

ORILLIA NATURALISTS' CLUB MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018, 7:30 – 9:15 pm

OMAH

1. The Vice President, Arni Stinnissen chaired the meeting in the absence of the President. The meeting began with welcoming visitors, of which there were 6.
2. Sightings: The Brereton club had a Raptor tour of Minesing Wetlands, and found 2 juvenile bald eagles, 11 snowy owls, snow buntings; Sue reported 20-25 Bohemian Waxwings that visited her feeder area for 4 days, and 2 porcupines up in some trees. She found a dead grouse, and brought it in for our close inspection. Other reports included rough legged hawks at Strachan Tract, pileated woodpecker, northern shrike, raccoon, and at East Coulson Conservation property, tracks of coyote, fisher, grouse, deer, and fox.
3. A motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting of Jan. 3, 2018 was proposed by Betty Stanger, seconded by David Stanger, and approved by all.
4. Website – all are encouraged to peruse the new website which is up and working smoothly.
5. Correspondence – Kevin Binsted reported that he has received a letter of thanks from the Kevin Gangloff of the Orillia Youth Centre for our support of that organization's day at the Wye Marsh, when 23 youth and staff enjoyed a full day.
6. Committee Reports:
 - Archives – Kevin is still interested in receiving pictures, but he is looking into how to interface with the new website.
 - Treasurer – Donald Macdonald is unable to attend the meeting, but he reports that after outstanding cheques, the current balance in the bank is \$2118.24.
 - Ontario Nature Report – Sue mentioned the request for support of the expansion of the Greenbelt by 1.5 million acres, which would then take in the Nottawasaga and Lake Simcoe watersheds. Sue also mentioned Pat Woodford's letter to the Prime Minister etc. requesting compliance with the promise for 17% of wildlands protection. She mentioned that the ON AGM will be in the first week of June in Prince Edward County, while the regional meeting, hosted by Midland/Penetang Naturalists is April 21.
 - Program – Arni mentioned the next meeting, March 7, when Mike Borell, an expert on Citizen Science, will talk about the role of digital apps (eBird, iNaturalist, and eButterfly) in global nature observations. Mike will stay over to provide a workshop on the same topics in more depth on March 8, at Couchiching Conservancy offices at Grants Woods (time to be decided). Contact Arni to be included. Also, don't forget Barb Ryckman's snowshoe to the Alexander Hope-Smith property on Feb. 18 (contact her)
 - Social – Warren and Barb are away – and Diane Stinnissen is providing the refreshments for tonight's meeting.
7. Announcement – Mark Bisset mentioned that on March 3, the Couchiching Conservancy will have their AGM from 3 – 5 pm, and Phil Careless, biologist for QE2 Wildlands PP will talk about the Black River Wildlands project (expect a press release soon).
8. Announcement – The brochure for the upcoming spring Huron Fringe Birding Festival is on the table at the side/back for members' perusal.

9. The business meeting concluded at 7:55 pm, following which there was a social of 15 minutes.
10. Ryan Post provided a presentation on Hydrogeology of the Minesing Wetlands. He was introduced by Kyra Howes and thanked by Mark Bisset.
11. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.
Submitted by Carol Strickland, Secretary, Orillia Naturalists' Club.