

Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club – Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, January 19, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
Minutes

Chair: Owen Clarkin

Present: Jessica Sims, Annie Belair, Elizabeth Moore, Janette Niwa, Lisa Chamney, Ken Young, Bev McBride, Susan Lehmann, Ann MacKenzie, Gord Robertson, Emilia Michaud (from 7.30 p.m.), Ted Farnworth, Bob Bergquist, Jakob Mueller, Katriina Ilves

Owen welcomed Bob Bergquist to the Board

1. Approval of the Agenda – the agenda was approved as circulated.
2. Acceptance of Minutes from December 15, 2025 Board of Directors meeting
Moved by Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Bev McBride, that the Minutes of the December 15, 2025 Board of Directors meeting be approved. **CARRIED**
3. Business arising from the minutes - None
4. Communications – Ken noted that the Club had received a Christmas Card from the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust thanking us for our recent donation.
Lisa advised that a new Member, previously a member of the Dutch Mammal Society, had inquired whether the Club was doing any work with small mammals. Jakob suggested that the email be forwarded to him for consideration. Bev suggested approaching the Museum of Nature. Katriina suggested the email be forwarded to her also.
5. Treasurer's Report – Ken had circulated the following report by email:
“Current Financial Processing
No issues
Annual Business Meeting
The financial motions presented to members at the ABM all passed, with the required majorities. They were:
Financial Statements: that the Financial Statements be accepted as a fair representation of the financial position of the Club as of September 30, 2025.
Review or Audit: that a review, rather than an audit, of the OFNC's accounts be conducted for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.
Nomination of the Accounting Firm: that the accounting firm of Welch LLP be contracted to conduct a review of the OFNC's accounts for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.”
6. Issues for Discussion
 - a) ABM 2026 review – Owen said that everyone involved had done well. Jakob noted that the financial aspects of the ABM require the most effort and felt that Ken and Ann had done a masterful job. Ken thanked Jess and Lisa for taking over host duties and also Sandy for dealing with posting some complicated documents on the website. Jakob's quiz

and Janette's presentation were excellent. The possibility of posting Janette's presentation on-line was discussed. **Jakob offered to handle this.** He proposed editing it and posting it on YouTube.

- b) Shirley's Bay Access status – Owen had circulated a draft letter to the City soliciting permission to be on the causeway subject to further discussion with DND regarding access. The letter indicates that we have been advised by the Province that the causeway is provincial land for which the City has a licence of occupation. It was noted that the causeway is accessible from the beach but Jakob pointed out that the causeway is within the safety trace of the range, so DND does need to know if there are people on the causeway. The lagoon is also accessible by canoe but it is even further into the safety trace. Emilia and Owen will sign the letter. Bev inquired whether it is even safe to walk out there after recent storm damage. As nobody has been there recently, the current conditions are unknown. Ann noted that any hazards need to be pointed out for liability insurance. Lisa could get those who may be allowed access to sign a waiver.

- c) Threatened Southern Corridor (Hunt Club area) – Jakob had circulated a letter that OFNC is being asked to sign onto from the Hunt Club Community Association to the NCC and others regarding the Southern Corridor. Owen and Jakob had attended an event, hosted by the very active Hunt Club Community Association, regarding the potential rezoning of the Southern Corridor under the new Ottawa Zoning By-law. The Southern Corridor is an undeveloped tract of NCC land between Sawmill Creek and the Rideau River. The area is of significant ecological value and incorporates McCarthy Woods, an area of mature upland forest including old growth. After public consultation had concluded, the NCC asked that the City rezone most of the areas of the Southern Corridor for potential development. It is likely that this reflects the Federal Government requirement that departments cut costs and that the NCC is therefore trying to divest itself of land. The local councillor and the Planning Committee are supportive of protecting the area. Jakob emphasised the importance of OFNC and other like-minded organisations continuing to advocate for natural areas, pointing out that Gatineau Park, Mer Bleue and Alfred Bog would not have been protected without such activity.
Moved by Jakob Mueller, seconded by Gord Robertson, that OFNC sign onto the Hunt Club Community Association letter to the NCC and others regarding protection of the Ottawa Southern Corridor. **CARRIED.**

7. Committee Updates

- a) Awards – Bev had circulated the following report by email:
“The committee is in the midst of drafting and reviewing citations. They should be ready for the board's review by the next board meeting. Review can be done by email and might not need to use meeting time unless a difficult issue arises. We are hoping to confirm shortly that all recipients have agreed to accept their awards.” Owen noted that he had not yet managed to contact all the awardees.

Bev advised that two members, Christine Hanrahan and Bethany Armstrong, will be stepping off the committee, so the committee will be looking for new members, ideally good writers who are willing to prepare citations.

b) Birds – Emilia had circulated the following report by email:

- “We held a birding walk with members of the Club des ornithologues de l’Outaouais (COO) around the Rideau River between the Adawe and Hurdman bridges. The purpose was to connect with our Gatineau colleagues and establish some relationships to allow us to work on projects together. The walk was a success and we plan to collaborate on a project on Chimney Swifts as well as a survey of the Lac Deschenes IBA. I don't have details, just an intent to cooperate.
- We are in the process of scheduling the Bird Song ID sessions, which will happen via Zoom on Monday evenings (there are 5 sessions). I am not sure if I can just schedule them on Zoom and then let Ken Allison and Janet run these or if we need to have a "host" - something to ask at tonight's meeting.
- We are going to seek help from membership to help us update our section of the OFNC website. I will need to know how we can ask members if anyone has the skill to help us.”

