

**Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club – Board of Directors Special Meeting**  
**Friday, July 26, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Online via Zoom**  
**Minutes**

Chair: Jakob Mueller

Present: Annie Bélair, Owen Clarkin, Derek Dunnett, Catherine Hessian, Katriina Ilves, Susan Lehmann, Janette Niwa, Gordon Robertson, Jessica Sims, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

1. Approval of the Agenda - the Agenda was approved as circulated
2. Issues for Discussion
  - a) Financial support for Hunt Club Community Association for independent environmental assessment – Raised in June (item 7c from June 17 BoD meeting), a motion for financial support was made, and the rules in the Policy on Unbudgeted Expenditure were suspended, but the original motion was still tabled. The Hunt Club Community Association is now trying to move ahead with the assessment ASAP. The initial estimate is for \$2255.00, with the possibility of some additional work at hourly rates, so likely well within the ceiling of support provided by the motion. The open motion from June was re-read for a vote:  
**Moved** by Owen Clarkin, seconded by Gord Robertson, that OFNC provide financial support up to \$5,000 to the Hunt Club Community Association to have an independent environmental assessment of Riverwood Park carried out. **CARRIED**
  - b) Gananoque Lake Nature Reserve property acquisition (Ontario Nature) – Raised in June (item 6b from June 17 BoD meeting), a motion for financial support was tabled, pursuant to the rules of the Policy on Unbudgeted Expenditure. Securing funds will allow Ontario Nature to conclude the property acquisition process. The open motion from June was re-read for a vote:  
**Moved** by Gord Robertson, seconded by Kerri Keith, that OFNC donate \$10,000 towards the purchase of land adjacent to the Gananoque Lake Nature Reserve. **CARRIED**
  - c) Changes in Membership Committee – Kerri Keith announced in an email circulated to the Board that due to personal reasons, she would need to resign as Chair of Membership and as a Director, effective August 1. Kerri recommends Membership Committee member Lisa Chamney as her direct replacement. The Board regrets that Kerri needs to leave, but thanks Kerri for her contributions and wishes her well.  
**Moved** by Janette Niwa, seconded by Gord Robertson, that the Board accept the resignation of Kerri Keith as Director and as Chair of the Membership Committee, effective August 1. **CARRIED**  
**Moved** by Janette Niwa, seconded by Annie Bélair, that the Board appoint Lisa Chamney as a Director of the OFNC and as Chair of the Membership Committee, effective August 1. **CARRIED**

- d) Additions to Events Committee – Diane Lepage has recruited three new volunteers who wish to assist the Events Committee.

**Moved** by Derek Dunnett, seconded by Eleanor Zurbrigg, that Susan O'Connor, Shawna Lucey, and Catherine Crosier be added as members of the Events Committee. **CARRIED**

### 3. New Business

- a) Janette reported that Safe Wings is planning to reduce some services offered, including driving injured birds, dealing with many non-window-collision bird incidents, and potentially the staffing of the phone service. This is being done to ensure services offered are sustainable both in terms of available volunteers, and in terms of volunteer burnout. The City of Ottawa has been directing the public to contact Safe Wings for non-core services (i.e., bird issues other than window collisions), creating an onerous volume of requests. However, the City has not been mutually responsive to requests, and has been unwilling and/or unable to offer support. Furthermore, contacts with individual members of the public that are hostile, rude, or otherwise trying or difficult seem to be increasing, and are wearying for volunteers. The Board discussed this briefly, and expressed no concerns about efforts to protect volunteer capacity.

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

Secretary: Jakob Mueller

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### Upcoming Meeting Dates

September 16, 2024

October 21, 2024

November 18, 2024

December 16, 2024