

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club – Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting
Monday, November 15, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting – Minutes

Chair: Jakob Mueller

Present: Ken Young, Ted Farnworth, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Annie Bélair, Elizabeth Moore, Owen Clarkin, Diane Kitching, Janette Niwa, Diane Lepage, Catherine Hessian, Henry Steger, Ann MacKenzie,

Absent: Bob Cermak, Gord Robertson

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved as circulated
2. Acceptance of Minutes from October 18, 2021
moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Annie Bélair, that the minutes of the October 18, 2021 meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**
3. Business arising from the minutes
 - a) Inclusion, diversity, and equality statement – deferred
 - b) Emails to members – deferred
 - c) Storage for Club Materials – Ann had circulated an email regarding storage for Club materials and asking Board members whether they had materials for storage. A list of what is in the City Archives was attached. She has had little response. She has also written a brief article for T&L inquiring whether the wider membership has materials requiring storage. The difference between archiving and storage was discussed. Archived materials can be viewed but cannot be retrieved so materials that might be used in future should be stored not archived. There are no criteria for what should be saved. It is up to individual discretion. Annie advised that Rob has about five boxes of material but wishes to keep these for the time being. Janette advised that Safewings has displays that members might like stored. She will have a better idea of the amount of material in the New Year. Ken noted that the Editor's Bound Set of CFN is currently being stored in a member's basement. The Publications Committee wishes it to have an OFNC storage location. **It was agreed that this topic should be reviewed at the January Board Meeting.**
 - d) Notification of deaths – Diane L suggested that deaths might be noted on the webpage and/or by email. Recording deaths in T&L had been discussed previously and it was generally felt that this was the best approach. Eleanor suggested that an announcement could be made at monthly meetings. It was recognised that the approach to notification of deaths and any obituary would depend upon the level of involvement of the individual in the Club or the wider natural history community.
4. Communications – Catherine had circulated details of mail received by email. She had suggested to Jakob a way in which communications might be approached in future. **Jakob will circulate the email** with a view to discussing the subject in the New Year.

A reporter from the U.S. Broadcaster NBC had contacted the Club regarding the Alfred Bog. Jakob had spoken with her about the importance of bogs.

5. Treasurer's Report – Ann reported that the Financial Statements are with the accountants, Welch LLP. The accounts should be available for the December meeting.

6. Issues for Discussion

- a) 2022 Nominations – No significant progress had been made in finding new Chairs of Finance and Membership. Ann suggested using Volunteer Ottawa. Jakob expressed a preference for recruiting from the Membership as these are such key positions. In addition to advertising in T&L, it was suggested that emails should be sent to the membership.

Action: Annie and Henry

- b) Next BoD meeting - It was agreed that the December meeting should be brought forward to December 13, 2021. Elizabeth noted that the February meeting is usually brought forward to avoid Family Day but that this would coincide with Valentine's Day in 2022. It was suggested that an on-line poll be conducted to ascertain BoD members' availability.

- c) ABM Jan 11, 2022 – Will be a Zoom meeting as last year. Content is needed for the post business element of the meeting. Ideas were solicited. It was suggested that the theme could possibly relate to climate change. **Diane L volunteered to organise a quiz again.** Chairs were reminded that their annual reports should be submitted for approval at the December meeting. An advertisement of the meeting should be placed in T&L and it should also be advertised by email. An announcement should also be made at the December monthly meeting. **Action: Annie, Henry, Jakob.** It was suggested that, as last year, a preparatory meeting should be held. Ken will set up the motions as Zoom polls. The motions should be available on the website in advance. Previously, one or two Chairs have been invited to give a short presentation on the work of their committees.

7. Committee Updates

- a) Awards – Eleanor advised that the Committee will meet December 1 and will present recommendations at the next Board meeting. She reminded the Board that there is a vacancy for one new Honorary Member.

- b) Birds – Bob circulated the following report by email:

“Planning for this year's Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Dec 19th is well underway. Once again Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais (COO) has graciously agreed to host the post count get-together and count results compilation. COO/OFNC provides funding in support of this evening event.”

