

**Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club – Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting**  
**Monday June 21, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting – Minutes**

**Chair:** Jakob Mueller

**Present:** Ken Young, Ted Farnworth, Ann MacKenzie, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Annie Belair, Bob Cermak, Elizabeth Moore, Owen Clarkin, Diane Kitching, Janette Niwa, Diane Lepage, Gord Robertson, Henry Steger

**Absent:** Catherine Hessian

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved as circulated
2. Acceptance of Minutes from May 17, 2021  
**Moved** by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Ann MacKenzie, that the minutes of the May 7, 2021 meeting be approved. **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 some costing for Dymon storage. Bob advised that Birds have 5 boxes for storage. Diane K advised that Rob has a substantial amount of material. Catherine had noted that she has used Dymon storage and suggested that 5' by 5' can accommodate a lot and that even 3' by 5' might be sufficient. Ted asked for guidelines as to what should be stored but Jakob felt that this would be difficult. It was suggested that anything that might be useful for reference in the future should be included. Ann suggested asking Rob how many feet space of shelf storage he would require and reviewing in September. She also suggested that some material should be archived. It would be necessary to determine how much should be archived and how much accessible. Owen suggested that we should start thinking about archiving electronically.
4. Communications: Catherine had emailed details of the mail received. There were no communications of note.
5. Treasurer's Report: Ann advised that she will away for 2-3 weeks and Ken will be responsible for any urgent matters.
6. Issues for Discussion
  - a) Ontario Nature AGM – the 90<sup>th</sup> AGM was held on June 12, 2021. The W. E. Saunders Natural History Award for achievement in natural history research was given to Owen Clarkin for spearheading an extensive survey of remnant habitat of rare red spruce in eastern Ontario with hundreds of hours of volunteer fieldwork. It was noted that Owen had been selected from a field with more nominations than ever before.
  - b) Pink lady slippers – Henry advised that the President of the Ottawa Orchid Society had inquired whether OFNC thought that there was any possibility of saving any of the pink lady slipper orchids that would be lost with Otto's BMW's plans to expand over a section of

- the red pine forest adjacent to Hunt Club Road. The BoD felt that, bearing in mind the complex mycorrhizal associations of these plants, it is unlikely that they can be transplanted. They prefer acidic soils and are typically found in coniferous forests and in bogs. In addition, it was noted that pink lady slippers are not protected plants. Owen volunteered to discuss this matter with the President of the Ottawa Orchid Society.
- c) Peter Hall – the Club had received email from Peter Hall advising that he is moving to Toronto. He played a major role in the FWG and has done a lot of work on butterflies.

## 7. Committee Updates

- a) Awards – Eleanor: nil to report
- b) Birds – Bob: nil to report
- c) Conservation – Owen reported that members are busy going to various local sites, catching up with the lost spring. They participated in a Gananoque Lake bioblitz. Owen noted that they have had a number of requests for input about properties being developed when it is too late to do anything about the development. They visited Leitrim fen on the weekend - a provincially significant wetland that has been drained significantly over the past 20 years and has been invaded by e.g. glossy buckthorn. The area has lost its original wetland character and is now largely a meadow habitat. Some interesting finds were made including southern arrowwood. Owen suggested it is important to keep eye on such places. He noted that there are almost no records from the site on iNaturalist.
- d) Education & Publicity – Gord circulated the following report by email:
- “No new meetings.  
Sheilagh Stacey has added a story on Black Knot Fungus, Wood Duck, and Mosses, Fenja Brodo submitted one on Grasshoppers, and I added one on Animal Colour Vision.  
Two new presentations were given: one to a Rotary group of 16 people and another presentation on 18 June to 15 at Ottawa West Community Support Group on bird feeders.  
One new member is considering joining the committee.  
Summer stories have been posted around the FWG along with 6 News Flashes (short stories about recent events, e.g., Gypsy Moths, Snapping Turtle eggs laid, Plum pocket disease, etc.).  
Six new stories have been written by Sarah Wray, Fenja Brodo, and Sheilagh Stacey.  
Website was developed for plant sale including fillable pdf order form.
- e) Events – Jakob reported that, as things open up, they will plan some in-person field trips. He has talked to Hume about monthly meetings and determining when we’re able to be admitted to the Neatby Building to start in person meetings. Jakob note some delays in uploading meetings to YouTube because it requires extensive dedicated computer use. Ann suggested a different solution might need to be sought?
- f) Finance - Ken had submitted the following report by email:
- “As committee chair, I circulated a budget document to board members on May 31. Board members and others who are responsible for a budget are asked to submit a proposed budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to Ken by August 1.”

- g) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted reported that FWG is starting planning to bring volunteers back. He noted that parking is going to be a problem as By-law is patrolling the parking near the RC and tickets are being given. Both sides of the road approaching the RC are off-limits because it is a fire route so there are only about 4 parking spaces. Certain key people have a slip of paper to show that they are FWG volunteers but there will be difficulties with more volunteers. They are in communication with AAFC. FWG suggested that the strip of grass beside the quarantine building be re-opened but AAFC doesn't want to do this. They are already concerned with the parking issues that are likely to arise from the building of the new hospital.

The plant sale with curbside pick-up is going really well. The sale has made a record amount of money. A few complaints had been made about the sale being oversubscribed. The possibility of operating curbside pick-up in future was suggested. Diane L. thanked Ann for her efforts organising receipt of payments for the plant sale and will ask Ted to thank the key volunteers. The City has been pleased with the success of the pollinator workshops run by Elizabeth Gammell and they are now inquiring whether she might become involved in developing ways of using runoff water more efficiently. They are wondering whether FWG could become a demonstration site. A meeting is planned for Wednesday, 23 June.

- h) Macoun Club – Diane K. reported that the Club has been having field trips weekly to Stony Swamp or to Rob's property and would like to continue over the summer.
- i) Membership – Henry: nil to report
- j) Ontario Nature – see 6a above
- k) Publications – Annie reported that the latest T&L is to be sent out this week. It includes a YouTube channel announcement advising that all meetings will be posted on YouTube.
- l) Safe Wings Ottawa – Janette reported that the bulk of spring bird migration is over. About 800 birds had been received. There were fewer warblers than last year, an observation made by others in the birding community.
- Retrofitting at Ottawa U is taking longer than anticipated because of Covid.
- Advocacy work continues. They will be commenting on the new Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus plans. The plans appear to include a lot of glass and, although it is said to be birdproof, they want to check this. OC transport has been increasing supportive. They have rehabbed 500 birds compared with 300 birds last year. This may reflect the number of people working at home during Covid and noticing collisions.

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

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Upcoming Meeting Dates

September 22, 2021

October 18, 2021

November 15, 2021

December TBD

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Jakob Mueller  
President  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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Date

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Elizabeth Moore  
Recording Secretary  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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Date