

**Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club**  
**Monday, January 20, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Resource Centre, CEF, Ottawa

**Present:** Jakob Mueller, Ted Farnworth, Diane Holmes, Elizabeth Moore, Fenja Brodo, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Ken Young, Bev McBride, Diane Kitching, Henry Steger, Anouk Hoedeman, Annie Belair, Ann MacKenzie, Owen Clarkin, Bob Cermak

**Absent:** Gord Robertson

**Chair:** Diane Lepage

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved as circulated
2. Acceptance of Minutes from December 2019 - **moved by** Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Bev McBride, acceptance of the minutes of the December 2019 meeting. **CARRIED**
3. Business Arising from Minutes
  - a. Colacem l'Original Cement Plant (vote) - Gord had sent an email to Diane L indicating that he has advised Daniel Cloutier that OFNC is willing to become a participant in the appeal to overturn OMB approval of this construction. Gord noted that it is not yet clear how this process works but will require completion of extensive and complicated forms. The motion tabled at the December 2019 meeting, by which Gord Robertson **moved**, seconded by Diane Lepage, that OFNC provide \$1000 to pay an expert to review VKHDNS's calculations, was **CARRIED**. In view of the time sensitivity of this matter, Gord had previously intimated to VKHDNS that their request for support was likely to be viewed favourably by OFNC.
  - b. MVFN - Burnt Land's Alvar website (vote) – the motion tabled at the December 2019 meeting, by which 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, was **CARRIED**. The BoD discussed the importance of this site. Diane L. has asked Paul Catling about involvement in education about the Alvar and will approach others who may be able to help. **Action: Diane L will advise MVFN that their request for support has been approved and will convey the interest of OFNC in the site.**
  - c. Land Acquisition in the Frontenac Arch (vote) – the motion tabled at the December 2019 meeting, by which Jakob Mueller **moved**, seconded by Bev McBride, that OFNC donate \$5000 to support this project, was **CARRIED**.
4. Communications - Bev advised that Dwayne Lepitzki will attend Awards Night. The Newsletter of the FCEF was circulated.

5. Treasurer's Report – Ann MacKenzie reported that the tax receipts for the donations received from Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> have now all been mailed. These are required by individuals for their 2019 tax return. The T4A's have also been sent out. These are required for any honorariums we pay in the calendar year as well as for any payments related to research grants. Our club's Charity Return, T3010 has also been finalized. So everything related to the end of our fiscal year and the end of the calendar year has been done.

The family of Francis Cook has asked that any donations in memory of him be directed to the CFN. We advised them that it could be done either by cheque or by direct deposit to our bank account. We will prepare a separate thank you letter for these donations when we send out the receipts. That will not likely be until May when the next batch of tax receipts are mailed. We have agreed with the family that we will provide them with summary reports on these donations so they may send their own thank you notes. Any funds received in memory of Francis Cook will be credited to the Manning Fund that supports the publications of authors in the CFN.

## 6. Issues for Discussion/Decisions

- a. 2020 committee rosters – Committee chairs were asked to send their rosters to Elizabeth for approval at the February meeting. Also, BoD members were asked to advise Elizabeth of any changes in contact details.
- b. Networking with other organizations - Bev had circulated an email expressing interest in discussing our current networking situation and also what we wish might happen going forward. Points that were discussed included:
  - (1) whether other FNCs are engaged in different activities that would be of interest;
  - (2) whether we are members of any umbrella organisations;
    - (i) Nature Canada - it was noted that we used to have a liaison with Nature Canada and we should consider renewing this relationship,
    - (ii) Ontario Nature - Gord is the current OFNC representative but would like to relinquish this responsibility. Jakob advised that he would be interested.
  - (3) Ottawa River Keeper - we previously had an active connection but this has lapsed
  - (4) Important Bird Areas (IBA) – is there a relationship with any local group?
  - (5) Owen noted that he has a number of ad hoc connections which could be pursued. Bev expressed interest in working on this.
  - (6) Bob expressed the view that OFNC should have a Communications and Outreach Committee. It was noted that this subject has been discussed previously but that there are insufficient volunteers for such a committee. Diane L raised the idea that Ottawa U students doing communications studies might be involved.
  - (7) Anouk noted that there are a number of opportunities within City to attend workshops through which contacts can be made.
  - (8) Diane H noted that there are Community Associations in every Ward which have green committees trying to support environmental initiatives.
  - (9) Diane H also inquired whether OFNC interacts with Conservation Authorities.

Bev invited any further ideas and will look into options with respect to Nature Canada and the Ottawa River Keeper.

Jakob advised that Friends of Carlington Hill are holding a mini summit of various local organisations interested in challenges to the environment. Bev asked for a report e.g. in T&L or a blog.

## 7. Committee Updates

a) Birds - Bob advised that there will be a new Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas - 2021 to 2025. Christine Hanrahan was involved with the previous edition as the Ottawa Area Regional Coordinator but does not want to do it again. Bob and Bernie Ladouceur are looking for an RC. The BoD expressed its support for this initiative and agreed that OFNC will provide whatever is required. Following the perceived lack of sharing of information regarding a rare bird seen during the CBC, Bob had reached out to the President of the Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais and asked invited her to attend OFNC BoD and/or Birds committee meetings in an attempt to improve relationships.

b) Conservation - Owen advised that the committee has decided to form a sub group monitoring environmental postings for advocacy. For instance, it has come to the committee's attention that the Ontario Government wants a spring bear hunt. OFNC should develop a position on this and respond. The committee is planning upcoming field work. Erik Pohanka is interested in joining the committee. He has expertise in fish.

c) FWG - Ted advised that it is not yet clear who is responsible for the gas pipe about which Owen had expressed concern in December.

d) SafeWings - Anouk advised that the annual bird display will take place on March 26 at the Museum of Nature. They will also launch the Ottawa Bird Strategy in association with their partners in this initiative.

e) Awards - Eleanor reported that the awards citations have been written up and asked the BoD to send comments if any by Wednesday. One of the award winners had asked about any news releases. Diane Lepage will email Tom Spears at the Ottawa Citizen to tell him about the award and see if he picks up on it. It was noted that this matter, also, could have been dealt with if we had a communications committee.

f) Macoun Club - Diane K reported that the club had had two meetings and one field trip.

g) Membership – Henry: nil to report

h) Events - Jakob reported that there had been two postponements because of weather. The photography evening will now be held Saturday, January 25. The birding event has been moved to March 15. Other events are in hand and will be advertised when the leaders have agreed arrangements. Peter Burke is willing to make a presentation on Kirtland's warbler but the events calendar is fully booked. Might be possible to do it at FWG. ABM went well. Jakob would appreciate anyone volunteering to make a short presentation next year.

i) Publications - T&L: As requested at the December board meeting, Annie asked Dave Seburn to write an article about the turtle rescue by an excavation company last summer and Brenda Kostiuk to write a note about Paul Catling receiving the John Goldie Award. Both have agreed.

j) Finance – Ken: nil to report

k) Education & Publicity – no report

8. Adjournment - moved by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Bev McBride, that the meeting be adjourned **CARRIED**

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

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Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 10, 2020

March 16, 2020

April 20, 2020

May 11, 2020

June 15, 2020