

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club – Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday February 15, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Chair: Jakob Mueller

Present: Ken Young, Ted Farnworth, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Annie Bélair, Elizabeth Moore, Owen Clarkin, Diane Kitching, Janette Niwa, Diane Lepage, Ann MacKenzie, Gord Robertson, Bob Cermak, Kerri Keith, Lorraine Elworthy (representing Birds Committee), Catherine Hessian, Elizabeth Gammell (guest), Henry Steger,

Absent: Bob Cermak,

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved as circulated.

2. Acceptance of Minutes from January 17, 2022

Moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Diane Lepage, that the minutes of the January 17, 2022 meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**

3. Business arising from the minutes

a) Storage for Club Materials – Ann had sent out an email with details regarding the proposed Dymon storage locker. Although the 5' x 10' locker is more expensive than the 5' x 8" one, the 5' x 10' is more accessible and it was felt that this would be more useful. The suggested start date is March 1, 2022. It was felt that the one-time-only free truck and driver would not be useful. Dymon will require the names and cellphone numbers of individuals with access. Access and exit will be recorded. Eleanor, Annie and Jeff should be on the list for Publications. SafeWings will let Ann know who they want to add. Ted felt that, once other groups' material had been removed from FWG, they should not need further storage. Ann noted that there is no shelving in the unit and suggested that appropriate shelving should be acquired by the groups wanting to use the locker. Ann suggested that the contents should be reviewed yearly and that each group using the locker should maintain their own inventory.

Moved by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Gord Robertson, that OFNC rent a 5' by 10' storage locker at Dymon Storage in Lincoln Fields at a cost of \$155 per month starting March 1, 2022. **CARRIED**

b) Compound Microscope Donation – waiting for feedback

c) Communications improvements – deferred to March

d) Volunteer recruiting – Ted advised that FWG has signed up with Volunteer Ottawa again and noted that they offer courses on volunteer recruiting. Diane L. expressed concern that these volunteer recruitment courses are actually quite expensive.

e) Notification of member deaths – Diane L. reiterated her wish that deaths be announced in a more immediate manner in addition to being reported in T&L. It was suggested that they could be noted on the Facebook page. Jakob expressed concerns about privacy. It was felt that this could be handled on a case by case basis.

4. Communications

- a) Ken had circulated, by email, details of mail received.
- b) Jakob reported that he has now had an acknowledgement of the request made to the Governor General of Canada, The Right Honorable Mary Simon, that she grant patronage to the OFNC.
- c) Jakob and Owen noted that they had received a number of requests for interviews. Owen had done one with the Fulcrum, the English language on-line student newspaper at the University of Ottawa and Jakob had done one with the Capital Current on-line journalism programme at Carleton University. Both addressed similar questions about conservation. Gord had done an interview with the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP).

5. Treasurer's Report – Ann: nil to report

6. Issues for Discussion

- a) Pollinator Garden Workshops – Elizabeth Gammell made a presentation to the Board (see context document **appended**) seeking the support of FWG/OFNC in the creation of a programme of Pollinator Garden Workshops in association with the City, based on the pilot programme she had previously developed. The Board discussed this proposal and were of the view that it is a very worthwhile initiative. Ted expressed some concern about the willingness of FWG volunteers to participate. It was also noted that there may be some issues with permission to use FWG resources if the programme moves off-site. Ted will bring the proposal to the FWG Management Committee. The Board agreed in principal to support the initiative but would require a formal proposal. Jakob thanked Elizabeth for her presentation.
- b) 2022 committee rosters
Moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Janette Niwa, that the 2022 Committee rosters be accepted as circulated. **CARRIED**
- c) Research Grants – details of research grant proposals had been circulated shortly before the meeting. It was felt that there had been insufficient time to consider these proposals and it was **agreed that this item should be dealt with by email.**
- d) Zoom scheduling and privileges – Jakob reported that an issue had arisen on February 10, 2022, when the Mycology Group launched a Zoom meeting during a regularly scheduled SafeWings Zoom meeting, effectively terminating the SafeWings meeting. The Mycology Group was of the view that the SafeWings Meeting did not show on the Zoom schedule. Jakob was of the view that the regular SafeWings meeting did show on the schedule. Jakob will consider how Zoom scheduling and privileges should work in the future and report to the Board.

7. Committee Updates

- a) Awards – Eleanor reported that the on-line Awards presentation went well. She is working with Annie to get the write-up into T&L. Gord has been sent the long citations for the website and they will also be published in CFN.
- b) Birds – Lorraine reported that Bernie Ladouceur is working on finalising the results of the Christmas Bird Count for the end of February.
- c) Conservation – Owen reported that they continue to have discussions with representatives of Canadensis. Canadensis had approached the committee for guidance on collecting native plant

seeds. Conservation has helped them plan a seed collecting event and will lead it. The possibility of other joint activities has been discussed.

