

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Board of Directors Meeting

June 20, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Chair: Jakob Mueller

Present: Annie Bélair, Bob Cermak, Owen Clarkin, Catherine Hessian, Diane Kitching, Diane Lepage, Ann MacKenzie, Janette Niwa, Gord Robertson, Ken Young

Absent: Aly Hyder Ali, Ted Farnworth, Kerri Keith, Elizabeth Moore, Eleanor Zurbrigg

1. Approval of the Agenda

An item was added: Payment rates for Contract Publication Services, otherwise approved as circulated.

2. Acceptance of Minutes of May 16, 2022

Moved by Ken Young, seconded by Diane Lepage, that the minutes of the May 16, 2022 meeting be accepted.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Compound Microscope Donation

Still waiting for feedback.

b) Payment rates for contract publication services

At the May Board meeting, a motion concerning the payments that the Club makes for certain CFN and T&L services was moved and seconded. Because the motion involves the payment of money, it is voted on at the June Board meeting.

An amendment was made (Moved by Catherine Hessian) that the inflation adjustment in paragraph 3 be based on the Consumer Price Index, and this specified in the motion, for clarity. This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

The motion, as amended, is:

Moved by Ken Young, seconded by Catherine Hessian, that:

- 1) The payments currently made to specified providers of contract publication services be increased to account for inflation, and to reflect changes in the nature of the services performed;
- 2) The payments be effective with issue 136(1) of The Canadian Field-Naturalist and issue 56(3) of Trail & Landscape;
- 3) Adjustments based on the change in the Consumer Price Index will be made for each future volume, beginning with issue 137(1) of The Canadian Field-Naturalist and issue 57(1) of Trail & Landscape.
- 4) The services affected by this motion are:
 - a) Editor-in-Chief, CFN
 - b) Assistant Editor, CFN
 - c) Layout, CFN
 - d) Online Journal Manager, CFN
 - e) Indexing, CFN
 - f) Editor, T&L
- 5) The amounts proposed are:

a) Editor-in-Chief, CFN:	6,250	per issue
b) Assistant Editor, CFN:	1,500	per issue
c) Layout, CFN:	26	per page
d) Online Journal Manager, CFN:	450	per issue
e) Indexing, CFN:	600	per volume
f) Editor, T&L:	2,000	per issue

CARRIED, with one abstention (Annie Bélair)

4. Communications

Details of mail received were circulated by email.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ann reported that:

- 1) A new batch of donation receipts were issued at the beginning of June
- 2) There are limitations to the payments page on the OFNC website. For example, it is not easy for payees to make notes to accompany their payments.

Action: Ann and Gord will work on improving the payments page on the OFNC website.

6. Issues for Discussion

a) 2022-2023 Budget

Ken tabled the annual budget worksheet, as well as a document describing the rationale for the budget and the budget process.

Action: Committee chairs and others responsible for budget line items are asked to submit their proposals to the Finance Committee, by email to Ken, by August 1.

b) Anouk's departure

An evening potluck is planned for July 7. Board members are invited.

Anouk has prepared a list of tasks that she did, which are being distributed among the volunteers. They may decide to have a rotating chair for monthly meetings.

Janette will continue as the Safe Wings rep on the Board.

Christina Huppé will continue to do rehab.

The biggest outstanding issue is how to continue the annual bird display in a useful way.

The storage locker is very useful.

7. Committee Updates

a) Awards

No report

b) Birds

Rare Birds Data Project

The project to add OFNC 50K rare bird sightings to eBird was completed on time by the end of February this year. However there is a need to modify the incidental records (the time of day used). It will cost about \$150. It will be charged to the existing Birds budget.

Alan Wormington Memorial Camp for Young Birders and Naturalists

A person has been chosen to attend the camp. Ann has made the payment. We will ask the camper to write a report for T&L.

c) Conservation

Morris Island

The one-day bioblitz event will be held on July 9. Owen is organizing experts. OPG will provide refreshments. This will be the start of a one-year inventory process. There will be an iNaturalist project.

Impact of the Derecho

The May 21 storm caused extensive damage to the tree canopy. Much of the Greenbelt has been destroyed. Jakob reported that the pine grove on Hawthorne Road was extensively damaged. Owen reported that most of the prominent red spruce trees that he had been studying were down.

Kingston Bioblitz

Owen and others attended the bioblitz on June 12. West of Kingston, Owen found Elm Zigzag Sawfly.

Elm Leaf Miner

Targets slippery elm, which are heavily defoliated this year.

d) Education & Publicity

Gord reported that there have been no new meetings.

Gord gave a tour on 31 May at the FWG for the 1st Grenville Scouts. About 10 scouts attended with 2 leaders. Rain hampered the event but the scouts enjoyed themselves.

He had another tour on 1 June at the FWG to the 178th Nepean Brownies. About 12 girls and 4 leaders attended. The girls were pleased to fill their quest flyers with all the boxes checked. They liked the frogs in the backyard garden.

Hannah Delion and Gord set up the OFNC/FWG trifold (minus one fold due to small table) at the Garden Park Celebration at Dundonald Park on 11 June. About 40 people visited with a number enquiring about joining the club or volunteering at the FWG. The event lasted about three hours; they attended for two. The mayor was in attendance.

On 17 June Gord gave a presentation to about 30 seniors at the Chartwell Rockcliffe Retirement Home. The theme was how to feed birds but included information on suitable bird habitats and bird collisions.

