

**Sault Naturalists Executive Meeting
December 3, 2009 - 7:00 pm
Central United Methodist Church, Sault Ste. Marie Michigan**

Attendance: Jeanne Mannesto, John Lehman, Chuck Bosley, Dave Euler, Harvey Robbins, Tony Walker, Carl Linhart, Don Hall, Valerie Walker

1. Approval of the minutes from the November 5, 2009 meeting

Move to accept minutes: Tony, 2nd Don. **Motion carried.**

2. Business arising from the minutes from the November 5, 2009 meeting:

- Tony has received from Robert 2 large (8.5"X11") and 4 small (4"X8") Dibond signs as ordered for the various Viewing Platforms
- Tony has circulated the Bird Check List he is updating for input regarding the ratings (common, rare). He expects the list to be completed for Spring 2010
- Val stated that no ad for the Photo Contest will appear in the 'Coffee Perks', as this venue for advertising involved a cost which was not anticipated

3. New Business:

1. 2010 Programs & Winter Outings Schedule has been sent to the Membership
2. Treasurer's Report was received as an email in Gail's absence and reviewed:

CIBC Operating Account (\$CND)	\$3826.99 Total
General Funds	\$1284.85
Platform Project	\$2542.14

Huntington Bank (\$US)	\$484.58
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GIC's (\$CND)	\$3834.02	Nov 26/10
	\$2221.83	June 15/10

3. Waiver Form - Dave

A waiver form has been redesigned using the North American Mycological Society's form as a model. The waiver form is to be signed by both members as well as non members participating in any sponsored Sault Naturalists event. Move to adopt the waiver form as presented: John, 2nd Val. **Motion carried.**

The waiver will be included on the bottom half of the Sault Naturalists Membership Form and members are expected to sign the waiver as a condition of membership. In addition, non members participating in outings will be expected to sign a sign-in form after reading the waiver prior to the outing.

ACTION: John will email an Outing Sign-Up Form (which includes the waiver) to outing leaders explaining the need for the waiver and the expectation that the leaders ensure that all non-members sign-up as a condition of attending an outing. Leaders will be directed to make copies of the form for their use. Leaders will send Sign-Up Forms to Dave after the outing.

4. Membership Strategy

Harvey suggested that a similar strategy to last year be considered this year to encourage members to renew early. Offering an incentive like a draw for a prize seemed to work and was well received by the membership. Moved to accept the practice of last year for this year: Tony, 2nd Harvey. **Motion carried.**

Dave mentioned that a new book on tree identification by Sibley (~\$30) would make a good draw prize.

ACTION: Dave to purchase the Sibley Tree Identification book and email the details of the book to Harvey.

ACTION: Harvey will promote the draw and the book as the door prize.

5. Viewing Platform Signage

The new Dibond signs will be affixed to the viewing platform:

One small (4"X8") sign each on the railing of:

Lake St. platform in Echo Bay, Pumpkin Point & Laird Park platforms

One large (8.5"X11) sign each on: Pumpkin Point & Laird Park platforms

ACTION: Tony to secure signs to each platform as above

6. Outing Leadership Training – Don

Don notified Katie Pearson & Dawn Elmore of the VTA of the Club's support to bring a leader to the Sault to offer the Outing Leadership Training course. The Club has committed \$50 toward the costs.

7. Hub Trail Update – Don

Don presented a map showing a rerouting of a section of the trail in the Fort Creek Conservation Area. The new trail will bypass a steep section of the existing trail to provide a more moderate grade. The Conservation Authority

is seeking input from user groups including the Club and hopes to have the new trail approved at its next meeting.

8. Photo Contest, December General Meeting – John

John gave an update on the Photo Contest, to be judged at the next General Meeting (Dec 8). To date a total of 480 photographs have been submitted. Judges have selected the 5 top entries in the Flora category; 6 top in the Fauna (one tie) and 7 top in the Scenery (3 way tie). The membership will vote for the top photo for each category.

A total of 3 prizes will be awarded which will be a tile embossed with the winning photo from each category. Each tile will have an engraved plaque. The tiles are each \$87, the plaques are \$40 total. In addition, there was \$50 worth of prints made for the display. Total cost approximately \$400.

It was decided that at the next General Meeting (Dec 8) the membership will be asked for a motion to approve the expenditure of money associated with the cost of the Photo Contest.

Don will serve as electoral officer, Harvey and Tony will assist in the counting of the ballots. John will provide the ballots for the photo contest voting.

Donna & Helen have offered to look after the refreshments.

John has provided an agenda for the Photo Contest. Gail will provide Sault Naturalists brochures to put on display.

9. Constitution Revision – Carl

Carl summarized the history of the various revisions of Sault Naturalists Constitution & Bylaws since 1972. Carl sent an email to Dave detailing the updates and the rationale for the updates to the 1993 version. All constitutional and bylaw changes in this revised version have been previously voted on by the membership. Other changes included corrections in punctuation, spelling and grammar. Dave provided a copy Carl's email for referral. This revised electronic copy can be posted on the Club's wiki pending approval.

ACTION: The Executive members at the Executive Meeting in January will provide a list of the recommended changes to the Constitution & Bylaws to be presented at the next Annual General Meeting in February 2010 for a membership vote to accept. The recommendations will be mailed to the membership prior in the Annual General Meeting.

10. Publicity - Dave

Dave will appoint Leslie Askwith as the Publicity Chair to replace Ev Simon.

ACTION: Tony will look into the Sault Star's 3 –Day Planner as a venue for outings and program advertisement

11. Fund Raiser – Carl

Carl is offering 2 Glen Loates prints and a canoe carving to the Club to be used to raise funds. It was decided these items could be used in a 'silent auction' at the Annual General Meeting in February.

12. Ring of Fire – Dave

The Ring of Fire refers to the massive area of mining activity in Ontario's Far North. Ontario Nature wants support from local naturalists clubs to address the lack of environmental assessment and land use planning for these proposed mining operations in the James Bay Lowlands. They have drafted a letter called the Ring of Fire outlining their environmental & social concerns.

ACTION: Dave will email the Ontario Nature Ring of Fire letter and ask for member approval for him to sign as President and send to the Sault Star

13. Christmas Bird Count

This is now a SooNats sponsored event.

ACTION: Val to ask if Soo College students are willing to participate

Meeting adjourned @ 9:15 pm, Next meeting Jan 7, 2010

Valerie Walker, acting secretary