

Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Monday, February 10, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Resource Centre, CEF, Ottawa

Chair: Diane Lepage

Present: Ann MacKenzie, Ted Farnworth, Fenja Brodo, Gord Robertson, Annie Belair, Bob Cermak, Diane Kitching, Henry Steger, Jakob Mueller, Anouk Hoedeman, Owen Clarkin, Elizabeth Moore

Absent: Ken Young, Catherine Hessian, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Diane Holmes, Bev McBride

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved as circulated
2. Acceptance of Minutes from January 2020 – **moved** by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Jakob Mueller, acceptance of the minutes of the January meeting. **CARRIED**
3. Business Arising from Minutes
 - a. 2020 committee rosters – **moved** by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Henry Steger, acceptance of the 2020 committee rosters. **CARRIED**
 - b. Colacem l'Original Cement Plant – Diane L, Gord and Lynn will attend the OMB meeting on February 18. They will take the report on the Alfred Bog previously identified. The BoD discussed whether any further data regarding birds, fish or other animals in the area that might be affected could be obtained. Bob was not aware of any bird data. The area is not in the OFNC study area. eBird might have data regarding migratory birds, but probably not breeding birds. The BoD was reminded that this development has already been approved by the OMB and that this meeting is essentially regarding rezoning.
 - c. MVFN - Burnt Land's website – Tineke and Diane have organised a preliminary meeting on February 20 with Paul Catling, Henry and Bob. Jakob is unable to attend. The group will then approach further individuals. The BoD questioned what data already exists, e.g does MVFNC have an iNaturalist project for the Alvar? (Gord determined that there is an iNaturalist project for the provincial park element.) Has the Nature Conservancy done any studies? Diane suggested that Paul Catling is likely to have significant information.
Action: Diane will try to clarify some of the details.
4. Communications -
 - an issue of BirdWatch magazine had been received,
 - a letter had been received from the National Capital Commission acknowledging receipt of the OFNC letter regarding the Brian Coburn Extension,
 - Kristen Dahl of Ontario Nature had thanked OFNC for its donation to the appeal for funds to purchase land in the Frontenac Arch. She is planning to organise a trip to the new

Gananoque Lake property and will invite representatives from OFNC,
- Fenja had been thanked by the artists group for which she had organised a workshop.

5. Treasurer's Report – nil to report

6. Issues for Discussion/Decisions

a. Nature Canada – as last year, NC had invited representatives of OFNC and other natural history groups from across Canada to meet with MPs at a lobbying event on Parliament Hill. Fenja, Ann, Lynn and Diane L attended and felt it was a valuable experience. An orientation session for participants from 51 organizations was organized for Monday evening Feb. 3rd and small group meetings with 61 parliamentarians were scheduled for Tuesday February 4th. NC had briefed the participants before their meetings, encouraging them e.g. to ask Liberal MPs to ensure that they do protect the areas they have promised to protect, making sure this action is in their budget. Diane had taken the opportunity to ask about the possibility of having an NC representative on the Board. She was given Teagan Yaremchuk's (Nature Network Organiser) card and has left a message for her.

7. Committee Updates

a) Awards – Awards Night is night coming up – February 22.

b) Birds: Bob - still talking to first choice for regional representative for the Bird Breeding Atlas. Ontario Field Ornithologists have wrestled with the subject of reporting rare birds. They plan to institute a blanket ban on reporting owls in Ontario. Committee has been given a full collection of "Shrike" and Bob asked Annie if she could get it digitized. Annie advised that the librarian at the Museum of Nature who oversaw the digitization of T&L has left her position but Annie hopes a replacement will be found.

c) Conservation: Owen – as previously advised, the Province wants to reintroduce a spring bear hunt. They appear to provide no justification for this. Owen will forward Ontario Nature's planned submission to the Province to the BoD for approval for OFNC to sign onto it.

