

**Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club – Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting**  
**Monday, January 17, 2022 – 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, Henry Steger, Ann MacKenzie, Gord Robertson, Bob Cermak, Kerri Keith

**Absent:** Catherine Hessian

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved as circulated with the correction of:  
Item 6 c) to NatureHood (instead of Bird Friendly Ottawa)  
and the addition of:  
Item 6 e) Date of next meeting  
Item 6 f) Awards presentation  
Item 6 g) Volunteers and Chair descriptions
2. Acceptance of Minutes from December 13, 2021  
**Moved** by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Diane Lepage, that the minutes of the December 13, 2021 meeting be accepted. **CARRIED**
3. Business arising from the minutes
  - a) Storage for Club Materials – Janette advised that Safe Wings probably has approx. 20 cu ft of material for storage. Together with CFN requirements, a 10 x 5 locker would probably be required. **Ann will price and follow up with Dymon Storage.**
  - b) Membership computer/transition needs – at the December 2021 meeting it had been **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. **CARRIED**
  - c) Compound Microscope Donation – waiting for feedback
  - d) Communications improvements – deferred to February
4. Communications - Ken had circulated details of mail received by email.
5. Treasurer's Report

Ann reported that the Charity Return is almost complete and will soon be filed with CRA. A separate filing will be needed for Ontario this year. The T4As for those who got grants or honorariums will be going out in the next couple of weeks. Donation receipts have been sent out for all donations received up until December 31<sup>st</sup>. We are investigating software that is available to allow us to send receipts electronically rather than mailing a paper letter. We might not be able to distinguish receipts for various funds such as the Fletcher but we can track them ourselves.

## 6. Issues for Discussion

- a) Nature Canada liaison – Diane L reported that she had contacted Teagan Yaremchuk who did not feel she would be able to be NC liaison at this time but recommended Aly Hyder Ali. Aly is an Urban Nature Organizer with NC and an OFNC member. **Diane will email him** and ask him to join the February 15 meeting, at which time the nature of a possible relationship can be discussed.
- b) ABM review – Jakob thanked those who had contributed. It went smoothly but was overlong. There had been an unusually long general discussion. It was agreed that this was a positive development. Maybe the length of the post business presentations could be reconsidered. Gord complimented Diane on her quiz which was felt to be a particularly desirable element of this part of the meeting.
- c) NatureHood – Janette: NatureHood is a Nature Canada program which aims to connect urban residents, particularly young people and their families, to nearby nature. A program is being set up in the Mud Lake area, targeting racialized youth in particular. They are interested in getting people from OFNC to do teaching sessions on their particular interests. Janette doesn't know about the anticipated frequency. Jakob agreed this is a very worthwhile project. Presumably they would be looking towards the spring to implement this initiative. Janette advised that the current budget allocation is just for setting up but a second stage of funding is proposed through March 2023.
- d) Shirley's Bay access – OFNC does not currently have access to Shirley's Bay and there are apparently no plans to re-grant access to OFNC or any other organisation. Gord reported that the Duck Club has a valid contract with DND but are not being allowed access, even e.g. to check duck boxes. He has been told that DND has inadequate staff to ensure safety. Bob reiterated his belief that the causeway is under the control of the City. **Jakob will contact Diane Holmes** to see if she can determine whether the City does have jurisdiction.
- e) Date of Next meeting – it was decided that the next meeting would be Tuesday, February 15, 2022. It was also noted that the third Monday in April is Easter Monday. A decision about the date of the April meeting will be made at a later date.
- f) Awards Presentation – the date of the presentation and an associated photo night was discussed. Friday, February 11 was suggested as a possibility.
- g) Volunteers and Chair Descriptions - Diane L asked that these topics be discussed at the next meeting.

## 7. Committee Updates

- a) Awards – Eleanor reported that the names of the award recipients had been posted on the website. The committee has 5 out of 6 citations drafted and when they are all done she will circulate them to the Board for approval. The Committee will be working on the presentations. Mark Brenchley has been helping with award certificates and engraving.

b) Birds – Bob reported that there had been a supply problem with bird seed and they were having difficulty keeping two of the feeders active but adequate seed supplies are presently available. Bob asked for advice about whether a Committee member who has not been attending meetings should be removed from the Committee. The general feeling of the meeting was that this was appropriate action. It was suggested that Committee membership should be renewed annually and not just rolled-over. This could be addressed when the Constitution and By-Laws are reviewed.

OFO is looking for birders across the province to act as “ambassadors”. They would go to properties where rare or sensitive birds are spotted and try to make appropriate arrangements for viewing rather than just suppressing viewing completely.

c) Conservation – Owen reported that:

i. Canadensis – the Committee had been approached by FWG’s neighbour and asked if they could help with native plant seed collection.

ii. Tewn Community - the development is projected to accommodate 45,000 people. There is said to be a plan to create a 600 hectare “natural land trust” to preserve natural features within the development. It is not clear how this will be achieved. It was noted that a landfill is being constructed nearby by Taggart. Thinking about a community environmental committee will start in March. Owen will try to liaise with Nick Stowe and report what OFNC knows about this area as they have studied it quite extensively. Owen has been told that the environmental reports will be made public.

d) Education & Publicity – Gord: nil to report

e) Events – Jakob: the Committee is planning to have a meeting soon. There are currently no in person events because of Covid restrictions

f) Finance – Ken: nil to report

g) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted: nil to report

h) Macoun Club – Diane K reported that they had had two skating trips to White Lake in January. Numbers had been restricted and some people had to be turned away.

i) Membership – Henry: (see Item 3b above – Membership computer/transition needs). Kerri Keith was welcomed to the Board.

j) Ontario Nature – The next regional meeting is in early April.

k) Publications – Annie noted that the next T&L is a large one.

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

## **“Financial**

- Wonderful donation of \$1000 from Friends of Mud Lake calendar sale

## **Communications**

- Website will be revamped starting this year

## **Volunteer Activities**

- Naturehood/Britannia Woods Community House: funding received for Jan-Mar to design after school program with focus on birds/collisions; program is aimed at racialized communities and lifting systemic barriers for these groups to accessing nature; funds administered by BWCH – OFNC will not be responsible for any financial expenses. 2nd proposal submitted for Apr 2022-March 2023 for multiple programs and 2<sup>nd</sup> location east in Rideau-Rockcliff ward
- uOttawa window retrofits and research: funding transferred to 2021 and submission sent for additional funding, including for FFS building

## **Rehab, Collision Data, Reports Annual Display & Specimens**

- 1,200 admissions last year, down about 10% over 2020 but still very busy
- Finalizing 2021 data, reports are in progress
- Continued storage at Carleton still hopeful
- Display venue – looking for ideas

## **Advocacy**

- Working on bilingual material to engage with Gatineau and government
- Re-engaged with Communications Security Establishment (CSE) on self-monitoring. Possible presentation to staff sometime in the new year on monitoring. “

Janette noted that it is currently “owl season” – some have survived, others have been lost. They also had a red-tailed hawk.

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

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Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 15, 2022 (Tuesday)  
March 21, 2022  
April TBD  
May 16, 2022  
June 20, 2022