

THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)
MINUTES OF MEETING (corrected)
Monday, June 17, 2019

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

Chair: Diane Lepage

Directors and Ex Officio Members Present:, Annie Belair, Henry Steger, Gordon Robertson, Bob Cermak, Catherine Hessian, Elizabeth Moore, Diane Kitching, Ken Young, Anouk Hoedeman, Fenja Brodo, Ted Farnworth, Owen Clarkin, Jakob Mueller,

Directors Absent: Jeff Saarela, Ann MacKenzie, Bev McBride, Eleanor Zurbrigg,

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved as circulated with the addition of 7e. painting of FWG RC floor
2. Acceptance of Minutes from May 13, 2019 – **Moved by** Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Henry Steger, acceptance of the May 2019 minutes. **CARRIED**
3. Business Arising from Minutes - None
4. Communications
Diane noted that Jane Topping, an OFNC member and previous winner of the Conservation Award, had passed away.
A further batch of letters had been received from schoolchildren, expressing thanks for OFNC funding of transport to MacSkimming Outdoor Centre.
5. Treasurer's Report - None
6. Issues for Discussion/Decisions
 - a. OFNC Budget Financial Year 2019-20 – Ken had circulated a blank budget proposal document incorporating two previous years' figures for reference, together with notes for guidance in completing the proposal. A draft budget will be prepared over the summer.
Action: Committee Chairs to fill in blank columns with budget proposals, detailing any new initiatives, by August 1, 2019. If there are any questions committee chairs are invited to contact Ken.
 - b. Funding for Long Point Bird Observatory – Diane had circulated a request from Chris Traynor that the OFNC consider supporting the observatory with an annual donation. After discussion, the BoD generally felt that this was not an appropriate use of OFNC funds.
Action: Diane will respond to Chris accordingly.

c. Royal Swans – Diane had circulated a request made to Bob by an OFNC member, Mark Davidson, that the OFNC make a presentation at a City Community and Protective Services Committee meeting in support of a proposal to discontinue City support for the Royal Swans. will be discussed. After discussion, the BoD generally felt that this would not be a desirable course of action. Mark could be encouraged to make a presentation himself but not on behalf of the OFNC. **Action: Bob will respond to Mark accordingly**

d. Artists interested in insect identification (Fenja) – Fenja had been approached by Alexis Williams, an OFNC member and Director of the Ayatana Artists Research Program, expressing an interest in insect identification. Fenja had suggested running a workshop and requested use of the FWG for this purpose. Owen is familiar with this group and supported the proposal. **Agreed: Fenja will go ahead with this initiative.**

e. Invitation by Governor General (Diane) - An invitation had been received from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada and a Patron of the OFNC, to the Inauguration of the Queen Elizabeth II Equestrian Monument in its new location, in front of Rideau Hall's main gate on Sussex Drive, on June 12, 2019. Diane and Fenja had attended.

f. Painting of FWG RC floor – Diane felt that it was time that the floor was repainted. The BoD discussed whether this should be done by volunteers or contractors. **Agreed: painting should be done by contractors.** It was suggested that the job should be done in September/October before it gets too cold for the paint to dry properly. It was suggested that it might be preferable to paint the floor grey so some wear would be less noticeable. It was also noted that the runner needs cleaning or changing. **Jakob has a carpet cleaner and offered to take care of this.** **Action: Diane will get quote and discuss the proposal with AAFC.**

7. Committee Updates

a) Awards - nil.

