

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club – Board of Directors Meeting
Monday October 17, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Chair: Jakob Mueller

Present: Eleanor Zurbrigg, Catherine Hessian, Gordon Robertson, Ann MacKenzie, Annie Bélair, Mark Patry (representing Birds Committee), Janette Niwa, Diane Lepage, Owen Clarkin, Kerri Keith, Ken Young, Elizabeth Moore, Ted Farnworth

Absent: Bob Cermak, Diane Kitching

1. Approval of the Agenda - the Agenda was approved as circulated with the addition of:
Item 3 a) Membership Form
Item 6 c) Email address – info@ofnc
2. Acceptance of Minutes from September 19, 2022
Moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Janette Niwa, that the Minutes of the September 19, 2022 meeting be approved. **CARRIED**
3. Business arising from the minutes
a) Membership Form – Diane L has discussed some amendments to the form with Kerri. They will send a draft to the BoD for review. Gord will add the form to the website when it is finalised.
Action: Kerri, Diane L, Gord
4. Communications – Ken: details of communications received had been circulated by email.
5. Treasurer's Report – Ann reported that she is getting year end documents ready for the bookkeeper and the accountants
6. Issues for Discussion

a) 2022-2023 Budget – Ken reported that a number of revisions had been made to the proposed budget circulated in September, either discussed at the meeting or subsequently. These had been circulated by email:
 1. an additional \$150 for the Rare Birds Data project. This is to revise entries that have previously been put onto eBird;
 2. an additional \$1,500 for Safe Wings to upgrade its phone system;
 3. an additional \$500 to send a Safe Wings volunteer to a rehabbers clinic;
 4. an additional \$1,500 to rent meeting space for monthly OFNC members' meetings.

Ann noted that these revisions have increased the projected deficit to \$53,611. The relative merits of increasing revenues and of reducing expenses to address this issue were discussed. Ken noted that reducing expenses significantly would require looking at the most costly areas of expense, namely CFN, T&L, SafeWings and research grants. Ann suggested also reviewing the \$5,000 School Board donation and \$8,000 provision for other donations. Catherine asked why

CFN and T&L expenses had increased substantially. Ken advised that increased payments to editorial staff were approved by the Board at the June 20, 2022 meeting, for reasons that were discussed at the May and June meetings. These are effective with CFN 136(1) and T&L 56(3), so are reflected in the budget for this fiscal year. It was noted that if CFN moved to on-line publication only, it would save 34% of the expenses of production. Members of the Board expressed mixed views about this suggestion. Any change could not be implemented this coming year and would need advance planning. It was agreed that the value of the print run should be reviewed. Ann suggested that there should be a full expenditure review by the Finance Committee before the next budget. Owen felt that the Club should go further and determine whether there are some more deserving areas than those that are currently supported. Ken advised that any review would need to occur early in the fiscal year if significant changes are to be made. Ann suggested that some of these issues could be raised at the ABM in January. **Action: Jakob** will follow up this discussion with the Finance Committee and other interested parties.

Moved by Ken Young, seconded by Gord Robertson, that the budget document distributed to the Board on October 17, 2022 be accepted, as amended, as the budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023. **CARRIED**

b) Status of Ottawa Greenbelt – Jakob had been contacted by CPAWs to participate in a meeting to start making a case for the Ottawa Greenbelt to be designated an urban national park. This would mean its boundaries would be enshrined in federal law (requiring an Act of Parliament). It would hopefully result in some funding resources. Currently the NCC only has 3 staff working on the greenbelt.

c) Email address – info@ofnc

Sandra Garland has advised that she is not clear about who is responsible for “info@ofnc”. Essentially it is equivalent to ofnc@ofnc. It could be deleted as an email address but Janette pointed out that people trying to contact organisations often expect them to have an “info@” address. It was agreed that info@ofnc should be forwarded to ofnc@ofnc. **Action: Jakob** will contact Sandy

7. Committee Updates

a) Awards – Eleanor reported that Annie has put a call for nominations in the October T&L and Kerri has emailed members. The deadline for nominations is November 30, 2022. Eleanor asked whether it would be appropriate to try to have an in-person Awards Night in 2023. The Board felt that this possibility should be explored. In the first instance, it should be determined whether St. Basil’s could accommodate us on February 25 or March 4, 2023.

