

Sault Naturalists Executive Meeting  
Oct 8, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was held at the Sault Ste. Marie Ontario Civic Centre.

Attendance: Dave Euler, Gail Andrew, Robert D. Cohen, Don Hall, Helen Hutchinson, John Lehman, Jeanne Mannesto, Harvey Robbins, and Val Walker.

Business arising from the minutes:

- Viewing Platforms: Robert D. Cohen reported that we would have to look for a sign designer/maker, as Aja and Graham are unable to do it.
- Programs: Dave Euler reported that Evelyn Simon appears not to want to be involved in publicity. John Lehman stated that Leslie Askwith is doing a good job. It was mentioned that we are not getting our notices in the Sault Star. Val Walker stated that the Voyageur Trail Club is getting their publicity printed. Dave stated that we need to talk about publicity.  
Gail Andrew found out from John that Jason Garvon has a copy of the DVD on Bees and may refer to it in his January 12 presentation.  
John thought that offering Carl Linhart's two framed prints at a silent auction would be fine.  
Harvey Robbins said that the remote control for presenters with laptops was available for about \$30.00.  
ACTION: He will purchase the item (already approved).  
John reported that the new membership form now includes the waiver. He asked about members who have renewed with the old form. Do they have to sign a waiver in order to participate in outings? It was agreed that they should be allowed to participate but would have to sign upon their next renewal.
- Viewing Platforms: Dave stated that the Township has provided a free load of gravel for our Laird Twp Park platform. Hopefully, before winter, Tony Walker will be able to make the wood pier to reach the platform from the land.

Harvey moved that the minutes be approved. Seconder: John.

New Business:

- Programs: John mentioned that Karen Brzys has given us her gas and toll costs. The approved USD 100.00 will cover her expenses.  
Programs are now arranged up to Sept. 2010, when Paul Rossi will give us a talk on bird photography.

- Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Gail Andrew

General Funds		1215.07
Platform funds		<u>2542.14</u>
CIBC Operating Acct (CAD)		3757.21
Huntington Bank (USD)		664.56
GIC (CAD)	#1 (due Nov.20/09)	3744.16
	#2 (due June 15/10)	2221.83

Gail stated that our expense picture is about the same: Cdn. Insurance, \$642.00; PO Box, \$135.00; Ontario Nature, \$150.00; Rotary Club, \$100.00; Wiki, USD 99.50; Church donation, USD 100.00; Biology research program, USD 100.00; and new US liability insurance, USD 504.00. As we will be able to cover expenses when club fees are received, it was decided not to increase our membership fees.

- Outings: Val mentioned the Oct.17 King Mountain hike.  
ACTION: Val will email members and Dave will talk about the outing at Tuesday's general meeting.  
Dave thought that we might have an outing on the Hub Trail. He suggested that we design a pamphlet, which could describe the different flora and fauna that are there each month of the year.
- Viewing Platform Signs: Gail thought that they could be made out of metal sized so that they can be located on handrails. It was decided that text would be: This viewing platform was constructed by the Sault Naturalists with funding from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.  
ACTION: Robert will go to sign makers to get prices and a design.
- Birding Guide: Don has a digital copy of our Birding Guide.  
ACTION: Don will send John a copy for posting.
- Outings: Dave asked Val if she had a report from Ron Prickett about the bat cave outing. She stated that the outing was considered to be good. There was a discussion about the sale of the area consisting of 160 acres. The price is \$160,000.00 which is considered to be too high. Val mentioned that the Kensington Conservancy is interested.  
Katie Pearson and Dawn Elmore of the Voyageur Trail club are interested in putting on a one-day training course for outing leaders, which would be free. We would be guaranteed two spots. To take place in April or May, it will fine tune leaders' outing skills. As they wish to submit an application to the Economic Development Corp they would like to have a letter from us signifying our interest.  
ACTION: Don will write a letter.

- DNR Biodiversity Initiative: We are to submit our choices for stewardship areas. These are to involve high quality natural flora and fauna communities on federal forests or state lands.  
ACTION: Jeanne and John to work on the criteria for us to use.
- Photo Contest: John reported that Kirk Zufelt will give a presentation on the technical and artistic aspects of nature photography. Publicity is required for this event. Jeanne stated that she would design a poster. Val suggested that the Picolo website might have photos which would be appropriate. She thought if the poster was digitized it could be circulated by email to the members.  
ACTION: Jeanne will work on the poster with John and Leslie.  
John reported that Gregory Steele will be one of our judges. He reminded us that Nov. 27 is the deadline for photo submission. Judging will take place the following week. Helen wanted to know what the prizes are. They are to be printed plaques for each winner. Gail asked what the cost would be. Three plaques will cost \$180.00. Jeanne mentioned that Judy Falkins has won photo prizes and would like to be a judge.
- Constitution: There was a discussion about our requirements for a general meeting, quorum, time of meeting, and dues. Some changes have been made to the constitution in this regard as well as the bylaws. Vivian Hall has typed it up incorporating the changes. Dave stated that we now need to discuss it and approve or modify it.  
ACTION: A copy of this version will be circulated to members of the Executive for discussion next meeting.
- Hwy 17 Extension: Don reported that the interchange at Hwy 17 and Hwy 638 is unsafe. There are eight interchanges. We have always been concerned about our Provincially Significant Wetlands and the impact that these cloverleafs have on them.  
ACTION: Don and Dave will compose a letter expressing our concerns.
- Wishart Park Clean-up: Helen and Gail have checked and found out that the park is much cleaner now. This is due to the presence of garbage containers.  
ACTION: Helen will call the City to let them know that we still wish to be involved.

Next Executive meeting November 5, 2009

Adjournment: 8:40 p.m.

**robertD**

Robert D. Cohen  
Interim Secretary

Executive Minutes Oct. 8 , 2009