

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club – Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting
Monday, December 13, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting – Minutes

Chair: Jakob Mueller

Present: Ken Young, Ted Farnworth (until 9 p.m.), Eleanor Zurbrigg, Annie Bélair, Elizabeth Moore, Owen Clarkin (absent from 7.15 to 7.45), Diane Kitching, Janette Niwa, Diane Lepage, Catherine Hessian, Henry Steger, Ann MacKenzie, Gord Robertson, Bob Cermak

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved as circulated with the addition of:
Item 6 i) Tree cutting near Russell
2. Acceptance of Minutes from November 15, 2021
Moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Diane Lepage, that the minutes of the November 15, 2021 meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**
3. Business arising from the minutes
 - a) Storage for Club Materials – deferred to January
 - b) Communications improvements – deferred to January
4. Communications - Catherine had circulated by email details of mail received.
5. Treasurer's Report – Ann: nil to report
6. Issues for Discussion
 - a) ABM Jan 11, 2022, including:
 - i. 2022 Board Nominations - Diane reported that the nominations remain as previously circulated. Ken will stay on as Chair of the Finance Committee for a further year. Henry will stay on as Chair of Membership for a short period until a replacement is ready to take over.
 - ii. 2020-2021 Financial Statements
Moved by Ann Mackenzie, seconded by Ken Young, that a copy of the final financial statements be emailed to the members ahead of the ABM. **CARRIED**
Ken clarified that the statements would be posted on the website and a link emailed to the members.
 - iii. Annual Committee Reports
Moved by Jakob Mueller, seconded by Annie Bélair, that the Committee Annual Reports, with the exception of the Safewings report (not yet received), be approved. **CARRIED**

Ken advised that he is putting together an agenda and inquired about any presentations. It was suggested that there should be two presentations after the

business meeting is adjourned. Janette agreed that Safewings would do one of the presentations. Jakob asked Owen to speak on the Elm Zigzag Sawfly

Ann suggested that a dry run for those Board Members directly involved in the meeting should be held as last year. **Action: Jakob** will organise this after the holiday period.

Ken advised that he will temporarily change the Zoom host password for the period of the meeting to prevent similar problems to those that arose during the 2021 ABM when other members tried to log on with the Zoom host password.

b) Awards nominations

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

- i) **Moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Bob Cermak, that **Ken Young** be elected to Honorary Membership in the Club. **CARRIED**, with Ken Young abstaining.
- ii) **Moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Ann MacKenzie, that **Deb Doherty** be approved as Member of the Year. **CARRIED**
- iii) **Moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Diane Lepage that **Jeff Saarela** be approved for the George McGee Service Award. **CARRIED**
- iv) **Moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Janette Niwa, that **Janet Mason** be approved for the Conservation - Member Award. **CARRIED**
- v) **Moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Annie Bélair, that **Tammy Mackenzie** be approved for the Conservation Non-member Award. **CARRIED**
- vi) **Moved** by Eleanor Zurbrigg, seconded by Diane Lepage, that **Owen Clarkin** be approved for the Anne Hanes Natural History Award. **CARRIED**, with Owen Clarkin absent.

Eleanor suggested that a virtual awards ceremony should be held, as last year, but in a timelier manner as last year's awards missed publication in T&L and CFN. A February date would be preferred.

She felt that the Awards Committee needs more guidance in future, the current criteria being rather vague. The Committee is going to look at this.

Eleanor also suggested that it would be nice to have a short article in T&L about the significance of the awards when the call goes out. Annie pointed out that the deadline for submitting such an article would be the preceding August 1.

c) Membership Committee computer/transition needs

Henry confirmed that three people had responded to the email advertisement for new committee members. One is prepared to be chair but needs access to a laptop. After discussion, it was agreed that an OFNC laptop be purchased for use by this individual.

