

Sault Naturalists Executive Meeting
Oct 01, 2015
7:00 pm



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

Attendance: Ron Prickett, Gail Jones, Chuck Miller, Bill Meades, Jeff Robinson, Robert D. Cohen, Tony Walker, Don Hall, Val Walker

Guest: Dr. Jenni Pearce (Swift Grant)

Regrets: Donna Ryckman-Rooney, Carl Linhart

1. Call to order at 7:05 pm. Introduction of Guest Jennie Pearce Co-ordinator of Swift Project.
2. Additions to the agenda: Donation from Gladys Wallwork, Family Life Membership issues, Platform (Centennial Park)
3. Motion: Accept the minutes as printed – Gail to add \$\$ amount to Sept Treasurer's Report
4. Business arising from the minutes from last meeting:

a) Swift Project Update (Jenni Pearce)

An agreement was signed for a Species at Risk Research Fund proposal in August with the MNRF and NORDIK Institute administering the funds. Cameras will be installed in the Courthouse and Post Office chimneys to monitor Chimney Swifts beginning next spring 2016.

Jenni has met with AT&S Bell (the contractor) and Winmar (the sub-contractor) on how to install the cameras to meet workplace health & safety requirements and other concerns of both facilities.

The Post Office camera installation will be done from roof level with a retractable mast and motorized cables that will place one camera just inside the chimney and one 5m into the chimney. Both cameras are infrared, will film continuously in HD and have temperature sensors attached. Videos will be webcast. There is a possibility of a 3rd camera that may be mounted on the roof and directed up at the chimney.

Discussions are on ongoing with the Courthouse as approval requirement for the cameras is more involved. The Courthouse is a heritage building and any installations cannot be visible from the ground. A camera will be mounted in the chimney using a ladder from roof level.

Although the Courthouse was not used for 2 consecutive springs by the swifts, it was thought that a camera should be installed as the funds are available for installation and the birds could return.

Installation costs are much less than budgeted for and it is expected the Post Office chimney camera will be in place by the end of November. Both facilities have offered space where computer equipment will be housed on site

Work is progressing at this time as Jenni feels that with the delays with the approval processes etc, the cameras may not be in place in the spring if work starts later.

An application has been made to Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) for intern funding for 1 year. The intern will maintain cameras, collect and archive data in addition to developing an outreach component involving talking to local schools.

3rd year project funding is dependent on project progress.

b) Projects Fund/Revision of Membership Forms

Don reviewed his comments sent to the Executive via email regarding soliciting members for bequests. Don suggests reminders should be in occasional newsletters or annual reports, not on the membership form. Also there may be issues with bequests being honored if a club name has changed (lawyers don't try too hard to track down the club). There are other bookkeeping issues in keeping track of bequests for special projects. Don is looking for response from other clubs on how they solicit for bequests, but no feedback to date.

'Legacy Giving' and donation to Project Fund were discussed. These donations would be to fund special projects beyond the Clubs operating expenses.

Motion: On membership form have a line:

Special Projects Donation..... \$ _____

Mention 'Legacy Giving' in the newsletter and at meetings. Something like 'consider leaving a gift to the Sault Naturalists in your will to help the Club with the costs of pursuing its environmental goals...'

Moved by Gail, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.

c) Application for Funding SAR Project – Pygmy Snaketail, Riverine Clubtail
Derek Goertz (MNR) has approached the Club to submit a Species at Risk project for funding. The project will involve designing a sampling strategy (which MNR will do) and searching for the exuviae (larval casings) for 2 dragonfly species (which Club members will do) on the Goulais River.

Motion: To apply for to the SAR Stewardship Fund for a Pygmy Snaketail, Riverine Clubtail survey on the Goulais River.

Moved by Robert D., seconded by Tony. Motion carried.

d) Bird Observation Platforms

The structure at Centennial Park at the end of Pumpkin Point is inaccessible due to high water levels. Tony is concerned that the 12' walkway may float away. The Echo Bay platform on Lake Street is no longer level. According to Tony, there is a definite kilter but he does not believe there is a public safety concern. Vegetation is also growing up around the platform.

ACTION: Don to ascertain if the ramp is attached to the Centennial Park platform and assess the probability of it floating away and report.

ACTION: Don to inspect the Echo Bay (Lake St) platform and report.

5. Committee and other reports

- a) Treasurer (Gail) – Oct 01 Financial Statement
 - CDN Account (CIBC).....\$ 2631.63
 - US Account (Huntington Bank).....\$ 222.21
 - GIC #1.....\$ 3894.62
 - GIC #2.....\$ 3810.83

Gladys Wallwork has graciously donated \$500 to the Club.

Motion: \$250 from Gladys' donation goes to the SSM Library to augment Natural History Field Guide section (Odonates and ROM Butterfly Guide). The remaining \$250 to the Platform Maintenance account.
Moved by Gail, seconded by Tony. Motion carried.

ACTION: Gladys to be informed of how her donation was allocated.

- b) Outings (Val)
 - The Night Sky Program with John Shibley on Sunday, Sept 27 (for the lunar eclipse) has to be reschedule yet again due to overcast skies.
 - Chuck's outing to the Searchmont South Forest Conservation Reserve is this Saturday Oct 03; Thanksgiving weekend is a joint outing with Michigan's Hiawatha Shore to Shore club on Saturday, Oct 10 to celebrate the opening of a new section of the North Country Trail network.
- c) Programs (Chuck)
 - Christine Drake from Pukaskwa National Park will be the keynote speaker at the AGM in February 2016. Option 3: Cheese stuffed Chicken wrapped in prosciutto was agreed as the evening's dinner menu.
 - Next Program is Oct 13 – Connecting Children & Nature; a growing movement with Andrea Welz
- d) Membership (Don & Viv)
 - Don reported that membership is slowly increasing with time. Two students joined recently.
- e) Environmental Action Committee (Bill) - Nothing to report
- f) Michigan Audubon (Carl) – No report
- g) Ontario Nature Regional Meeting – Thunder Bay Sept 18-20, 2015
 - Viv and Don, Ron and Val attended the meeting as Club representatives
 - See Ron's report attached as Schedule A (below)
- h) STAC (Tony)
 - Safety on the Hub Trail is a focus of the committee. Both speeding cyclist and electric bicycles are a concern.