Deb Doherty and Gord went to an event at the Larose Forest on 18 June but did not set up the trifold for lack of a table and the windy conditions. The event appeared to be more of a bike rally. Not many walk-in type attendees. Travel to the site was very complicated due to a road closure.

Joan Harrison and Sheena Parsons wish to become members of the committee. Both have educational experience and suitable backgrounds. Sheena has a graduate degree in ecology and Joan has worked on the Naturehood initiative and is an Adjunct Professor at uOttawa.

Moved by Gordon Robertson, seconded by Ann MacKenzie, that Joan Harrison and Sheena Parsons be appointed as members of the Education & Publicity Committee.

CARRIED

e) Events

Monthly meetings will continue to be virtual. There are some signs that the federal government is re-opening – relaxing restrictions on its own employees – but it is slow.

Some field trips are affected by closures.

There will be a Pelee Trip in 2023.

f) Finance

No report.

g) Fletcher Wildlife Garden

Ted circulated the following report by email:

- The plant sale is winding down. The pre-order, pre-pay, curbside pick-up went well again this year.
- A rain barrel has been installed at the front of the Resource Centre.
- Shelves have been added to the side of tool shed #2. The shelves will be used to store plastic pots used for the plant sale.
- A load of wood chips was dropped off by Campbell Tree Experts. The chips will be used on pathways around the property.
- Ag Canada was contacted about clarifying “no parking” signs that have been taken down. Parking on the side of the road leading up to the Resource Centre is prohibited (the “no parking” signs put up last year have been removed) because the road is a designated emergency vehicle

access.

Discussions are underway to create more parking spots particularly for FWG volunteers.

- The Ag Canada Covid Site team was contacted about the latest restrictions. The policy of wearing a mask and signing a “fully vaccinated” attestation form will continue. The number of people inside the Resource Centre at any one time should be such that social distancing can be practiced.
- We have had two groups come to the Fletcher to offer some volunteer help. A group from the Royal Ottawa Hospital and a jogging group that runs through the Fletcher throughout the year spent time on the property pulling dog Strangling Vine, and cleaning up the pathways around the pond.

h) Macoun Club

Three members have got jobs in parks – Baxter, Murphys Point and Algonquin.

There was a field trip on June 11, about 4 hours. 8 children.

Another trip found an engorged tick. Rob took it for his experiments.

There was an indoor meeting at the Fletcher. It worked because only a few people attended. There could be a maximum of 6 children. The Macoun Club hopes to be able to have indoor meetings starting in early September.

i) Membership

No report.

j) Ontario Nature

No report.

k) Publications

The next T&L will have a print run of 1,000.

The Publications Committee met on June 8.

l) Safe Wings Ottawa

Janette’s monthly report:

Communications

- Social media: baby bird social media blitz & OttawaU bird safe mural call for artists

- Website: Funds earmarked, someone is lined up, Anouk & Amanda are following up

Volunteer activities

- Patrols - winding down for summer, some continuation in Kanata, downtown
 - Social media posts for new volunteers > targeted locations needing coverage; Willow will create a list; Anouk to send a map to Amanda.
- Volunteer software. ECCC is interested in using data for level of effort but challenges getting volunteers to sign-up need to be evaluated
- uOttawa – now have 10 volunteers for the bird safe campus; social media call for artist for new mural between Site and Colonel By corridor; still exploring but money needs to be used by August 2022
- LRT reports submitted, response pending

Annual display & specimens

- No update – need suggestions or sub-committee to plan and organize for 2 years; if interested, email Sue. If in the fall, it should coincide with Global Collision Day.
- Have freezer, need central location to take one and maybe live birds as drop point - Anouk is speaking to a neighbor.
- Do we still consider taking in residential birds? Considerations -
 - If willing to drop off, ok but if we need to find a driver (species specific)?? Possibly send pictures instead. Still have birds from previous years. Willow is talking to someone who may be willing to take some of the birds.

Other Events

- Great Canadian Birdathon - are we signing up, what capacity?
- New taxidermy display (12 warblers)

Advocacy

- BGIS request for data on buildings - will be starting building risk assessments and plans/proposal for retrofitting GoC building and conducting risk assessments; data merge in progress
- La Salle (GoC building in Gatineau) is being demolished. GoC is responsive to Safe Wing's concerns about the replacement building.
- Nokia's building is also being demolished & rebuilt > Willow continues to push the guidelines, but Nokia is not responsive.
- Carleton by end of June, should be brought up to bird friendly shortly; need photos to confirm.

Rehab

- 236 birds admitted to date, >50% window collisions; 38% released, 44% transferred to WBCC
- 137 in May: 46% nestlings and 34% window collisions; released 45% of window collisions, 38% transferred to WBCC.
- Duckling: SWO took in 23 ducklings in May. 2 died (not Avian flu), 9 rehomed with ducks and currently 9 in quarantine to be transferred to Dunrobin foster
- Need volunteers to help with cleaning the ducklings

Strategic Planning

- Anouk and Deb have been working on a task spreadsheet; need all to review list and add any missing tasks
- Need a new Chairperson when Anouk leaves – could a rotating chair work?

New Business/Other Matters

- It was decided that the next meeting will be a get together at Deb's to help celebrate Anouk's last meeting. Details to follow.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Minutes prepared by Ken Young

Upcoming Meeting Dates

September 19, 2022

October 17, 2022

November 21, 2022

December 19, 2022

January 10, 2022 – ABM

January 16, 2022