

Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Monday, December 16, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Resource Centre, CEF, Ottawa

Chair: Diane Lepage

Present: Ted Farnworth, Jakob Mueller, Fenja Brodo, Ken Young, Ann MacKenzie, Diane Kitching, Bev McBride, Bob Cermak, Henry Steger, Catherine Hessian, Owen Clarkin, Elizabeth Moore, Anouk Hoedeman, Jeff Saarela, Annie Belair, Gord Robertson,

Absent: Eleanor Zurbrigg

Guests: Diane Holmes, Lynn Ovenden (representing Awards Committee), Daniel Cloutier and Linda Bennett (President) of the Vankleek Hill and District Nature Society

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved as circulated
2. Acceptance of Minutes from November 2019 – **Moved by** Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Ted Farnworth, acceptance of the November 2019 minutes. **CARRIED**
3. Colacem L'Original Cement Plant - Daniel Cloutier of the Vankleek Hill and District Nature Society delivered a presentation in support of the Society's request for OFNC assistance in attempting to overturn OMB approval of the construction of a cement plant by Colacem Canada Inc. in L'Original, Ontario. The plant will be situated close to the Ottawa River adjacent to a number of areas of ecological interest, including Alfred Bog. The emissions from the proposed 125m tall kiln are calculated to be very substantial. Furthermore, as there is no rail or water access, all materials will be delivered to and from the plant by truck. This matter is time-sensitive as a Case Management Conference, preliminary to the formal OMB hearing, will take place in L'Original on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. VKHDNS requested financial support to pay an expert to validate the data gathered by the Society and also asked that OFNC consider becoming a participant in the appeal process. After discussion, Gord Robertson **moved**, seconded by Diane Lepage, that OFNC provide \$1000 to pay an expert to review VKHDNS's calculations. **The motion will be put to the vote in the new financial year.**
Diane Lepage and Gord Robertson will attend the Case Management Conference with a view to registering OFNC as a participant.

Pause for social moments – the Meeting adjourned briefly for a festive season celebration.
3. Diane Lepage advised that Paul Catling had been awarded the John Goldie Award for Field Botany for 2019 by the Field Botanist's of Ontario. The BoD felt this merited recognition with a write up in T&L. **Action: Annie will approach Paul's wife for details.**
4. Business Arising from Minutes
 - a. MVFN – Burnt Land's website – The presentation by MVFN to the November meeting was discussed. The BoD agreed that the Burnt Land's Alvar is a site of importance and that OFNC should offer assistance to MVFN in their efforts to protect the site. It was felt

that this was an ideal opportunity for partnering in e.g. educational events and assessment of species in the Alvar. Identification of any rare species could possibly influence development.

Bob Cermak **moved**, seconded by Gord Robertson, that OFNC fund a website for MVFN for two years in the sum of \$800 to cover web-site start up, domain registration and two years hosting of the website, contingent on: 1. OFNC will be informed when the website is live. 2. OFNC and MVFN will tour the Burnt Land's Alvar at a mutually agreed date annually. **The motion will be put to the vote in the new financial year.**

- b. Letter regarding Brian Coburn Extension vs. Mer Bleue - an amended draft of a letter expressing OFNC's opposition to a proposal relating to the City of Ottawa's Brian Coburn Boulevard extension and the associated Cumberland Transitway project had been circulated by Jakob. Jakob proposed that the letter be sent to the City and put on OFNC website evidencing that we have done this. Jakob noted that he had met with some Blackburn Hamlet residents who have been mobilised to express their concern and suggested that this had had some impact on the City's views.

Jakob Mueller **moved**, seconded by Fenja Brodo, that OFNC submit the letter, as circulated, as an open letter to officials of the city of Ottawa, including the Mayor, city councillors and the CEO of the NCC. **CARRIED.**

It was also suggested that OFNC should also write to the Federal Government as the land that is proposed to be used is federal land. **Action: Owen**

- c. Roster with committee reports – the committee rosters will be added to the 2019 annual committee reports.

5. Communications – several publications and other communications were circulated

6. Treasurer's Report – Ann circulated the 2019 financial statements prepared by Welch, LLP. These show a significantly lower deficit (approx. \$3,000) than 2018. This reflects a lower CFN deficit, lower costs associated with the website and a surplus from the Point Pelee trip. **Action: Diane L. and Ann will sign the balance sheet for approval at the ABM.**

7. Issues for Discussion/Decisions

- a. Award nominations: Lynn presented the names of the four nominees recommended for awards by the Awards Committee.

