

**Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club**  
**Monday November 16, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.**  
held through Zoom video conference  
during COVID-19 global pandemic  
Minutes

**Chair:** Diane Lepage

**Present:** Ken Young, Ted Farnworth, Ann MacKenzie, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Fenja Brodo, Annie Belair, Bob Cermak, Jakob Mueller, Elizabeth Moore, Diane Holmes, Dwayne Lepitzki, Anouk Hoedeman, Gord Robertson, Henry Steger, Owen Clarkin, Bev McBride, Diane Kitching (from 7.40 p.m.)

**Absent:** Catherine Hessian

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved with the addition of 5g. Gatineau Park events
2. Acceptance of corrected minutes of September meeting and of minutes of October meeting:  
**moved** by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Eleanor Zurbrigg, that the corrected minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**  
**moved** by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Ted Farnworth, that the minutes of the October 19, 2020 meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**

3. Treasurer's Report – nil to report.

Ann noted that she had received unsolicited email promoting Plooto services and asked whether other members of the BoD had also received these emails. Other members confirmed that they had and that they had unsubscribed.

4. Issues for Discussion/Decision

- a. Committee Annual Reports – the reports will be voted on at the December meeting. With respect to the Publications Committee report, Ann suggested that the number of hard copies (5) and electronic copies (5) of CFN should be reported. Under the research grants section, she felt it would be useful to say that some field work was delayed by the Covid-19 restrictions. Therefore, there will be flexibility with respect to the timing of final reports and payments.  
Dwayne advised that he had started proposing edits to the reports to conform them to CFN style. These edits should be reviewed by the committee chairs.
- b. Board members for 2021 – Fenja advised that the slate of nominations for Board Members is largely the same as for 2020 with some notable exceptions: Jakob Mueller has agreed to be nominated for President and Owen Clarkin has agreed to be nominated for 1st Vice President. Diane Lepage will become Past President. Diane Holmes has agreed to take over representation at Ontario Nature. Bev McBride is stepping down as Member-at-Large but advised that she hopes to be available to the Club for occasional one-off events. A new Events Committee Chair has not yet been identified.

Fenja thanked Diane Lepage for her service as President.  
This will be Fenja's last term on the Board.

- c. Certificate of Appreciation – Bob: the Board discussed the Bird Committee's suggestion that OFNC should present the new Wild Birds Unlimited store in Kanata with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their support for the 2020 Seedathon. In addition to promoting the event, they had donated 100 pounds of bird seed.  
**moved** by Bob Cermak, seconded by Gord Robertson, that OFNC present Wild Birds Unlimited, Kanata with a Certificate of Appreciation of their support for the 2020 Seedathon. **CARRIED**
- d. Seedathon "Big Days" – Bob advised that Birds Committee (BC) wishes to discontinue conducting a yearly Seedathon. Members of the birding community have expressed their view that OFNC does not currently need the money and there are very few volunteers willing to participate.  
**moved** by Bob Cermak, seconded by Ann MacKenzie, that Birds Committee discontinue organising and conducting a yearly Seedathon. **CARRIED**  
BC suggested and BoD agreed that the OFNC website should, however, continue to encourage donations for bird feeders.
- e. Shirley's Bay Access List – Bob: concern has been expressed that the Shirley's Bay access list is too long. BC has requested that new members not be invited to be added to the list in Henry's welcome email. Jakob felt strongly that this opportunity is a privilege of membership and should be offered to all members. Other possible strategies for reducing the list, such as introducing some type of renewal system, were discussed. Eleanor suggested that advising that the causeway terrain is difficult and that specialised equipment is necessary to view birds from it might reduce the number of members wanting to be on the list. Bob will take the Board's comments back to BC.
- f. January ABM – plans for holding the ABM using Zoom were discussed. The meeting will need to be advertised in T&L and details should be with Annie in the first few days of December.
- g. Gatineau Park – Diane L had circulated an email from Elizabeth Gammell asking whether she can advertise upcoming Friends of Gatineau Park virtual activities through OFNC. It was **agreed** that their newsletter can be added to the OFNC website.

