

**MINUTES OF THE 141st ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (ABM)  
OF THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB  
January 14, 2020**

Place and time: K.W. Neatby Building, Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, 7:00 pm

Chairperson: Diane Lepage, President

46 attendees spent the first half-hour reviewing minutes of the previous ABM, the financial statements, Treasurer's Report, and annual reports of OFNC committees for 2018-2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. During the meeting, relevant documents were projected on a screen for the audience's information.

**1. Minutes of the Previous Annual Business Meeting (ABM)**

It was **moved** by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by David McNicoll, that the minutes of the 140<sup>th</sup> ABM be accepted as distributed and published in the Canadian Field Naturalist (CFN).

**Carried**

**2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Nil.

**3. Communications Relating to the Annual Business Meeting**

Diane Lepage noted that the Club had received a Christmas card from her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada.

**4. Treasurer's Report by Ann Mackenzie**

Ann MacKenzie, Treasurer, presented the Financial Statements for Sept 30, 2019 as prepared and reviewed by the accounting firm, Welch LLP. Copies of the complete statement as well as the written Treasurer's Report were available as hand-outs to those attending the meeting.

In the presentation Ann reviewed the basis for the substantial difference in the deficit from the previous year, 2018, to the current statements for 2019. These included the club having given fewer donations to outside organizations, increased subscription fees for the CFN, lower website costs and a surplus from the Pelee trip. Ann then reviewed the sources of income and expenses for the year. A chart comparing with the previous year showed little change with the income from membership, donations and interest available for general club activities. Some activities like CFN and Fletcher Wildlife Garden generate some income to offset their expenses. Overall, the club remains in a solid financial situation.

It was moved by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Ken Young, that the Financial Statements be accepted as a fair representation of the financial position of the Club as of September 30, 2019.

**Carried**

## 5. Nomination of the Accounting Firm

It was moved by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Ken Young, that the accounting firm of Welch LLP be contracted to conduct a review of the OFNC's accounts for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

**Carried**

## 6. Committee Annual Reports

It was moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Ian Whyte, that the committee reports be accepted as distributed.

**Carried**

## 7. Highlights from 2019

### a) Education and Publicity (Gordon Robertson)

Gord presented several initiatives being implemented by the committee:

i) Storyboards have been erected at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden (FWG) with bilingual descriptions of examples of the flora and fauna of the garden. These are changed with the seasons.

ii) Check-box brochures have been developed for groups touring the FWG and are being created for other trails in the area.

iii) Species trail maps, e.g. for trees, are also being developed for trails in the area.

Gord expressed interest in any technology that could be used to create cellphone-based species maps for local areas. He also noted that the committee needs new members.

### b) SafeWings Ottawa (Anouk Hoedeman)

Anouk noted that SafeWings is becoming busier each year and is taking in an increasing number of birds for rehabilitation. Of particular note is the upcoming launch of the Ottawa Bird Strategy, a joint project with the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre, Bird Studies Canada, Nature Canada, and the NCC. The project addresses the hazards birds experience and potential ameliorating strategies. It will be launched with the annual bird display to be held this year at the Museum of Nature on March 26.

### c) Publications (Annie Belair)

Annie was delighted to advise that all issues of Trail & Landscape are now archived on-line on the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) website. This archive can be accessed through the OFNC website. Five issues of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN) were published in 2019, including the second part of the special issue titled "Studies on Canadian Amphibians and Reptiles in Honour of Dr. Francis Cook". The new CFN layout artist has updated the appearance of the publication. Annie noted that several papers published this year received media coverage. A new volunteer book review editor is required.

## 8. Nominations for Board of Directors positions

Fenja Brodo presented the slate of candidates nominated to the Board of Directors for 2020:

### Executive Committee

Diane Lepage	President
Jakob Mueller	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President and Chair, Events Committee
Owen Clarkin	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Chair, Conservation Committee
Elizabeth Moore	Recording Secretary
Treasurer	Ann MacKenzie

### Directors

Fenja Brodo	Past President
Robert Cermak	Chair, Birds Committee
Edward Farnworth	Representative, Fletcher Wildlife Committee
Catherine Hessian*	Member-at-Large
Anouk Hoedeman	Chair, Safe Wings Ottawa
Diane Holmes	Member-at-Large
Diane Kitching	Representative, Macoun Field Club
Bev McBride	Member-at-Large
Gordon Robertson	Chair, Education and Publicity
Jeff Saarela	Chair, Publications – Board Representative Annie Belair
Henry Steger	Chair, Membership
Ken Young	Chair, Finance
Eleanor Zurbrigg	Chair, Awards

### Ex officio:

Annie Bélair, Editor of *Trail & Landscape*  
Dwayne Lepitzki, Editor of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*

- Catherine Hessian manages the OFNC's investments

It was moved by Fenja Brodo and seconded by Ann MacKenzie that this slate of nominees be accepted as members of the Board of Directors of the OFNC for 2020.

**Carried**

Fenja was pleased to note that all last year's Board Members are returning and that Owen Clarkin, Conservation Chair, has also accepted the long vacant position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President. Fenja warmly welcomed Diane Holmes as a Member-at-Large, noting that her experience in municipal politics will be a valuable asset to the Club.

## 9. New Business and General Discussion

### a) Colacem L'Original Cement Plant

Gord Robertson drew the attention of the meeting to the approval by the Ontario Municipal Board of the construction of a cement plant by Colacem Canada Inc. in L'Original, Ontario. The Vankleek Hill and District Nature Society (VKHDNS) had requested OFNC assistance in attempting to overturn approval of the plant which will be situated close to the Ottawa River adjacent to a number of areas of ecological interest, including Alfred Bog. Colacem submits that the emissions from the proposed 125m tall kiln will be within Ontario standards. Daniel Cloutier of the VKHDNS had presented data to the OFNC suggesting that the emissions are significantly underestimated. Furthermore, as there is no rail or water access, all materials will be delivered to and from the plant by heavy trucks. VKHDNS had 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.

### b) Burnt Land's Alvar

Diane Lepage reported that the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists' Club (MVFNC) had sought OFNC assistance in promoting protection of the Alvar which is under increasing threat from development and recreational use. The MVFNC is keen to develop a website to promote understanding of the importance of the Alvar.

## 10. Adjournment

It was moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Eleanor Zurbrigg, that the meeting be adjourned.

**Carried**

**Presentation:** After the meeting was adjourned, Jakob Mueller gave a short presentation entitled "Hiding in Plain Sight: Some Conservation Discoveries in Eastern Ontario".

Jakob described how, despite the dearth of reports of reptiles and amphibians east of Highway 416 on species maps, OFNC members had readily found examples in this area.

Elizabeth Moore  
Recording Secretary