Lynn Ovenden **moved**, seconded by Jakob Mueller, the approval of Martha Farkas as Member of the Year: **CARRIED.**

Lynn Ovenden **moved**, seconded by Owen Clarkin, the approval of Barry Cottam for the George McGee Service Award: **CARRIED.**

Lynn Ovenden **moved**, seconded by Fenja Brodo, the approval of Owen Clarkin for the Conservation Award, Member: **CARRIED.**

Lynn Ovenden **moved**, seconded by Ted Farnworth, the approval of the Mississippi-Madawaska Land Trust for the Conservation Award, Non-Member: **CARRIED.**

The Committee noted that two nominations described interesting accomplishments which were not awarded but would nevertheless be of interest to members. **Action: Lynn and Annie offered to invite the nominators of those projects to submit their stories to T&L**

- b. Financial statement & Treasurer's report – see above
- c. Annual Reports – Ann MacKenzie **moved**, seconded by Bob Cermak, approval of the 2019 annual committee reports to go forward for acceptance at the ABM: **CARRIED**.
- d. 2020 Nominations to the BoD – Fenja Brodo **moved**, seconded by Ann MacKenzie, that the slate of names annexed go forward for acceptance at the ABM. **CARRIED**. Diane L. welcomed Diane Holmes as a nominee to the 2020 Board.
- e. OFNC research grants – Jeff reported that there had been no applications to date. The deadline is January 15 but applications are typically received close to the deadline.
- f. Land Acquisition in the Frontenac Arch - Kristen Dahl, Director of Development with Ontario Nature, had emailed a request for support in their campaign to raise \$700,000 to acquire and maintain three properties of key habitat in the Frontenac Arch. After discussion, Jakob Mueller **moved**, seconded by Bev McBride, that OFNC donate \$5000 to support this project. **The motion will be put to the vote in the new financial year.**
- g. Partnership with CWF – OTF grant: after email discussion **partnering was agreed**.
- h. Invitation from Ontario Nature – to attend an event on Parliament Hill on February 4 at which representatives of environmental organisations are invited to meet interested parliamentarians to talk about conservation. Fenja and Anouk attended last year and felt it was a worthwhile activity. Fenja would like to go again. Lynn, Ann and Diane L. also expressed interest.

8. Committee Updates

- a. Birds: Bob - After 5 years, Greg Zbitnew wishes to discontinue responsibility for the weekly bird report on ONTBIRDS and OFNC Facebook and website. Derek Dunnett will take over that role starting January 9, 2020. Greg has agreed to bring up to date website documents Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the Ottawa-Gatineau District and Ottawa Rare Birds Catalogue of Occurrences. A potential new member has approached the Committee. The Committee had previously been petitioned to take over responsibility for the Hilda Road feeder. The committee agreed that the feeder should be monitored this winter so that a decision can be made for next winter. The Committee has subsequently been contacted by Roy John who feels this is the best feeder in the area and suggests OFNC should take immediate action. Sixty-five (65) people had taken part in the Christmas bird count. Bob reported that there had been some concern about lack of communication during the CBC of a rare bird found during the count. Bev expressed the view that beginner birders should be invited to participate. A possible project to create or restore Kirtland's warbler habitat is being considered.
- b. Conservation: Owen - Committee met last Thursday and have now finalised their annual report summarising their activities. They are satisfied with their push to establish new records in various properties. They plan to visit new areas next year and revisit previous sites to look for species not seen on previous visits. They have compiled a list of new records of rare plant species for Ontario including the potentially invasive shrub *Euonymus nanus*. They have discussed prioritising habitats that are in danger of being permanently

changed e.g. bogs that are being mined for peat, limestone uplands being subjected to limestone quarrying and other habitats being reduced by e.g. solar farms.

c. Education & Publicity – Gord: Committee had met recently. It was noted that signage to the FWG behind the Quarantine Building was a problem e.g. a recent invitee had failed to find the RC. Planning posters on “red, white and black” trees. Considering trying to get information on sites, e.g. Dewberry Trail or FWG, into a system combining Google Earth with cell phone mapping to reduce need for signs. The need for new committee members was again emphasised.

d. Events – Jakob: several events have been planned for the next few months. Some have already been posted and others will be posted soon. ABM will have content, as last year, probably showcasing some Conservation Committee activities. Rob Alvo had attended the last meeting as a guest and is interested in returning to the Committee.