Action: Elizabeth

b) Birds Bob had circulated the following report by email:

- “Lorraine Elworthy has replaced Chris Traynor as chair of the Bird Feeders Sub-committee. She and I visited the Ottawa feeders:
- the Dolman Ridge Rd feeder is relatively new and is in excellent condition but brush obscures viewing of the feeder. Lorraine is talking to NCC about trimming that brush. We have found a volunteer to replace the volunteer who previously stocked that feeder

- the Davidson Rd feeder and the trees supporting it have been blown down. The feeder and baffles are OK but the cable supporting them will need to be repaired or replaced. Lorraine will visit the site with Patrick LeBrun, land use officer with NCC to determine if the fallen trees can be removed or if we need a new, nearby, feeder site
- the two Fletcher feeders are in good shape
- the Jack Pine feeder and trees supporting it have been blown down. NCC has provided a new replacement feeder. Lorraine and Patrick will determine a new location along the Jack Pine trails for that feeder.
- NCC has provided approval in principle to continue OFNC feeders at Dolman Ridge, Jack Pine and Davidson Rd. They have requested we sign a Land Access Permit for the possible new location for the Davidson feeder and the probable new location for the Jack Pine feeder. Lorraine has asked Jakob to advise if Lorraine has authority to sign those agreements.

The Bank St Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU) is now owned by the same people (the Tolmie's) who own the Kanata WBU. Lorraine has talked to them, they will continue to provide sunflower seed. At a 10% discount! Lorraine, Ann and the Tolmie's have completed arrangements for payment of that seed.

Trying to recruit a few more members.”

Moved by Ken Young, seconded by Gord Robertson, that Lorraine Elworthy be authorized to represent the OFNC and sign Land Access Permits on behalf of the OFNC, concerning placement of bird feeders on National Capital Commission property. **CARRIED**

c) Conservation – Owen reported that Alfred Bog is in the news because the Province has issued an ERO Notice proposing the creation of Alfred Bog Provincial Park. Jakob and Owen will be meeting with Ontario Nature to discuss this proposal and Lynn Ovenden has organised a panel discussion on October 26 with representatives from the National Capital Commission, South Nations Conservation Area and others to discuss details. The Park would be a “Non-operating Park”. It is likely that creation of this Park will depend upon some hunting being permitted to continue, something that is not currently allowed under Ontario Provincial Parks Regulations. The ERO Notice is open for comments through November 6.

The Morris Island bio-inventory is continuing Sunday, October 23.

The Committee has led several events with other organisations including:

The Ontario Woodlot Association - about 50 people attended and were generally very interested in conservation themes.

Eco East - tours of Alfred Bog and Jessup's Falls near South Plantagenet.

They will be holding an event with Scouts Canada on how to grow plants from seed Partnership with Canadensis continues.

d) Education & Publicity – Gord submitted the following report by email:

“Held meeting 10 Oct by Zoom.

Stories for Fall have all been posted.

Lloyd, Sheena, and Gord gave nature tours to 25 cubs and 26 beavers at the FWG on 29 Sep and 5 Oct.

Migratory Bird Day was held at FWG. Several members attended including Lloyd and Deb. Lloyd and Fenja gave 20 Vietnamese children plus their parents tours of Mud Lake. A new "quest" was developed and printed for them. Date was Sunday 16 October from 1300 to 1500.

Joan Harrington will consult with Kitigan Zibi elders regarding indigenous names for trees and shrubs. Will suggest a \$350 honorarium.
Leo Vander Wouden has started working on historical poster for the FWG.”

