

**THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**May 15, 2017**

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, CEF, Ottawa, 7:00 p.m.

**Chair:** Diane Lepage

**Directors Present:** Annie Bélair, Jeff Saarela, Owen Clarkin, Gordon Robertson, Diane Kitching, Henry Steger, Remy Poulin, Ted Farnworth, Lynn Ovenden, Jakob Mueller, Fenja Brodo

**Birds Committee Liaison:** Marc Patry

**Directors Absent:** Ann MacKenzie, Eleanor Zurbrigg

**1. Minutes of the April 2017 Meeting**

**Moved by** Lynn Ovenden/Gord Robertson that the April 2017 minutes be accepted.

**CARRIED**

**2. Business arising from minutes**

(a) Some members did not receive the draft procedures for use of the Interpretive Centre, so Ted will resend them, for approval at the next Board meeting on June 19.

(b) Monarch Butterfly Habitat: Gord noted that Holly Bickerton has signed a contract for her project.

(c) Dynacare/Filebank:

Ann received the mystery 'box', actually, a collection of envelopes containing bits and pieces that all seem related to the production of the 1993 Birder's Checklist as an update of the 1985 list. She will bring the materials to the June board meeting and invited the Bird Committee to have a closer look. She noted a few items that should be archived, e.g. the owl art work, a pencil spreadsheet.

**3. Communications**

Ann sent word that OFNC is a beneficiary of the estate of Betty Marguerite Marwood whose will directs us to use our bequest in conservation programs. The amount is uncertain. OFNC is unlikely to receive proceeds until 2018.

**4. Issues for Discussion / Decision**

(a) Diane will write to the Ontario government to express OFNC's appreciation for ending the snapping turtle hunt.

**5. Committee Updates**

**a) Education and Publicity**

The committee hosted an open house at FWG on April 15. We had 30-40 visitors and showed them around the property. CBC radio's interview of Giacomo Panico and Lynn Ovenden was good publicity.

## **Website Project**

Lynn has opened an account with WebinOttawa, to host the new website. An invoice for WebinOttawa's "standard plan" costing \$79.80/yr has been sent to [treasurer@ofnc.ca](mailto:treasurer@ofnc.ca). The next step is for Osamu (ZenIdeas) to create the temporary developmental site that team members need to complete the process of transferring and updating content to the various parts of the website. This task is extra to his original contract and will cost \$400-500.

**Moved** by Gord Robertson/ Jeff Saarela that the board waive the usual 1 month notice for expenditures. **CARRIED**

**Moved** by Lynn Ovenden/ Gord Robertson that OFNC pay up to \$500 for Osamu for creation of the temporary developmental site. **CARRIED**

## **b) Events**

Several events this spring have been cancelled or postponed, due to room problems or weather. Henry has sent mass email notices but has exceeded the capacity of his email system. In future he will only mass-email the monthly event listing, with a message to members to check the website for possible changes before attending any event.

Jakob also requested more lens wipes and loupes for the sales table.

The events committee met last week to plan the summer program.

## **c) Fletcher Wildlife Garden**

Ted, Diane Lepage and Sandy hosted a visit to FWG by Dianne Saxe, Ontario Commissioner of Environment. Friends of the Earth organized the visit. On May 27, the committee is organizing a big planting bee of new plants around the amphibian pond. Friends of the Earth offered to build 3 raised pollinator beds in the Old Field; Sandy is working with them on this.

## **d) Macoun Field Club**

Diane Kitching reported that MFC had two indoor meetings since Easter, with a talk by Nick Lapointe (CWF) on chinook salmon, and an art workshop. They also had 2 trips to the study area, one to hear frogs at night, and one to see diseased beech trees.

## **e) Membership**

Henry reported 144 new memberships this year, a third of these just in the past month. He asked directors to send him a note about any recent events that might explain new memberships. After sending 2 renewal notices, he used to remove non-renewing names from the membership list in June; now he will do this when they have received 4 T&L issues since their prior registration date.

## **f) Publications**

Some recent stories in mainstream media (CBC: beluga, Canadian Geographic: beaver) that are based on CFN papers indicate the journal's impact reaches more broadly than the scientific community. The committee needs immediate, short-term storage space for about 30 boxes of post 1985 CFN issues, while it plans what to do with them. Diane will ask AAFC if OFNC can store them short-term in the red barn. The committee wants to create a "Fletcher Award" for the best CFN paper of the year. The Board expressed interest in learning more. Jeff will send members a description.

Annie expects the July issue of T&L will have the new design and colour printing, in the familiar 7"x9" format. She hopes to put and first and second new issues online.

**g) Conservation**

The committee will meet in two weeks. They are preparing 3 documents on: backyard ponds, creating a nature-friendly lawn, and native plants in horticulture. For the Bioblitz at Gatineau Park on June 10, 26 people, many from OFNC and Museum of Nature, have offered to lead walks. There will also be a Bioblitz on Parliament Hill this week for politicians and media, to launch CWF's national bioblitz program for 2017.

**5. New Business**

- a) In conversation with Diane LePage, Cheryl Clark offered to help publicize OFNC among students, recent immigrants and various cultural groups. Diane invited her to prepare a communication plan.
- b) June 19 meeting: Diane suggested we send reports in advance, keep discussion short and bring refreshments.
- c) Invitation to tour the NWRC on June 14.

**6. Motion to adjourn** by Annie Bélair/ Fenja Brodo. **CARRIED**

Recording Secretary: Lynn Ovenden

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- Meetings in 2017
  - June 19
  - September 18
  - October 16
  - November 20
  - December 11

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Diane LePage  
President  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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Date

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Lynn Ovenden  
Recording Secretary  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date