b) Birds – Bob: reported that Rachelle, one of the FB Group administrators had resigned from the committee. They had been approached by the Friends of the Carp Hills to do a night bird survey. The Friends are concerned that users of the barrens have created and marked new trails, without city authorization, which are likely to be impacting wildlife. Bob and Bernie Ladouceur carried out a survey between 3.00 a.m. and 5.30 a.m. **Bob will report to the Friends.** A letter had been received from Via Rail Canada Police. Individuals who identified themselves as birdwatchers belonging to OFNC had been seen on rail tracks. Police asked that the Club take action to notify members of the dangers of this practice. Bob and Greg Zbitnew had drafted a message to put on the weekly bird report and on OFNC FB group and website. **The BoD approved the draft.**

c) Conservation – Owen noted that they had also been contacted by the Friends of Huntley Creek for input. They have been asked to participate in a bioblitz to support protests against a cement plant being built adjacent to Huntley Creek. They continue to survey successfully for new records of herps and will continue to do so, visiting eastern Ontario sites 2-3 times per month to search for herps and generally record observed biodiversity. It was noted that the

Provincial Government had passed Bill 108 incorporating Schedule 5 changes to the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*. A tour of sites to look for rhodora (*Rhododendron canadense*) had failed to find any.

d) Education & Publicity – Gord: Dave Moore had led a walk at Mud Lake. Gord had led a session for brownies at FWG. Gord has completed a new shrub trail map for FWG and a new tour for Dolman Ridge Road.

e) Events – Jakob: committee had met late May to finalise summer events which will be posted shortly. Hoping to organise some additional events. They will use a new format in T&L as previously discussed. Jakob reinforced the desirability of bioblitzes to establish data measuring decline in native species. Even if there is no current will to stop this decline, it should be recorded in the hope of encouraging future protection.

f) Finance – Ken: see 6a). Nil else

g) FWG – Ted: the annual plant sale had been a great success. It was noted that three city counsellors had put notices about the sale in their weekly letters to constituents. The three work groups are up and running but behind in annual work because of cancellations due to poor weather. 36 people had expressed interest through Volunteer Ottawa but only 8 people had committed to come out and new volunteers often do not return. Possible reasons for this poor volunteer retention were discussed. The lack of a bus service was suggested as a likely reason. This seems surprising with the Agricultural Museum and the Arboretum being on PoW Drive. **Action: Ted will approach the City.** A safety audit had indicated the need for another fire extinguisher, a smoke detector and a CO detector. AAFC had provided the smoke detector and CO detector. FWG will purchase the fire extinguisher. **Action: Ted.** The Ottawa Botanical Garden has approached FWG regarding the possibility of joint ventures. It was noted that they are working increasingly close to FWG boundaries.

h) Macoun Club – Diane: activities have been running as normal. Club coming to the end of its year. Will be holding their end of year party next Saturday. Diane was asked whether ticks are a problem on their field trips and responded that some youth have had ticks. Club does its best to educate their families. Ted noted that Kingston is experimenting with garlic spray as a deterrent on some of its properties.

i) Membership – Henry: nil.

j) Publication – Annie: it was noted that Jeff and Jessica had welcomed their first baby, a boy, on June 14. The next T&L is at the printers. Jeff had circulated an email in support of employing a new individual to do the CFN layouts and asking for approval for employing this individual on an annual contract.

Moved by Ken, seconded by Fenja, that the Publications Committee have the authority to sign a contract with Robert Forsyth. **CARRIED.**

k) Safewings – Anouk: spring migration is over but they are still busy. Anouk met with representatives responsible for the Chateau Laurier extension. They have incorporated bird collision mitigating factors into their plans. NAC advises that it is planning to “look at the

problem down the road". Unrelated to bird collisions, Anouk had been contacted by a local school who had protected a killdeer nest found in their grounds. It was suggested that the school could be nominated for an award. It was noted that another killdeer nest had been found at Petrie Island. Safewings had participated in the FWG plant sale and had a very good response. They will be doing a presentation for a group in Chelsea. They have been asked to participate in the Westboro Beach Station opening, possibly in response to concerns about the glass in the LTR stations.

Diane advised the BoD that she has now retired from DND and future emails should not be sent emails to her previous work email.

8. Adjournment – there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Upcoming Meeting Dates

October 21, 2019
November 18, 2019
December 16, 2019
January 20, 2020
February 10, 2020
March 16, 2020

Diane Lepage
President
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Elizabeth Moore
Recording Secretary
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date