

THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)
MINUTES OF MEETING
Monday, April 15, 2019

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

Chair: Diane Lepage

Directors and Ex Officio Members Present:, Annie Belair, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Henry Steger, Fenja Brodo, Gordon Robertson, Bob Cermak, Ted Farnworth, Catherine Hessian, Elizabeth Moore, Anne MacKenzie, Bev McBride, Diane Kitching, Jakob Mueller, Jeff Saarela, Owen Clarkin

Directors Absent: Ken Young, Anouk Hoedeman,

Guest: Susan Phillips (representing Safe Wings)

1. **Approval of the Agenda** – approved as circulated with the addition of 5 b. Sales from website

2. **Acceptance of Minutes** from March 2019

Moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Fenja Brodo, acceptance of the March 2019 minutes. **CARRIED**

3. **Business Arising from Minutes**

a. Facebook: Jakob reminded the BoD that the OFNC had commissioned a communications strategy proposal in 2015. The proposal recommended that the Education and Publicity Committee oversee all communication methods. As it had not been possible to recruit the additional members needed for this, the proposal had not been implemented. The general feeling of the meeting was that the OFNC needs a formal communications committee.

Moved by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Bev McBride, that the OFNC form a Communications Committee to oversee management of its website and social media presence. **CARRIED**

Action: Jakob, with assistance from other directors involved in the website working group, will develop proposed terms of reference for a Communications Committee and bring to the BoD for approval.

4. **Communications** - nil

5. **Treasurer's Report**

a. 6 month financial statement - Ann had circulated a 6 month financial statement for general review. Of note: membership is slightly below the 6 month mark last year; donations are slightly higher; Safe Wings donations are slightly lower but their most active period is about to start. Of concern: CFN subscriptions are down substantially. Jeff advised that 72 institutions had not renewed. This may be because they anticipate that licensed content will be freely available in a year. It is hoped that royalties from the licensee may balance this deficit or even prove more profitable.

b. Sales from website - items are now available for sale through the website. Ann asked to whom the orders for which she receives payment should be directed. It was felt that Education & Publicity should be responsible for dispatching items.

6. Issues for Discussion/Decisions

- a. Nature Day 2019 – Fenja and Anouk, representing OFNC, had attended this event on Parliament Hill organized by the Nature Network in collaboration with Ontario Nature. Delegates from across the country met with interested parliamentarians to discuss conservation and biodiversity. Fenja felt it was a very worthwhile exercise and representatives from OFNC, maybe more than two, should attend this event again in the future.
- b. AAFC Building 138 renewal agreement – Diane has signed the renewal agreement. The lease has been renewed for five years and there are no changes to the terms. Ann will be putting a copy in the handbook.
- c. Permission to post photographs – Eleanor/Annie: the desirability of obtaining permission to post or publish photos of people attending Awards Night was discussed. Previously it has been assumed that award winners who are posing for photos understand that these photos may be published but other people who are incidentally photographed may not be comfortable with this. It was felt that, in future, permission should be sought or that, as a minimum, awardees should be advised that photos will be published. This should also apply to other situations e.g. Regional Science Fair winners of OFNC prizes.
- d. Ken Young / Judy Dodds – Diane, on behalf of the OFNC, had sent a condolence card to Ken on the passing of his wife Judy, Past President of the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm and representative of the Friends on the FWG Management Committee.

7. Committee Updates

- a. Awards – nil
- b. Birds - nil
- c. Conservation – **Moved by** Owen Clarkin, seconded by Fenja Brodo, that Jen Lyne be added as a member of the Committee. **CARRIED.**
Members will be participating in a project to thin out some trees in Torbolton Forest with a view to restoring biodiversity. It is rumoured that the Ontario Government is planning to reduce its funding to Conservation Authorities. The group will be focusing on herps this year, particularly in areas east of Highway 416. They will also be trying to identify sites where rhodora is growing.
- d. Education & Publicity – Gord reported that he, Kathy Conlan and Diane (to whom he expressed thanks) had attended the OCDSB Regional Science Fair and had awarded four prizes to students, focusing on those who had done field work. New story boards are to go up at FWG. Jane's Walks will be offered at FWG on Sunday, May 5 – volunteer leaders are needed.
- e. Ontario Nature Meeting – Gord reported that Ontario Nature will explore the possibility of establishing at Queen's Park an event similar to the federal Nature Day. There had been a presentation from the Forest Group which is trying to collect tree seeds in view of the closure of the Ontario Tree Seed Plant. The 2019 Ontario Nature Annual Gathering will be at Mohawk College in Hamilton from May 31 to June 2. The effectiveness of different advocacy strategies was discussed. The most effective strategy is apparently a formal letter, email is the second best strategy, followed by petitions. The meeting discussed the difficulties of implementing the *Endangered Species Act*.

- f. Events – Bev reported that the Committee is piloting two new series of events: (i) the transit discovery series, exploring areas around the LRT stations and inviting participants to take transit to get to the event and (ii) the rambler series. These will have no designated leader but the hope is that these events will attract groups including some people of expertise.
- g. Finance – no report
- h. FWG – Ted reported that work towards the plant sale is in progress. David Hobden and Henry Steger have retired from the MC. The committee needs new volunteers.
- i. Macoun Club - Diane reported that it had been a quiet period with March Break and inclement weather. The last meeting had been an excellent visit to Rob's house focusing on maple syrup
- j. Membership - nil
- k. Publicity – Jeff reported that the new issue of CFN is out. Research grants awarded and many awardees have responded with thanks.
- l. Safe Wings - Susan Phillips reported that that the City Hall display had not been very well attended by councillors but there had been good public attendance, attracting new volunteers, and some good media coverage including that by Le Droit, the Audubon Society and the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Members continue to work with managers responsible for various buildings. Anouk will be visiting the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) building (not open to the public) to engage people working there.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

 Upcoming Meeting Dates

- May 13, 2019
- June 17, 2019
- September 16, 2019
- October 21, 2019

 Diane Lepage
 President
 Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

 Date

 Elizabeth Moore
 Recording Secretary
 Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

 Date