Emilia reported that the committee is losing some members so will need new members. They also need to do some succession planning for the chair.

c) Conservation – Jakob: (see 6c above) - nil else to report

d) Education & Publicity – Gord reported that the committee will be meeting on Thursday. They have put up the winter storyboards.

e) Events – Owen reported that planning for the Pelee trip in May is moving forwards. Joan Heydig had been approached by a group called Back to Earth Science about a proposed educational collaboration. **Action: Owen will ask for more information.**

f) Finance – Ann noted that Bob Bergquist is settling in to the role of investment manager and Bernie Muncaster is assuming responsibility for PayPal.

g) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted reported the following:

- the RC now has active WiFi.
- In the course of clearing some space for Canadensis around the red barn, AAFC contractors have cut down two FWG hawthorns. Ted has contacted AAFC with a view to getting the boundary clarified. It is hoped that the hawthorns will regrow.
- The Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library has been using the RC recently.
- Plant Sale seeds are now being planted and will be grown on in the RC.

h) Macoun Club – Susan reported that they are planning their spring schedule and are looking forward to being able to use the WiFi.

i) Membership – Lisa: nil to report

j) Ontario Nature – Jakob: nil to report

k) Publications

Eleanor had provided the following details about EBSCO CFN subscriptions:

"For CFN subscriptions, not much changed from last month. The slow trickle of EBSCO renewals for V139 continues to be received. We're now at 77% (85) renewed, 23% (25) not yet renewed, of a possible 110 EBSCO current subscriptions. For comparison, last month we were at 70% (78) renewed."

Dwayne had provided the following CFN report:

" 138(4) October-December 2024

- mailing date: 18 Dec 2025
- Editors' Synopsis blog written & sent 23 December; posted early January 2026
- Dwayne noticed the problem with top & bottom margins (showed to Publication Committee meeting at their in-person meeting in Ottawa in early December) not sufficiently resolved and will be sending a final print copy and the digital print galley back to Gilmore (as they requested) to ensure this problem does not occur again

139(1) January–March 2026

- 3 galleys produced, two ready for author (AU) order / transfer of copyright form (salamander in NB; scent marking in badgers, lynx, and Raccoon)
- AU order/copyright forms updated: new copyright option, deleted extra charge for colour printing
- third galley on marmot pellets in pika hay piles being revised and then will be sent for AU review
- 17 journal pages so far
- 8 Book Reviews and New Titles edits by Amanda and Dwayne sent to Jess
- article on Common Yellowthroat in NF has been copyedited and is being reviewed by the AU
- Note on Big Brown Bat in NB being copyedited
- Note on desiccated turtles in non-native habitat patches nearly ready for formal copyedit
- Amanda is adding her copyedits to Dwayne's on a tribute for John Gilhen, contemporary of Francis Cook, expert on herps and fishes of NS, and prolific author in CFN
- Minutes of last year's ABM and the Committee Annual Reports, Club Awards for 2024 approved/discussed at last week' ABM expected to be published in 139(1) **so Dwayne needs the Word versions of these**
- News and Comment will include an explanation of what happened to publication year 2025
- in memoriam note on Frank Pope could be added to News and Comment – **could Owen send Dwayne his notes from the ABM on Frank?**
- close to if not at the minimum 80 pages needed for an issue to be published

Other manuscripts in the process

- thematic collection by Amanda and Dwayne of ms in CFN and T&L that were referenced in COSEWIC status reports posted on SARA registry up to January 2025 is in progress; another example of close ties between COSEWIC and CFN
- 9 AU revisions have been received (including 3 received last Thursday, 15 January, and 2 others being handled by Associate Editor [AE])

- 5 AU revised ms sent by Dwayne for further AE opinion
- **NO BACKLOG of manuscripts (ms) awaiting Editor-in-Chief (EiC) decision** to reject, revise, resubmit, accept following completion of peer-review and recommendation by AE
- 21 being revised by AU (since EiC decision January 2024, some of which will probably not be revised)
- 23 ms that had EiC decisions for MAJOR REVISION (2017–2023) moved to archives today because of lack of AU response/no further activity on the ms

- total 38 submissions/queries received in 2025 so submission increased since last year

- 1 submission (mushrooms in BC) received so far in 2026 and AE has been assigned.”

Jess drew the attention of the Board to the posting of the Editor’s synopsis of CFN 138(4) October-December 2024 blog on the website.

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

- “Website/Communications
 - Will upload new self-directed orientation/training programs to Better Impact
 - Need 2026 collision report created
 - Drafting Coopers Hawk and annual display social media
- Rehab update
 - Low volumes and non-windows mostly; have had a hawk and owl in care
 - 1 permit renewed; 2 more reports to submit for others
 - Want to offer a spring open house, include some for media
- Advocacy update
 - Met with ECCC Investigation in Dec. – they prefer to use the MBCA over the Species at Risk Act due to its simpler process
 - SW to review last data submission and identify new buildings with 50+ collisions to submit
 - Schedule spring follow-up meeting with senior lead
- Volunteer Activities
 - Still looking for phone volunteers
 - No trainings expected until spring – will have self-directed modules
 - Have new support to coordinate downtown patrollers
 - Creating a notebook to help new and some other patrollers record information
- Annual Display
 - March 19, 2026 at the Museum of Nature (Thurs of March break)
 - Ideas: plexiglass for kids to mark-up which includes artistic version; acopian bird save on display apartment; invite London/Toronto and BF Gatineau; focus theme on impact of homes & show data; take-home colouring materials/stencils
 - Send ‘save the date’ to volunteers
- Bird specimens:
 - Checking with college Algonquin, Sandy Pines and Holly’s Haven for specimen permits
 - 2024 – still a few to disperse/dispose
 - 2025 – collecting & soon going to Carleton U specimen storage”

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

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Upcoming Meeting Dates

February 16, 2026

March 16, 2026

April 20, 2026

May 18, 2026

June 15, 2026 – in person