6. Old Business

a) Publicity director

The Club still requires a person for this position

ACTION: Val to contact Cindy Crawford to determine if she is interested.

b) Creek Revitalization (Ron)

No meeting with the City to date.

c) Family Life Membership Bylaw changes

Motion: To change the Club bylaw to include Family Life Membership.
Moved by Gail, seconded by Robert D. Motion carried.

Motion: To table the previous motion.
Moved by Chuck, seconded by Don. Motion carried.

7. Updates and reminders - None

8. New Business

a) Early Detection Rapid Response Network (Ontario) Workshop

Ron, Ev Simon and Val from the Club attended this workshop hosted by the Invasive Species Centre (Taylor Wright) and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council Invasive. There were approximately 45 people in attendance from City Parks Department, Conservation Authority, Corridors for Life, MNRF, Boniferno, Sault Horticultural Society and others. Nine invasive plant species in Algoma were featured (of the Dirty Dozen). Presentations were also given on forest pests, Asian Long horned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer. An overview was given of the new Early Detection Rapid Response Network where invasive species can be reported online. There was a field trip to view invasive plants and invasive insect damage.

b) Garlic Mustard Pull, Spring 2016

A proposed garlic mustard pull is planned with the Club partnering with the City and /or Conservation Authority. Rhonda Bateman from SSMCA will take this proposal to her Board for approval.

c) Newsletter - Fall

Val to prepare fall newsletter and requires articles from members.

d) Nature Observations

Jeff reported 12 elk (2 bulls, 10 cows/juveniles) in Kynoch (near Iron Bridge) on Wed, Sept 30

Motion: To adjourn. Moved by Jeff, seconded by Robert D.
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm

SCHEDULE A

Ontario Nature Regional Meeting Report Sept 18-20 2015

by Ron Prickett

Sept. 18

Tour of the Greenwich Wind Farm- touted as a success story in that the project involved the local native population and location on crown land. However there remains rumours of a wind farm project close to Thunder Bay that has been challenged and not such a success story as yet. The manager and technical supervisor ensured us that they were working on remediation efforts to control bird and bat mortality. I asked if they had a written summary of these remediation efforts but they did not. No further information was given. I asked for details of these projects to be sent to me. As of yet I have not received any new information as to the exact nature of the remediation projects nor their results.

-Ouimet Canyon- a short walk afforded a magnificent view of the Ouimet canyon. Several hundred metres deep and as wide. Rock debris covered the bottom of the canyon. Suggested source of the canyon was a catastrophic erosion from a large glacial lake bursting its ice dam and flowing south through the canyon.

Dinner at the home of the President and his wife David and Penny Lagge.

After dinner talk on the changing population of Cervids-deer, caribou and moose on the Sibley peninsula (Sleeping Giant Provincial Park) with the deer population taking over. Suspect change agent related to global warming (caribou built for colder climes), loss of habitat for the moose and brain worm.

The second topic was the new land acquisition by the Thunder Bay Club and how it was financed. The Thunder Bay club is a charitable non-profit cooperation and gives out tax receipts to all donors. They are very fortunate to have many donors who make frequent gifts to the club enabling them to match these funds with various corporations to purchase all the properties they have.

Sept 19

Boat ride (\$20 per person) to the tip of the Sibley peninsula to visit the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory partial funded by the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists. Short visit to view the bird identification of migrating birds caught in mist nets. No pictures were taken of the mist nets as requested by the ornithologist on site because of his fear that animal rights activist may use the pictures to oppose the bird banding project. (Treacherous landing since there was no dock; we simply climbed over the side of the boat into the water and got our feet wet scrambling ashore on the rocks.)

A walk along the main road at our disembarking point at Silver Inlet so named by one of the richest silver mines in North America. Unfortunately the vein went straight down under Lake Superior. When the coal ran out one winter the pumps quit and the mine filled with water. It never returned to its glory days. The rocks were typical of what we see here. Sedimentary rocks interlaced with igneous rocks from volcanic activity. The topography of the region has the typical table top appearance where igneous rock less vulnerable to erosion sits on top of sedimentary rocks much easier eroded.

The Business meeting was a short meeting with each participating club reporting on their activities and filing a club activity report to Ontario Nature. The Thunder Bay club reported on their new property. The Elliot Lake Club reported a decline in membership and participation. The Manitoulin club reported on an active club involved in birding and bioblitzs on the island. There were no representatives from the North Bay or Sudbury club. I reported on all our club's activities.

We then went to one of the trails in the park, walked in and identified many different mushrooms along the trail.

We then proceeded to the Thunder Bay Lookout in the Park. Driving down a gravel road and over polished rocks we came to a magnificent lookout constructed beyond the edge of the hundred metre cliff face affording a magnificent view of the lake, surrounding area and Thunder Bay in the distance.

We then proceeded to dinner at Karen's Kountry Kitchen where the menu was somewhat reduced because of the number of visitors they claimed had visited them that day..

The dinner was followed by a dissertation on Arctic Dysjunct plants found in the area. Many are familiar to us, as well, along our rocky coastline of Lake Superior.

Sept 20

Breakfast and social farewells.