Moved by Henry Steger, seconded by Gord Robertson, that the Board approve up to \$800 for the purchase of a laptop computer and the necessary software. **The motion will be voted on at the January meeting.** A transition strategy was discussed. It was suggested that the individual should be asked to be the Committee Representative on the Board and that Henry remain Chair until the individual is ready to assume the Chair. **Action: Henry**

d) Bird Friendly Ottawa

Ted: Nature Canada has developed a certification standard to certify eligible cities as a "Bird Friendly City". Janette had invited Ted to an initial meeting of parties interested in accrediting Ottawa. A working group has since been set up. OFNC support for this initiative was discussed. Some Board members supported this idea but others felt that the initiative needed to come from the City and were concerned about OFNC supporting accreditation if they felt the City was not fully invested in the scheme. Ted had met with Diane Holmes who has approached councillor McKenney to inquire whether support might be forthcoming. Some members of the Board felt that this initiative was more relevant to Safewings than OFNC in general. Janette pointed out that it doesn't just relate to bird collision mitigation but other aspects such as habitat loss, climate change, tree planting etc. Jakob asked Ted to keep the Board updated.

e) Compound Microscope Donation

Brett Stevens has offered OFNC some surplus compound microscopes. It was not clear whether there would be costs involved. It was agreed that in principle we are interested depending on cost. **Jakob will clarify.** Some concern was expressed about storage space at FWG. It was noted that the Club is exploring the possibility of off-site storage space.

f) Nature Canada liaison

Diane L. had circulated an email advising that she had contacted Teagan Yaremchuk from Nature Canada who had indicated she would be interested in representing Nature Canada (partnership) on our Board. Teagan is a Nature Network Organizer and Diane believes she can bring a lot of positive input to the club. She is familiar with the FWG and lives close by. She wishes to get a description of the role(s) she would or could play within the club. Diane has invited her to join the ABM and the January Board Meeting. The Board felt it important that the nature of the relationship be defined. **Diane will follow up.**

g) Volunteer recruiting

It was noted that the emails directed towards finding new Chairs for the Finance and Membership Committees had been useful. Diane L. is still keen that a general request be put out e.g. to new members and periodically as people's circumstances change. Diane also suggested that job descriptions for Chairs be created as had recently been done for the Finance and Membership Committees.

h) Auditor General's Report on SAR (Species at Risk) / Summary of problem / Response from OFNC

Owen had circulated a link to Ontario Nature's call to action regarding the provincial government's track record on species at risk. Owen proposed that the Club comment but that an original letter should be sent rather than signing on to the ON form letter. **Action: Owen**

- i) Tree cutting near Russell

Owen had today circulated the following email:

“Should OFNC comment regarding what appears to be ecologically damaging heavy machinery work at Tweed Conservation Area in Russell. I propose that we do. Tweed CA is just east of the border of Ottawa in the town of Russell, and OFNC has held multiple fieldtrip events there due to its high quality habitat and proximity to Ottawa. Jakob and I visited the site this year, and we were concerned about this prospective work. I was just contacted today out of the blue by a former resident of the town, who linked this Facebook post: <https://www.facebook.com/joel.hackett.923/posts/10165958746365010>. If one clicks the link, photos showing damage are present.”

Owen would like OFNC to write a letter of concern to the South Nation Conservation Authority and to the local council. **Action: Owen** will write a draft.

7. Committee Updates

- a) Awards – Eleanor: see Item 6 b) above
- b) Birds – Bob reported that all local Christmas Bird Counts are proceeding but most will not have in person compilations.
- c) Conservation – Owen: see Items 6 h) and 6 i) above
- d) Education & Publicity – Gord reported that all the winter stories have been put up at FWG.
- e) Events – Jakob reported that Joan Heyding had resigned from the Committee.
- f) Finance – Ken had circulated the following report by email:
“Committee members reviewed the draft Financial Statements for FY2020–21, without comment. Congratulations to the Treasurer, Anne MacKenzie, for producing them in a timely manner.
The Finance Committee has recruited three new members. Two prefer to wait until January to become members. For now, I would like to add one person to the committee.”
Moved by Ken Young, seconded by Gord Robertson, that Anne Brown become a member of the Finance Committee. **CARRIED**
- g) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted: nil to report.
- h) Macoun Club – Diane K. reported that the Club is busy with outings.
- i) Membership – Henry: see Item 6 c) above. Nil else to report.
- j) Ontario Nature – no report

