

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club – Board of Directors Meeting
Monday May 17, 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, Dwayne Lepitzki (until 7.50 p.m.), Owen Clarkin, Diane Kitching, Janette Niwa, Catherine Hessian, Diane Lepage, Gord Robertson, Henry Steger

1. Approval of the Agenda – approved as distributed with the deletion of Item 3 and the renumbering of subsequent Items.
2. Acceptance of Minutes from April 19, 2021
Moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Diane Lepage, that the minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting be approved. **CARRIED**
3. Business arising from the minutes
 - a) Inclusion, diversity, and equality statement – deferred
 - b) Emails to members – deferred
 - c) Directors' roles (re: "ex-officio" roles, voting status, compensation, etc.): arising from the minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2021 – Item 7b.

Since the April meeting, Ken and Ann had circulated emails pertaining to the status of Annie and Dwayne and their omission from the Nominations to the Board at the 2021 ABM. Ken advised that that there is no provision for the qualifiers "ex-officio" and "non-voting" under the Club's Constitution and By-laws. All Directors have the same responsibility to the Club. Ken recommended that Annie and Dwayne be appointed as Directors with no qualifiers.

After discussion, Annie Bélair agreed to be nominated as a Director.

Moved by Ann MacKenzie, seconded by Bob Cermak, that Annie Bélair be named a Member of the Board of Directors. **CARRIED**

Dwayne Lepitzki felt that his other responsibilities precluded his being able to commit to being a Director without the "ex-officio" qualifier and declined to be nominated as a Director. Jakob thanked Dwayne for all his contributions to the Board. Dwayne then left the Board Meeting.

4. Communications (circulated by email) – the mail collected by Catherine included the following:
 - The Spring 2021 issue of the Nature Conservancy of Canada magazine
 - The Spring newsletter of the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre.
 - The April-June 2021 issue of "The PEN - Peace and Environment News", a newspaper published by the Ottawa Peace and Environment Resource Centre (PERC)

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

6. Issues for Discussion

- a. Storage for club materials – having attended a meeting of the Publications Committee, Jakob had become aware of ongoing issues regarding storage of copies of OFNC publications. There is no room for them in the FWG RC. The Committee had suggested renting a storage unit. Jakob inquired whether any other committees had storage issues. Janette note that Safe Wings has items that could usefully be stored. It was suggested that any storage space should be climate controlled and this would likely be expensive. Some members of the BoD suggested that the publications in question be digitised and that the physical copies be disposed of. Others felt that the physical copies should be kept for posterity. It was noted that methods of electronic storage keep changing and may be short-lived. It was suggested that this could be overcome by uploading to the Cloud with backup. Jakob suggested that office space downtown might become affordable post-pandemic with increased numbers of people working from home.
- b. Shared vision for new protected areas in Ontario (Ontario Nature effort) – the Government of Ontario has announced its intention to expand the province's protected areas. Mindful of the provinces support for development, Ontario Nature has expressed concern about lack of input from e.g. environmental organisations and indigenous groups. They have asked whether OFNC is aware of areas that should be formally protected. Owen, Jakob, Diane L. and Bob have discussed this matter. Burnt Lands has been suggested. Alfred Bog is already on the list of protected places. Pinhey Sand Dunes was suggested but this is federal land. Gord asked to be included in further discussion.

7. Committee Updates

- a. Awards – Eleanor: nil to report
- b. Birds – Bob had circulated an email indicating that the Committee had nothing to report. Their last meeting was March 29th and their next is May 31st.
- c. Conservation – Owen reported that the Committee had been doing a lot of planning and hopes to catch up with field work when things open up. Owen had circulated some new ideas for the Twitter feed.
- d. Education & Publicity – Gord reported that they are still creating lots of storyboards. He has two new presentations coming up, one to a Rotary Club group and one to a Seniors Club on birdfeeders. The Science Fair Winners' Certificates and cheques have been sent out. The Communications meeting is on hold. The web site plant sale advertising is in hand but needs a list of plants.
- e. Events – Jakob reported that the Committee is planning ahead for digital events. The web page now has icons for Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Annie suggested that these were

not very prominent and wondered whether they should be advertised on a banner. Gord felt this would not work as it is preferable to change the banners frequently.

f. Finance – Ken: nil to report

g. Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted had circulated the following report by email:

- “We are trying to arrange a meeting with Agriculture Canada officials to discuss possible solutions to problems (parking, dogs off leash, vandalism/thefts) that have become more serious as the number of visitors to the FWG increases
- A CBC radio interview with a University of Ottawa grad student highlighted an experiment being carried out at the Fletcher to study the effects of climate change on pollinators.
- The volunteer season at the Fletcher is still on hold
- Planning for the plant sale continues”

There has still not been any communication from Ottawa Public Health (OPH) about holding something like the plant sale. They are hoping to organise on-line prepay ordering and curbside pickup but Ted would like OPH to ok this.

Ted already has 45 volunteer names for this year and has closed the volunteer list.

On Mothers’ Day two city by-law officers were on the property and had given out a warning and a couple of tickets.

As cars are now being ticketed, a problem arises with volunteer parking. Ted has called AAFC but hasn’t heard back.

h. Macoun Club – Diane K. advised that there was nothing to report as they are inactive for now. Ann asked whether they might think of doing any programming over the summer as they have not been able to hold events during the school year.

i. Membership – Henry reported that new membership applications are still coming in.

j. Ontario Nature - see Item 6b above. ON AGM is June 12.

k. Publications – Annie reported that T&L is going ok. She has sold her first half page ad. The Committee met last week. CFN is going really well since the new layout artist started. They are catching up and now publishing 2021 issues in the appropriate year. Dave Seburn has stepped down and the Committee is interested in new members.

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

Annual bird display – likely set-up something post-lockdown and film it and share online with FLAP for live presentation

Migratory Bird Day / Big Day – Report City of Ottawa presentation ([Wildlife Speaker Series Windows of Opportunity: Making Our Homes Safer for Birds - YouTube](#)), reposted on social media some of our videos (Jane’s Walk, Feather Friendly installation)

Ottawa University TD Environmental Program continues - activities delayed due to lockdown, but progress still made

- o Covering one surface with a mural and a second surface with a Bird-safe film

- o All 5 students from last term have stayed on to complete the research report and 4 new students have joined us to assist with patrolling and the installation of the mural
 - o Revised budget and project plan sent to Ann MacKenzie May 13, 2021
 - o Ann to forward updated Certificate of Insurance to OttawaU contact if required
 - KRP request for investigation submitted to the ministry with online affirmation; working on 200 Kent, but will wait to finalize until hear back on KRP
 - WINS:
 - o 2 private buildings retrofit a small area this spring (495 Richmond entry portico & QNX patio area in Kanata)
 - o Carleton University will add some features to a new building post-construction
 - o OC Transpo retrofit Bayview interior utility panel with grate blocking where birds were found after having hit one area of west building northern window
 - o NCC published guidelines for federal buildings in NCA, Safe Wings shared on social media
 - BUILDINGS OF CONCERN:
 - o Ottawa Civic to include use of UV glass (unreliable in real life tests, fades) > Anouk reached out to the Architect; reach out for support via consultation campaign and social media
- WBCC support during building transition – Safe Wings has taken in 229 birds this year, taking most of the window collisions and only transferring for long term care or complications; providing same info on protocols for bird collisions; working more collaboratively”

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Upcoming Meeting Dates

September 20, 2021

October 18, 2021

November 15, 2021