## 5. Committee Updates

- a. Awards - Eleanor advised that recommendations will be brought to the December meeting. Possible ways of presenting the Awards during the pandemic were discussed. It was agreed that presentation would be postponed. Elizabeth will advise St. Basil's that Awards Night is to be postponed.
- b. Education & Publicity – Bob suggested that Mark Davidson (who had previously approached the OFNC asking for support of the City's proposal to discontinue the Royal Swans program) might be interested in the role of bringing City issues that may have a negative impact on conservation or the environment to the attention of the Club. Bob

suggested that a small group, possibly Ken, Jakob and Owen, discuss what his role might be. Anouk and Bev, who know Mark, supported this initiative. Diane H expressed interest in talking to him.

Gord suggested printing flyers for a couple of the local trails. The BoD supported this idea. Fenja would be happy to look at draft flyers.

- c. Conservation – Owen reported that they were wrapping up their Red Spruce survey of Voyageur Provincial Park. They continue to find more Red Spruce. They are planning 3 or 4 more visits and will be meeting with the Park Supervisor to give her an update on key findings. They are also discussing a continued relationship with Ontario Parks. An experimental planting of Red Spruce in sandy clay soil in an area of young second growth forest near Vars had been successful with all seedlings surviving and thriving. Owen had noted a new gigantic clear cut in the area and advised that he had been noticing increasing occurrences of these in the last month or two. They are participating in a one-year project in Lavigne Natural Park, near Bourget. The area has never had an inventory. Owen hopes to go there approximately once a month in 2021. It is near Larose Forest and has similar habitat, which is intact in some places, and it is in the OFNC study area. Henry Robertson, a member of an edibles club, had written up an excellent report regarding the case to preserve a site in downtown Aylmer that may be threatened by development. The Committee is hoping to collaborate with other groups on the Quebec side. Elizabeth Gammell had contacted Owen regarding ownership of some horse trails in Ramsayville. Official permission has been secured to continue to access the site. It was suggested that Conservation give a presentation to the horse club and NCC, illustrating the importance of this Acadian Forest type site. The two Carleton University student projects terminate on November 30 and Owen will go over the findings
- d. Events - Jakob reported that the committee has found a new member. Jakob Mueller **moved**, seconded by Owen Clarkin, that Joan Heyding be accepted as a member of the Events Committee. **CARRIED.**  
The committee is moving ahead with planning online events. They are also planning to restart monthly meetings. In December, Howard Simkover will give an astronomy presentation. These meetings are restricted to members and invitees only. Howard is happy for the talk to be recorded but not posted publicly.
- e. Finance Committee: Ken – nil to report
- f. Fletcher Wildlife Garden – no report
- g. Macoun Club: Diane K reported that the Club has been running field trips most weeks with two age groups. Extreme care is being taken and participants are wearing masks when appropriate, according to public health guidance.
- h. Membership: Henry had circulated a draft of minor changes to be made to the membership form on the website. Jakob suggested that there shouldn't be an option to be removed from the T&L list and others agreed. Henry will remove this box. The BoD approved the changes.

- i. Safe Wings: Anouk reported that the Bird Safety Guidelines were passed by the City's Planning Committee on November 10 and will go to the full City Council on November 25. Anouk had given an interview on In Town and Out on Saturday morning.
- j. Publications: Dwayne reported that the next issue will be coming soon, Vol 134.3. Annie is working on the January-March issue of T&L. The five year index will be published in this volume.
- k. Birds: Bob reported that planning for the two Christmas Bird Counts that OFNC is responsible for is underway. There will be no physical compilations. Bruce Di Labio, who has been running the Breckenridge-Dunrobin count, is moving out of the area. The Committee will find a replacement for this count.  
Derek Dunnett is looking after the weekly bird sighting report.  
Bob **moved**, seconded by Bev, that Derek Dunnett be accepted as a member of the Birds Committee. **CARRIED.**  
Three female members of BC are working with the Women Warriors Healing Garden, a support group for women veterans with PTSD and other injuries, who have asked whether the OFNC might organise birding trips for them.

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

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Upcoming Meeting Dates

December 14, 2020 (moved from December 21, 2020)  
 January 18, 2021  
 February 8, 2021  
 March 15, 2021  
 April 19, 2021

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Diane Lepage  
 President  
 Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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Date

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Elizabeth Moore  
 Recording Secretary  
 Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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Date