- c) Conservation – Owen reported that members of the Committee had:

- met with some members of the SE rural Ottawa community, to show the type of habitat which may be affected by the proposed Tewin Development

- met with Kichi Sibi Trails group for a part 2 of our help to them to assess the biodiversity of the Rockcliffe Park area, and note possible connections of the current biodiversity with historic Indigenous uses (portage, etc.)

- met with Stittsville group to discuss biodiversity of the Kemp Woodland

- visited known Heath Snail location west of Ottawa to document (photos, etc.)

- performed annual monitoring visit of High Lonesome Nature Reserve with members of the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust
- continued to parse data related to the year's activities (e.g. Elm Zigzag Sawfly)
- discussed the importance of peatlands and Alfred Bog specifically with media

Owen thanked Jakob for his response to the NBC reporter (see item 4 above) on the significance of bogs and emphasised the importance of the Club's involvement in this sort of interaction.

d) Education & Publicity – no report

e) Events – Jakob reported that the digital presentation of awards went well. It was recorded and will be posted. A couple of field trips have been planned for November.

f) Finance – Ken: nil to report

g) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted had circulated the following report by email:
 “A suggestion to buy a sit-down grass mower / motorized cart to use to cut vegetation along pathways throughout the property and to help transport heavy tools and / or wood chips etc. was discussed by the Fletcher Management Committee. Concerns were raised about maintenance, storage, safety of operation, and finding someone to take responsibility for the piece of equipment. The idea of purchasing such a piece of equipment was not supported by a majority of Committee members.
 Nominations for the FWG Management Committee Volunteer Recognition were received and evaluated. Nominations for the award come from fellow volunteers. It recognizes individuals who have done more than expected work at the Garden and have also exhibited enthusiasm and support to fellow volunteers. Chris Mark, Quinn Thurston, Denis and Claudette Lemire have accepted the award.”

h) Macoun Club – Diane K reported that the Club continues to have outdoor meetings in their study area, usually every second week. They continue to wait for Covid-19 protocols to allow indoor meetings. Ted felt that the FWG RC was in satisfactory condition for indoor meetings when allowed.

i) Membership – Henry: nil to report

j) Ontario Nature – Jakob had circulated ON's ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) Submission on Delaying Protection for Black Ash and the Club had signed on to the submission

k) Publications – Annie reported that she has been working on the January-March issue of T&L.
 The next Publications Committee is meeting on November 17.

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

“Communications

- Web site updated with Feather Friendly installers

Patrol/Rehab/Data

- Patrol wrapped up for 2021
- SWO collision data submissions required
- Plans for specimen sorting and storage underway to prepare ministry reports
- Rehab intake numbers have slowed, currently about 8% lower than 2020

Volunteer activities/update (Anouk)

- Gave NCC patrol training session
 - Volunteer Software– still researching options that meet needs for various volunteer roles
- Continuing work with uOttawa on 1st floor of building (purchase of Feather Friendly and a customized vinyl); assessing if TD Enviro Leaders Program may be able to offer funding for 2 floors and install.
- Phone Volunteer ad is going out in Ottawa Field Naturalist Trail & Landscape upcoming issue Nature Canada’s Nature Hood - SWO would be considered a community partner/speaker and Britannia Woods House is the host; proposal in development.

Other events

- October conducted walk for Canadian Wildlife Federation’s, Wild Outside.
- Nature Canada Bird Friendly City certification - is SWO or OFNC interested? Checked - OFNC Bird Committee not

Advocacy update

Currently have over 100 building submissions to review and 3 new volunteers to train as support”

Diane L reminded the BoD that, before the pandemic, a Nature Canada representative was planning to join Board meetings. **Diane will try to reconnect with the individual.**

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Upcoming Meeting Dates

December 13, 2021

January 11, 2022 – Annual Business Meeting

January 17, 2022

February TBD