

Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Monday December 14, 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, Rob Lee, Peggy Leger (Macoun Club), Catherine Hessian, Janette Niwa (Safe Wings)

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved as circulated
2. Acceptance of Minutes from November 16, 2020
moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Ann MacKenzie, that the minutes of the November 16, 2020 meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**
3. Communications
 - a. Publications had been received from:
 - Toronto Field Naturalists
 - Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre
 - Quatre-temps
 - Canadian Field-Naturalists' (for Resources centre)
 - Ornithologische Mitteilungen German publication
 - Rideau Waterway Land Trust
 - b. Condolence letters had been sent to the families of Don Smith and Ron Bedford on behalf of the Club.
4. Issues for Discussion/Decision
 - a. Acceptance of Committee Annual Reports

moved by Jakob Mueller, seconded by Owen Clarkin, that the annual reports from all the committees, except the Macoun Club, be accepted with allowance for minor edits. **CARRIED.**

Rob agreed to amend the Macoun Club report for circulation by December 31, 2020 for acceptance by email vote.
 - b. Award nominations for approval

Eleanor presented the names of the nominees recommended for awards by the Awards Committee.

 - i) **moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Bev McBride, that **Robert Forsyth** be elected to Honorary Membership in the Club. **CARRIED**

- ii) **moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Bob Cermak, that **Jeffery Harrison** be elected to Honorary Membership in the Club. **CARRIED**
- iii) **moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Jakob Mueller, that **Fred Schueler and Aleta Karstad** be elected to Honorary Membership in the Club. **CARRIED**
- iv) **moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Ted Farnworth, that **Joan Heyding and Ian Gough** be approved as Member(s) of the Year.
- v) **moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Fenja Brodo, that **Ted Farnworth** be approved for the George McGee Service Award.
- vi) **moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Owen Clarkin, that **Daniel Buckles and Debra Huron** be approved for the Conservation Non-member Award.

c. Financial statements & Treasurer's report (Ann)

Ann reported that, under the new arrangement with the bookkeeper, the books are updated every second Thursday and payments and deposits are processed at that time. This should make the managing of the accounts more predictable. The club has also received notice that it will soon be getting a bequest of \$1000 from the estate of Joseph Bryant who passed away in July 2017.

The draft financial statements for fiscal year 2019-20 have been reviewed by the accountants, Welch LLP. They will be made available to the membership for approval at the January 12 ABM. Ann mentioned the highlights of the statements for the board.

Moved by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Gord Robertson, that the financial statements as presented be forwarded to the members for approval at the ABM.

d. 2021 Board Nominations (Fenja)

moved by Fenja Brodo, seconded by Gord Robertson, that the slate of names annexed go forward for acceptance at the ABM. **CARRIED.**

e. January ABM meeting – A Zoom meeting of members presenting items at the ABM has been arranged for December 17 to discuss the organisation of the meeting. Documents need to be made available and members, including those who are not on Henry's email list, need to be invited to register. **Action:** Ken and Henry. After the business meeting has concluded, there will be a quiz organised by Diane L followed by a presentation on rare birds in the region from Bruce Di Labio and Bernie Ladouceur.

5. Committee Updates

a. Awards (Eleanor): see 4b. above – nil else

b. Birds (Bob) – The Christmas Bird Counts are under discussion. There will be a compilation meeting for the Ottawa count. Birdfeeder operations are under way.

c. Conservation – Owen had today circulated an email from the Nature Conservancy of Canada seeking support for a proposed land purchase within the Alfred Bog. Several members of the BoD spoke in favour of OFNC support. There were some questions about the nature of the land involved. There was also some discussion regarding an appropriate level of commitment. It was

suggested that it would be useful to visit the property. **Action:** Owen will continue to communicate with the NCC and bring the matter forward in January.

d. Education and Publicity (Gord) - Sarah Wray had been in touch with Gord and had agreed to do some story boards for FWG. Fenja is also volunteering her help. Gord had given a telephone talk to The Good Companions "Seniors" Centre Without Walls". Lots of people are visiting FWG during the pandemic and are stopping to look at the storyboards

e. Fletcher Wildlife Garden - Ted reported that FWG has decided to hold a year-long event in 2021 during which visitors will be invited to report seeing or hearing any bird. They are planning to set up a dedicated Facebook page for these reports.

It has been reported that the increase in the number of visitors during the pandemic has resulted in photographers clustering too close together around the birdfeeders. FWG is considering how they might encourage people to observe Covid rules.

RC cleaning has been reduced to once monthly for December, January and February but may need to be reviewed if Plant Sale activity creates dirt.

f. Macoun Club - Rob had been contacted by BBC Planet Earth who are interested in filming porcupines so they are looking for porcupines.

g. Events (Jakob) - Henry inquired how many people had attended the December monthly Zoom meeting. Jakob responded that there were 52 attendees. Henry noted that only 11 of the emails he had sent out advertising the event were recorded as being opened. Jakob noted that registrations spiked when the email was sent out and again immediately before the event. He suggested that the data reported by MailChimp may be inaccurate.

h. Publications – Dwayne reported that all ten articles and notes for Vol. 134.3 are ready and they are just waiting for a copyright permission. Vol. 134.4 has five manuscripts being worked on and a number of tributes. Annie reported that the Jan-Mar T&L is at the printers and comprises 48 pages. The ABM is mentioned but the Issue may not be out before January 12. She had sold some advertising space.

i. Safe Wings - Anouk reported that they are wrapping up a record year and still having collisions, particularly Bohemian waxwings, redpolls and winter finches. 142 species have now been recorded since the organisation started. They have been talking to Flap about a possible virtual display event as they are probably not going to be able to do the Museum of Nature display. The Ottawa Bird Friendly Guidelines are now official. They have a new grant proposal in. The Humane Society has given a grant for supplies. The outreach committee is busy considering how to be more organised in follow-up. Office calls are down but residential calls up.

Before the meeting adjourned, Diane L thanked Fenja for all the things she has done for the Club while on the Board.

She also thanked Bev and Anouk for their efforts.

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 8, 2021

March 15, 2021

April 19, 2021

May 17, 2021

June 21, 2021

Annex

Nominations Report for ABM 2021

Submitted 16 November 2020 by Fenja Brodo

Position	Incumbent	Slate for 2021
President	Diane Lepage	Jakob Mueller
1 st Vice-President	Jakob Mueller	Owen Clarkin
2 nd Vice-President	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 Belair)
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	Janette Niwa
Ontario Nature Rep.	Gordon Robertson	Diane Holmes
Member-at-Large	Catherin Hessian	Catherine Hessian ¹
Member-at-Large	Bev McBride	
Past President	Fenja Brodo	Diane Lepage

¹Catherine Hessian is the manager of our investments.

Changes from the slate of last year, highlighted in **bold**. **Jakob Mueller** is nominated for President, **Owen Clarkin for 1st Vice President**. **Diane Holmes** is nominated for our Ontario Nature Representative, taking over from Jakob Mueller. **Diane Lepage** will be Past President. Bev McBride is stepping down as Member-at-Large for personal reasons. We warmly thank her for her many past involvements and hope that she will be able to resume a Board position in the future.

In order to thrive, we need to encourage more people to get active on our various committees. The Chairs, in particular, are carrying most of the weight of their respective committees.