They are in discussions with Arboretum staff regarding surveying some of the property expected to be lost to the new hospital. Owen is particularly interested in doing an inventory of a strip of wood expected to be affected to see what would be lost

- d) Education & Publicity – Gord had received a message from the Regional Science Fair asking whether OFNC would provide judges and offer prizes again. It was agreed to continue to offer \$100 prizes. Gord will want two other judges. Diane L. offered to help and Gord will ask Lloyd Mayeda also.
- e) Events – Jakob advised that the Pelee trip is going to be postponed to 2023. Martha Farkas is understandably reluctant to put in all the work required with the ongoing possibility of being cancelled by Covid.
Speakers have been arranged for March and April.
- f) Finance – Ken: nil to report
- g) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted reported that the Plant Sale tables are being set up in the Resource Centre. They are discussing whether the sale should be on-line again. Last year's sale was the most successful sale ever and parking at the FWG has become an increasing problem.
- h) Macoun Club – Diane K reported that the Club is having meetings 3 out of 4 weeks in the field.
- i) Membership – Henry: nil to report
- j) Ontario Nature – no report
- k) Publications – Annie reported that the Committee will meet February 16. She is busy with T&L and CFN is going well.
- l) Safe Wings Ottawa – Janette reported the following:

Social Media:

- Betty White Fundraiser was a success raising \$545 in donations

Volunteer activities/update

- Naturehood/Britannia Woods Community House have 2 of 4 target Ottawa U students signed
- uOttawa decided to use Feather Friendly on Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS); we continue to encourage them to turn off the lights on campus during migration season
- Phone volunteers – oriented 5 new volunteers at start of February; looking for more so each only has one 6-hour shift per week

Collision Data / Annual Display / Specimens

- 2021 reports are out
 - o Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) x 2 (1 on collisions; 1 for rehab birds)
 - o Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry x 1 for rehab birds only
- 2022 collision database is live; looking for options to upload photos with report.

- All 2021 specimens now ready to go to the National Specimen Bank at Carleton U
- No venue for 2022 – looking for ideas and location

Events

- o Canadian Security Establishment (CSE) and the Green Mobilization Network have requested that we give them a presentation to coincide with spring migration
- o Willow is doing presentations for the City of Victoria and Bird Safe Guelph

Advocacy

- o CWS is investigating KRP and 200 Kent; requesting information on species at risk found at 200 Kent
- o M with the building manager at the Slush Puppy Arena in Gatineau regarding retrofitting some windows
- o OC Transpo reports
 - o Preparing report on bus shelter project with data from 2020 & 2021
 - § Preparing report on LRT station collision data
- o The Ontario building code is being updated; need to contribute comments to encourage inclusion of bird friendly guidelines
- o Ottawa Community Housing has acquired some land; we'll connect with City to promote bird friendly guidelines
- o Expecting a report from the City after the first year of the Bird Friendly Guidelines

Rehab

- o Purchased an ophthalmoscope with OHS grant - takes pictures of corneas and retinas of birds to enable diagnosis of eye injuries

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Upcoming Meeting Dates

March 21, 2022

April TBD

May 16, 2022

June 20, 2022

Appendix

Pollinator Workshops - Elizabeth Gammell

I've been continuing discussions with the City: Is there is a way to carry forward from the pilot 'Design Your Own Pollinator Garden' Workshops?

What looks most feasible is to explore a partnership between FWG/OFNC and the City

- The indoor workshop sessions to be held at a City facility under the City's wing,
- ...but identified as "in association with" the FWG/OFNC, and offered with FWG resources,
- ...and complemented by a series of on-site visits at FWG during the growing/buzzing season.
- It would be 'for fee', since (as the pilot confirmed) too many people are too casual about free sessions. This would also give a chance for the programme to become self-financing.

The City is very interested to go ahead; we're trying to figure out how we could structure a next phase, especially the logistics of managing the money and registration, so it does not burden the club, especially Ann as volunteer treasurer.

The City will want a project proposal at some point soon, on which I would be ready to work, with them.

I have brainstormed with Sandy Garland. She agrees we could transport to off-site a core of our most useful unique on-site resources. An off-site location also would solve the lack of internet at the FWG IC. She agrees that FWG can indeed likely handle a series of several guided outdoor visits at the FWG (with dates set well in advance to organize parking access, which recently has become a barrier). Also sounded her out about continuing to use the FWG imagery included in the presentations prepared for the free pilots, even if henceforth used in a 'for fee' context. And on harnessing her affiliated Wild Pollinator Partner website and its network as a connecting forum for on-going workshops and participants.

With it become a 'for fee' programme: by moving the core of it off-site and held under the City's wing, ONFC sidesteps the need for a codicil to the AAFC agreement to permit any new 'for fee' activity at the FWG, and also likely sidesteps possible issues for OFNC's insurance policy. With the possibility of using the City's Continuing Education system as with other courses held at City sites, the logistics of managing money and registrations could be taken care of. And, again, a fee could go toward making the programme self-financing.

Financing of what? As outlined in the CEPGP pilot final report:

- space --- even one branch of the City has to find money to rent space and equipment from another branch of the City
- supplies --- we do still have goodly leftovers, but more would be needed into the future; especially copy costs for resource materials
- administering the whole project, and animating the workshops themselves (i.e. making the presentations; design coaching the participants)...

...Again, as noted in the final CEPGP grant project report, FWG has for decades talked about offering courses, which has never happened because no-one ever had enough 'side of desk/life' time to dedicate to make it happen. If in the past there were volunteers with appetite and availability to take on extra projects, there really isn't that kind of volunteer oomph now.

For the pilot, some highly appreciated helpers did lend their hands, plus Ann bore with my accounting --- but essentially it was a solo effort to shape and bring it about.

Realistically, there is even less volunteer appetite and availability than for the pilot to carry the project to a next larger phase.

To take on essentially solo the work to carry the project forward, I would have to structure it so that I would again be a sub-contractor to the OFNC ---- but this time paid not just for the actual presentation time, but also

for at least part of the substantial time and work involved in re-jigging and dealing with the City. I'm just not able to take on such an initiative as pure volunteer labour, even if others were able to join in substantially, which no-one is. (I have been turning my mind over who else might have the needed knowledge and possible interest to be an alternative to only me, at least as workshop presenter.)

How does the OFNC feel about this?

And how does the OFNC feel about the potential for this project as a whole?