

Minutes Mar. 1, 2017 OMAH 3rd Floor, 7:30 to 9:15

1. The President welcomed all to the meeting at 7:30 pm, and asked for visitors to identify themselves. At least 6 people did so, one being a new members as of tonight.
2. Sightings – there were many, amongst them a chipmunk at a feeder, Tundra Swans, deer, barred owls, Bohemian waxwings, snow buntings, evening grosbeaks, redwing blackbirds, turkey vulture, snow drops and yellow (?aconite). Not a sighting, but one member remarked that the French military are training eagles to attack drones.
3. The Minutes of the Feb. 1 2017 meeting were accepted as amended (moved Denis Paccagnella, seconded Adam Thomson (carried).
4. Members are reminded to keep an eye on the website for Find of the Month, as well as program updates.
5. Correspondence – none. (However, Murray Binsted recommended a book – The Hidden Life of Trees, by Peter Peter Wohlleben. Also, Vicky Sherwood invited all to the camera club meeting 7:30 Mar. 8 ,in an upstairs conference room at Rotary Place for a presentation on wild orchids.)
6. Committees Reports:
Treasurer's Report – Donald reported that as of Mar. 2, 2017, the bank account balance is \$2,086.21. Denis mentioned that the plan this year is to again support a youth to attend the ON youth conference, as well as place an ad in the Couchiching Conservancy Passport to Nature document (Arni is preparing), and partner potentially with the Orillia Youth Centre to sponsor them in some nature related activity, to be proposed by them, brokered by Kevin Binsted.

Ontario Nature – Sue Deadman provided her usual summary (see attached for current concerns, updates).

Programme – Arni reviewed upcoming events – specifically

- a) Tricia Stinnissen will present her talk on Bruce Peninsula National Park on Mar. 22 at OMAH, 7:30, 3rd floor;
- b) Emily Rondel will present golden winged warbler research on April 5 at OMAH, 3rd Floor
- c) Facebook 101 workshop has several signed up, Arni would like them to confirm their intention to attend, and others to sign up now if they wish – for the Couchiching

Conservancy's office at Grants Woods, 10 am, Mar. 10.

d) The Georgian Bay Islands expedition is nearly full, for the two dates, June 6 and 10. Expect a fee, up to \$20, and come prepared for weather and bugs, and hiking/wildlife viewing.

Archives – Kevin Binsted had nothing new to report – as always, members with interesting photos are invited to send to Kevin.

Conservation – Pat had nothing to report – but suggested she would write a letter on behalf of the club supporting the ON issues of the turtle hunt, and moose hunt.

Publicity – Nancy reported that she anticipates changing the website, and invites any members with ideas/skills to join her in this effort.

Membership – we have a couple of renewed memberships, as well as one new member today.

7. New Business – none

8. The meeting adjourned at 19:55 for refreshments prior to the speaker's presentation for the night.

9. Guest Speaker – Ethan Meleg, a well known photographer and park naturalist currently assigned to the Georgian Bay Islands National Park.

He was introduced by Arni Stinnissen, and thanked by Howard Black.

Carol Strickland, Secretary, Orillia Naturalists' Club.