

**THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**November 19, 2018**

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

**Chair:** Diane Lepage

**Directors and Ex Officio Members Present:** Annie Bélair, Bob Cermak, Henry Steger, Diane Kitching, Fenja Brodo, Ted Farnworth, Ann MacKenzie, Catherine Hessian, Owen Clarkin, Lynn Ovenden, Jeff Saarela, Gordon Robertson, Ken Young, Anouk Hoedeman, Jakob Mueller

**Directors Absent:** Eleanor Zurbrigg

**Guest:** Bev McBride

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

**Moved by** Lynn Ovenden, seconded by Bob Cermak, that the October 2018 minutes be accepted with one correction. **CARRIED**

**2. Communications**

OFNC received the newsletter of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, in addition to newsletters from several other nature organizations. Fenja displayed the recent French translation of Mike Nickerson's book *Life, Money and Illusion*. Diane attended a screening of the 2018 film "The Woman Who Loves Giraffes". Lynn spoke of some local amateur mushroom enthusiasts (alumni of Richard Aaron's Fabulous Fall Fungi courses) who wish to offer workshops and walks through OFNC next year. Directors would like to see more events about fungi in the program; they should be advertised through Events Committee to the club website.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

(a) Financial Statements.

Ann MacKenzie reported that the financial records for Fiscal Year 2017-18 are currently being reviewed by our accounting firm, Welch. The Bookkeeper and Treasurer met with the accountants working on the file on Nov 9. We expect the Financial Statements will be ready for the Board to review at its December meeting in preparation for the Annual Business Meeting in January.

One concern that was raised was the corporate status of the Entomological Society of Ontario. The OFNC supports their Bug Day both financially and with very active participation. We had been under the impression that they were part of the federal government and therefore considered a "Qualified Donee" for a charity. However, they are a Not-for-Profit Organization that does not have charitable status. In the future we will more clearly define our support to demonstrate the link to our active involvement and ensure that it could not be misunderstood as a passive donation.

This will be the first fiscal year in which we have fewer funds. Last year we agreed to fold Seedathon, De Kirkline-Lawrence, and Anne Hanes and merge the two Macoun Funds. SafeWings would have been set up as a fund when it was established except that we were already moving away from having several funds. The FWG and Manning Funds have remained and their activity will be reported in the financial statements as will that of the combined Macoun Fund. Seedathon ended last year with a deficit of \$748. Donations this year were \$910 and seed cost \$1,502 for a shortfall in the year of \$592. SafeWings received donations of \$6077 and had expenses of \$3580 for a surplus of \$2,497.

(b) Consideration of Mileage Charges

In the past the Club has had very few occasions to pay a mileage charge so there is no set amount. The issue has been raised more recently with respect to:

1. Travel for speakers coming from out of town (once or twice a year).
2. Car usage with respect to Safe Wing volunteers for emergency trips with injured birds
3. Travel for those attending the Youth Summit (a maximum travel allowance is offered)
4. Travel for those attending Ontario Nature Regional meetings

Examples of mileage rates paid by other organizations

0.55/km	Government of Canada – for first 5,000 km
0.52-.53/km	Can Wildlife Federation and City of Kingston
0.41-.48/km	Land Conservancy for the KFLA and Ontario Land Trust Alliance
0.30/km	RA Canoe and Camping Club if carrying one canoe.

Directors agreed that travel costs of members for almost all club activities are borne by the member. They agreed to compensate travel costs in a few, specific cases.

**Moved** by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Gord Robertson, to offer speakers coming from out of town and our representative to Ontario Nature regional meetings, a travel rate which is half the current Government of Canada rate.

**CARRIED, with one against**

**Moved** by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Ken Young, to offer a travel rate equal to the current Government of Canada rate for emergency Safe Wings travel, as determined by the Chair of the Safe Wings committee.

**CARRIED, with two against**

**5. Issues for Discussion / Decision**

a) Facebook (FB)

Directors intend to discuss how OFNC manages its communications, especially social media, at a later date. To prepare for that discussion, Jakob gave directors a primer on Facebook – with screenshots of FB pages from the OFNC FB Group, from SafeWings FB page, and from his personal FB page. He contrasted a FB Group and a FB Page. OFNC does not have a FB Page but most organizations do; it can be an important way for an organization to communicate its messages to people/public who get most of their news from FB. Jakob explained some features of OFNC's FB Group page, including the Ground

Rules, contact information for the administrators and a list of OFNC events.

b) Annie will offer a free 2019 subscription to Trail & Landscape, to the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization to encourage continued interest after our nature walk at Mer Bleu in September. Directors support this. She will send Henry the address for OCISO.

## 6. Committee Updates

a) Publications. The committee met recently and will meet next week when Dwayne is in Ottawa, to discuss how they might speed up the publication process.

b) SafeWings. Migration is over. The injured Mallard in the amphibian pond was rescued.

c) Fletcher Wildlife Garden. The erosion control work above the pond was completed. AAFC will soon assess the Resource Centre for asbestos. Volunteer potluck brunch is Nov. 25.

d) Events. The committee met last week and planned the winter program.

e) Education & Publicity. The winter story boards at FWG include panels about lichens and shelf fungi.

f) Ontario Nature. Directors are asked to consider, for discussion at the next meeting, if OFNC should:  
(i) endorse OnNature's pledge that 17% of Ontario's land be protected from development, and  
(ii) acknowledge that a meeting and/or the FWG is located on traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People.

More generally, directors are asked to provide the Board with advance notice of proposals they wish the Board to discuss.

g) Conservation. The committee will meet next week. They have identified more red spruce stands south of Mer Bleu.

h) Birds.

**Moved by** Bob Cermak, seconded by Owen Clarkin, that Jamie Spence join the committee.

**CARRIED**

The 2018 Ottawa Gatineau Christmas Bird Count will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event. An article about this will be published in T&L. The Ottawa and Gatineau birding communities are planning a catered meal after the compilation. Birds Committee budgeted \$750 for this but the cost is higher.

**MOVED by** Bob Cermak, seconded by Ted Farnworth, that the Bird Committee can go \$250 over budget for the special compilation dinner on this the 100th anniversary of the Ottawa Gatineau CBC.

**CARRIED with one against**

7. The December meeting will be short enough to leave time for refreshments.

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

Recording Secretary: Lynn Ovenden

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Upcoming Meeting Dates

Dec. 17, 2018

Jan. 21, 2019

Feb. 11, 2019

Mar. 18, 2019

Apr. 15, 2019

May 13, 2019

June 17, 2019

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Diane Lepage  
President  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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Date

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Lynn Ovenden  
Recording Secretary  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date