Jakob Mueller **moved**, seconded by Diane Kitching, that Rob Alvo be accepted as a member of the Events Committee. **CARRIED.**

e. Fletcher Wildlife Garden - Ted: nil to report. Owen noted that there was an unprotected gas meter on the RC extending towards the parking lot and suggested that it should be protected by e.g. a bollard. **Action: Ted**

f. Macoun Club – Diane K.: Club had been on two field trips. On one trip, an upside-down rainbow, aka Bravais arc, (resulting from refraction of sunlight through ice crystals rather than rain) had been noted. One field trip had been to the California Road Trail in Lanark County. Diane asked about parking as the Club’s previous parking site is no longer available. Advised that OFNC has an agreement with Lincoln Fields to park near the Pizza Pizza. It was noted, however, that this site is being redeveloped.

g. Membership – Henry: nil to report.

h. Publications – Jeff: has received the list of all Ontario nature clubs. Will reach out to them to try to attract new CFN subscriptions. Still looking for new book review editor to replace Barry Cottam.

i. SafeWings – Anouk: OC Transpo has treated 3 bus shelters with Feather Friendly. Attended stakeholders meeting with NCC regarding Lebreton Flats.

Diane noted that Ontario Nature is very busy with new government decisions and it may be useful to take any decisions via e-mail and check the Ontario Nature website to see if we can voice our opinions directly to the Ontario Government.

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- January 20, 2020
- February 10, 2020
- March 16, 2020
- April 20, 2020
- May 11, 2020
- June 15, 2020

Appendix

2020 Board of Directors Nominations

Diane Lepage
President
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Elizabeth Moore
Recording Secretary
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Appendix

Nominations Report for ABM 2020

Submitted 12 December 2019

by Fenja Brodo

Position	Incumbent	Slate for 2020
President	Diane Lepage	Diane Lepage
1 st Vice-President	Jakob Mueller	Jakob Mueller
2 nd Vice-President	Vacant	Owen Clarkin
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Moore	Elizabeth Moore
Treasurer	Ann MacKenzie	Ann MacKenzie
Chair: Awards	Eleanor Zurbrigg	Eleanor Zurbrigg
Chair: Birds	Bob Cermak	Bob Cermak
Chair: Education & Publicity	Gordon Robertson	Gordon Robertson
Chair: Events	Jakob Mueller	Jakob Mueller
Chair: Conservation	Owen Clarkin	Owen Clarkin
Chair: Finance	Ken Young	Ken Young
Chair: FWG (rotating)	Revolving Chair: Board Rep: Edward Farnworth	Revolving Chair: Board Rep: Edward Farnworth
Chair: Macoun Club	Rob Lee (Rep on Board Diane Kitching)	Rob Lee (Rep. on Board Diane Kitching)
Chair: Membership	Henry Steger	Henry Steger
Chair: Publications:	Jeff Saarela	Jeff Saarela (Rep on Board, Annie Bélair)
Editor, Trail & Landscape	Ex officio: Annie Bélair	Ex officio: Annie Bélair
Editor, CFN	Ex officio: Dwayne Lepitzki	Ex officio: Dwayne Lepitzki
Chair: Safe Wings Ottawa	Anouk Hoedeman	Anouk Hoedeman
Ontario Nature Rep.	Gordon Robertson	Gordon Robertson

Member-at-Large	Catherin Hessian	Catherine Hessian ¹
Member-at-Large	Bev McBride	Bev McBride
Member-at-Large		Diane Holmes
Past President	Fenja Brodo	Fenja Brodo

¹Catherine Hessian is the manager of our investments.

Two notable changes from the slate of last year, highlighted in **bold**: the nomination of Diane Holmes as a Member-at-Large and the filling of the position of 2nd Vice-President. Diane Holmes is an active OFNC member and has a lot of experience in municipal politics that should serve us all well. Owen Clarkin continues as Chair of Conservation, where he has made significant contributions, and will also fill the long vacant position of 2nd Vice President.