Gord proposed the addition of Kaitlyn Sjonnesen as a member of the Committee. She has experience in Wildlife rehabilitation through WILDNorth in Edmonton Alberta. She also has a great deal of experience in providing educational programs about wildlife conservation and animal behaviour through her time as an interpreter with the Calgary Zoo. She has a BSc in biology and an MSc in plant agriculture.

Moved by Gord Roberston, seconded by Diane Lepage, that Kaitlyn Sjonnesen be added as a member of the Education and Publicity Committee. **CARRIED**

The Migratory Bird Day event held at FWG had not been very well attended. It probably needs better publicity. It had been advertised on the OFNC website and through the FWG.

Ted had sent a letter to AAFC regarding use of indigenous names on tree labels. Multiple languages may be needed.

The Instagram account is now up and running.

e) Events – Jakob noted that the proposal to reintroduce reports of recent sightings at monthly meetings had received overwhelming support so they will go ahead with this.

f) Finance – Ken: see Budget discussion under Item 6 a) above. Nil else to report

g) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted: nil to report

h) Macoun Club – no report

i) Membership – Kerri reported that Arthur Gladstone had been unable to go through with becoming involved with the Committee for health reasons but advised that Lisa Chamney had volunteered to share duties with her.

Moved by Kerri Keith, seconded by Diane Lepage, that Lisa Chamney be approved as a member of the Membership Committee. **CARRIED**

j) Ontario Nature – Jakob:

- i. Fall Regional Meeting November 12 – in person
- ii. reached out to us about Alfred Bog. Lynn independently took it upon herself to organise a meeting
- iii. Ann suggested looking for someone to take over this role.

k) Publications – Annie reported that T&L has arrived. She has lots of contributions for the next issue. CFN has a new associate editor, Brent Patterson, an adjunct professor at Trent U and an expert on mammals.

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

Transition:

- Still working on transition – Anouk did A LOT; working on rotating chair for committee meetings.
- November to have postmortem on migration season and status update of sub-groups.

Communications

- Communication on social media done for Global Bird Week.
- Need to submit Ottawa numbers to FLAP.

Volunteer Activities

- Patrolling: fall recruiting wrap up mid to late October; coverage in Kanata is ok to low; downtown is low.
- Phone system (Astroqom) is challenging, no tech support & time consuming > need to explore new system (perhaps Ring Central?) which will cost more money but be more reliable and easier to update for call transfers.
- Will train 2 more on phones early October – to help with existing holes in schedule/low volunteers.
- Volunteer software still not heavily used – is it needed? Was using Facebook just as valuable? Discussion continues including if system can text alerts to drivers.
- OttawaU has 15 student volunteers, all trained with 10 patrolling (which has increased bird #s) and 5 doing outreach.

Rehab and Rescue

- September: 157 birds - 146 (93%) were window collisions.
- Year to date: 634 birds - 362 (57%) window collisions.
- About 40% of our window collisions are released with another 32% transferred to the WBCC.

Collision Data / Annual Display

- Have a number of outstanding entries and still working on system for photo submission & tagging – working on solutions and manual support option.
- Discussed a winter at a more public venue, like Museum of Nature instead of City Hall to be most impactful given foot traffic.

Events

- Canotek rehab location tour to be later in winter once season quiets down.

- World Migratory Bird Day: volunteers, including uOttawa students manned booth, answered questions.
- Construction industry event Oct 5-6 - determined that for this year, we simply don't have capacity to be involved.

Advocacy

- Kanata/KRP - investigation to start soon.
- 200 Kent - lawyers are still in negotiations.
- Hopeful for a positive outcome but still TBD. Under the Species at Risk Act, there is the possibility of laying charges if found at fault. There were changes to the Migratory Bird Act so charges are unlikely there for use against window collisions. Its more pressure that can be used against other offenders who continue to have high collision rates and ignore our pleas to treat. May be a good position to use in Kanata if downtown is found at fault (charges or no charges) unclear if they can be forced to treat the windows or just fined.