Red Spruce update:

i) Janet Mason and Owen met with Norbert Lussier, who spent his career working with Dr. Alan Gordon as part of the team which worked on documenting Red Spruce in Ontario, and other subjects in the mid to late 20th century. Janet summarized this Feb 02, 2020 visit on her website, here: <http://treescanadensis.ca/red-spruce-in-ontario/>

ii) Partly inspired by this visit to Norbert, on Feb 9th Owen led a tour to fill in some "gaps" in the Red Spruce belt between Ottawa and Hawkesbury. Following leads he had noted via Google Street View on Feb 7th/8th, he was able to find 4 new populations of Red Spruce on the morning of February 9th: two west of Plantagenet and two east of Plantagenet. These new discoveries effectively filled in the gaps where there "should" be Red Spruce between Vars/Bourget and Alfred, confirming that indeed a continuous belt of the species appears to exist in suitable acidic habitat between Ottawa and Hawkesbury, an area where previously Red Spruce has generally not been considered present as a native species.

d) Education & Publicity – Gord: Gord, Sandy Garland, Catherine Shearer, and Lynn Ovenden took a display to the Ottawa Wildlife Speaker Series which attracted a lot of interest. The presentation on coyotes was very informative. The speaker talked about conflict, usually not a problem with humans, but small dogs and maybe cats are at risk. This is the breeding season and therefore more issues with dogs may occur at this time of year. The Committee has found three new members – **moved** by Gord Robertson, seconded by Ann MacKenzie, that Dean Beeby, Lloyd Mayeda, and Emily Shearer be approved as members of the Education and Publicity Committee. **CARRIED**

Jane's Walk's will be held in early May at FWG in association with an Open House.

e) Events – Jakob: the meeting with a number of community groups at FWG went well as a preliminary contact. Photo night had been lightly attended in poor weather.

f) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted: had received an email from Canadensis asking to talk with FWG. It has since become apparent that FCEF had already been approached. It is understood that Canadensis had hired consultant who had done a development feasibility study and they have now commissioned a development plan. It is suggested that the plan anticipates 500,000 visitors a year, generating \$100 million dollars annually, with a parking lot for 200 cars and attractions such as a 30m high lookout and a canopy walk. The impact on FWG is likely to be significant.

The Plant Sale will be on June 6 and the Plant Sale Committee is already active.

g) Macoun Club – Diane reported that the club had had a talk from Alex Stone, the NCC Environmental Program Officer, who had talked about the programme for monitoring NCC properties. They had been on a field trip to their study area and had expanded into an adjacent new area with a mix of old fields, trees, wetlands and a stream. They had also visited Gerry Lee's property. He had noted how warm it was this winter. Their last field trip had been to Pakenham where they had identified a number of tracks.

h) Membership - Henry proposed that Francis Cook's wife, Joyce, should have honorary membership continued. (subsequent to the meeting Henry suggested that it might be preferable to continue Joyce's membership as a complimentary membership. This would allow for the awarding of an additional honorary membership. This was **agreed** by the BoD.)

The list of "50-year members" has previously been published in T&L in April. Henry would like to change this to July. This was **agreed** by the BoD.

i) Publications - Annie is working on the next issue of T&L. Seven research grant proposals have been received. Dan Brunton will chair the grant committee and recommendations will be sent to the Board of Directors for their approval at their March meeting. With Ken Young as the lead, the committee put together a document to define subscription licence terms for CFN institutional subscribers. 2019 research grant payments are being finalized.

j) SafeWings - Anouk has just completed her report for Canadian Wildlife Services. They have reported 3,322 bird collisions with 110 species represented. The City of Ottawa advises that they are going to circulate their bird guidelines. SafeWings has several events coming up, including a meeting of the building managers for federal buildings.

A member of the public, Peggy Blair, has taken the initiative in organising “Under our Wings”, a fundraiser in support of Safe Wings Ottawa and the Wild Bird Care Center. There will be a live silent auction of designer bird houses, foods, drinks and more on April 25 – details to be confirmed. Ottawa U has announced the renovation of a building on Lees Avenue and have advised that they will use bird friendly techniques.

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Upcoming Meeting Dates

March 16, 2020

April 20, 2020

May 11, 2020

June 15, 2020