k) Publications – Annie noted that the price of paper is going up. She also noted that there is a paper shortage and that she has been advised by the printer that there may be printing delays. T&L can be published on-line if necessary.

l) Safe Wings Ottawa – Janette had circulated the following report by email:

“Note that our experience on outreach for the reports for investigation submitted to the province for over 4,500 birds documented dead at one building, including some species at risk, reflect the same experience of lack of provincial response that Owen's email noted. We received pat replies that no investigation was warranted. However the federal submission seems more promising and they are open to investigating both Species at Risk Act (federal) impacts and the Migratory Bird Convention Act (provincial) and prefer a more casual request!

1. Communications

- Web sites updates ongoing and working with Ottawa U students for support in outreach during their winter semester
- Safe Wings participated in “The Swift” podcast for the “Fur Bearers” and reaching out for 2nd podcast on Defender Radio

2. Volunteer activities/update

- Doing volunteer scheduling software survey among users and looking at options
- Naturehood – with Nature Canada and Britannia Community House, with support from local city counsellor, doing youth-based project with focus on birds/collisions applying their artwork design to windows in the public buildings.
- For Ottawa U project, working on quotes/updates grants for full façade window markings for 2 stories (\$15-20K); incorporating aboriginal artwork; Deb connected with finance regarding the grant for 2nd year/extension lots of review and approvals associated.
- Some new phone volunteers are up and running, going great; most shifts taken by volunteers for month of Dec to give Anouk and Christina a much needed break. Waiting to see response from T&L posting to get more volunteers for 2022.

3. **Collision Data** - due for 2021; 2,500 collisions documented so far for 2021, # down from last year. Possible factors may be flight patterns, winds, people returning to work. Numbers appear more inline with pre-pandemic #'s.

4. Annual display, specimen storage, confirming IDs/consolidating

- Looking at options for 2022 display, but need to flex pending COVID; public at museum vs private and filmed? May do smaller display at Carleton U in conjunction with one of their events.

5. Other events

- OFNC annual board meeting set for Jan, virtual. Suggested that SWO do a presentation. Could include UOttawa component/Advocacy update/Bird Friendly city.

6. Advocacy update

- Provincial reporting for KRP and 200 Kent Street resulted in response that no formal investigation will be pursued – response looked like copy/paste of standard reply
- Federal investigation looks more promising, and contact says a less form request works better with more flexibility and they can explore not only via Species at Risk Act; will look at assessment on KRP, if all goes well with Kent.
- LRT - still having challenges getting clear reply to inquiries on what specific bird friendly design will incorporated into Phase 2

- City Hall to treat the east side of building (high collision area) and looking into options to treat north and south entrances.
 - 150 Elgin is treating terrace area with Feather Friendly
7. **Rehab** – Quieter period; Successful OHS grant application for \$2500 towards diagnostic equipment and medical supplies for rehab.
8. **OFNC board update**
- Those with storage material will get square footage info to Janette for January > is shelving provided/available with storage or does that need to be provided?
 - SWO Annual Report will be submitted shortly
 - Meeting on Bird Friendly City with Nature Canada
 - Ted was a great asset for this meeting and moving it forward
 - Fairly involved process via Nature Canada program for cities to apply to be designated as a bird friendly city. Must meet set of criteria. SWO could assist in answering 5 of 15 criteria points. Bird count and some other points would be needed from Bird Committee.”

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Upcoming Meeting Dates

January 11, 2022 – Annual Business Meeting

January 17, 2022

February TBD

March 21, 2022