New Business

- Without regular patrol by Anouk downtown, we are losing our connection with the security guards and staff at the various buildings.
- Going to resupply with patrol kits and possible laminate "if you find a bird" info card.
- Municipal politics seems to be another hole left with Anouk's departure that could use more attention (staying in contact with city councilors, etc.)

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Upcoming Meeting Dates

November 21, 2022
 December 12, 2022
 January 10, 2023 (Annual Business Meeting)
 January 16, 2023

Appendix

Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023
Ottawa Field-Naturalist's Club – Budget for Fiscal Year 2022–2023

Line item	Amount	Notes
Income		
4005 Membership fees	27,000	
Sales		
4030 Sales - Fletcher WG	8,000	Plant sale (FWG Fundraising)
4030 Sales - Other	200	Sales of OFNC merchandise; Awards auction; Advertisements in <i>Trail&Landscape</i> ; sales of <i>T&L</i>
Donations, bequests and grants		
4105 Donations - General + Seedathon	5,500	Donations not directed to any specific OFNC activity, plus donations for bird seed
4120 Bequests		
4105 Donations - FWG	3,000	Donations directed to the Fletcher WG
4109 Donations - Safe Wings	6,000	Donations directed to Safe Wings
Canadian Field-Naturalist:		
4202-4210 Subscriptions	22,000	
4220 Author's Charges	29,000	Publication fees charged to authors' institutions
4410 Pelee Trip	30,000	Estimated revenue for a trip in 2023
4440 Interest	38,500	
Total Income	169,200	
Expenses		
Activity Expenses		
5010-5060 Canadian Field-Naturalist	73,000	Editing, printing, mailing, website
5105 Trail & Landscape	30,000	Editing, printing, mailing
Fletcher Wildlife Garden:		
5202 Habitats	5,000	Outside work, equipment and tools, signs, mulch, tree cutting
5203 Fundraising	1,500	Plant sale related expenses
5230 Interpretive Centre	4,300	Includes cleaning, telecom, trail maps, publications, supplies
5305 Awards Committee	311	Award certificate paper, frames, engraving, printing
5306 Awards Night	1,200	Hall rental, food
5310 Birds Committee	4,650	Bird seed, Bird count compilation dinner, Rare bird data project (including revisions)

Line item	Amount	Notes
5311 Safe Wings Ottawa	11,000	Operating expenses, Rescue and rehab supplies, Education, Conferences, Mileage
5315 Macoun Club		
General Fund	400	Little Bear magazine, face shields
Macoun Funds	300	Hats for members
5320 Pelee Trip	30,100	Estimated expenses for a trip in 2023
5325 Education & Publicity	3,000	Bug Day, Science Fair prizes, Youth summit, postage, misc expenses; online communications
5330 Events	3,100	Speakers' honouraria; Out-of-town speakers' expenses; Incidental meeting expenses; Room rental for monthly meetings (\$1,500)
5340 Research Grants	20,000	
5670 Donations	8,000	Donations to other charities and "qualified donees"
Activity Expenses, Total	195,861	
Operating Expenses		
5335 Membership Committee	400	
5605 Affiliation fees	450	our membership in Ontario Nature & Volunteer Ottawa
5615 Bookkeeper	9,200	
5620 Club Administration	3,700	Includes postage stamps, photocopying for the ABM; PO Box rental; travel & entertainment; Zoom meeting package
5685 Insurance	2,000	Liability and directors' insurance
5645+5690 Paypal & Bank Charges	1,800	includes Plooto, Square
5710 Professional fees	9,000	Annual financial statement review; CRA charity return; legal fees for ONCA
5790 Website	400	Hosting fee, domain name registration
Operating Expenses, Total	26,950	
Total Expenses	222,811	
Net Revenues (Expenses)	-53,611	