for sale at monthly meetings.
- h) Conservation. The committee did two bioblitzes over the summer. The parcel of Acadian Forest in southeast Ottawa is of particular interest in terms of uncommon birds and plants.
- i) Birds. During the annual Seedathon last month, participants found 120 bird species and donated \$500. Eight ebird reports were filed. Bob will try to interest more people in participating next year.
- j) Awards. The committee invites nominations for OFNC awards; see the call for nominations in T&L.

7. **Motion** to adjourn by Lynn Ovenden. **CARRIED**

Recording Secretary: Lynn Ovenden

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Oct. 15, 2018

Nov. 19, 2018

Dec. 17, 2018

Diane Lepage
President
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Lynn Ovenden
Recording Secretary
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date