

Sault Naturalists Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday November 1, 2016, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Sault College, Essar Hall

Attendees: Ron, Jerry, Angela, Chuck, Don, Val, Tony, Robert

Regrets: Mark, Jen, Bill, Carl, Robert, Carrie

Guests: none

1) The meeting was called to order at 7 pm

1. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

none

2. REVISION/APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES

October minutes approved: Moved by Robert, Seconded by Tony

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) LNG Terminal Letter: Robert Cohen

Robert to draft a letter to government objecting to terminal. To be forwarded to Committee for approval and to be sent on. Robert is waiting for information on pollution numbers.

This may end up being a non issue if the market for natural gas changes

Desmog.ca article about the terminal was shared with the Committee

b) Youth Summit

Carrie and Ron in contact with Science Dept at Superior Heights to identify a student for this and to identify contacts in other local high schools

4. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

a) Treasurer's Report

(Filed after the meeting)

Can Acct: \$2159.49

US Acct: \$442.21

GIC #1 \$3956.93(Jan 13/7)

GIC #2 \$4110.37(Jun 19/17)

b) Outings

Outing to Garden River next Saturday

Val will forward request for outings January +

Contacted Regional Outdoor Center LSSU to have outings and programs posted at LSSU.

c) Programs

Next Tuesday, about Michipicoten Island

Following meeting is December 13 at Bayliss

January Meeting on 24th; Emily Weber will talk about wolves on Isle Royale

Feb AGA meeting on Feb 14 doesn't work for College. Week after is Family Day. Feb 28 suggested

Some concerns were apparently voiced about the quality of the food at Sault College last year. The facility is excellent. and the price is acceptable.

It was decided to hold the meeting in Canada because of the exchange rate.

Consensus: Hold the AGM at Sault College.

MOVED: to hold the AGM on Feb 28. Moved by Tony, seconded by Jerry and Robert, carried

We need to contact the speaker to be sure he/she is able to come to Canada for the meeting..

d) Membership Report, Attachment A

One new family membership in Canada, otherwise no change

About 30 people who are still due to pay for 2016. Next meeting we will discuss the budgetary/cash flow implications of membership payments that are paid late in the year.

e) Environmental Action Committee Review

Two issues for the committee:

1) Letter from Dave Euler re: Algoma Forest Management Plan. Dave suggests the SooNats should have input into the planning process. There will be a number of meetings and open houses about this plan. Should the Committee be involved? Jerry and VAL: if we are aware of species at risk from harvesting, we can provide information to the plan. What issues do the SooNats want to take on? (Full scale nutrient removal when whole trees are logged)

ACTION ITEM: ask Mark and Bill to meet with Dave Euler about our involvement in this process: **RON**

2) Robert commented that the SooNats Environmental Action Committee should take become involved in the issue of Western Honeybee colony collapse. See New Business (below)

f) Michigan Audubon, no report

g) Ontario Nature (Attachment B)

h) S.S.M. Trails Committee (Tony)

Budgets and plans are not finalized. Many projects are on hold because of fiscal constraints

(Cost of an EA for road improvement is approximately \$50,000)

Sudbury-Soo Connect is on schedule. Bicycle route using mainly back roads

Maps and trail descriptions have been sent to the city.

City is planning an inventory of trails and routes which is online at strava.com/routes/new

MTO having a workshop on a cycling network study on Nov 8 12:30-3:30. Tony and Chuck will attend

There are a number of paths along creeks in the area. Tomorrow's outing will go along some of those and document the existing paths. What possibilities are there to include these on the trail maps? There is another outing in December that will follow city foot paths

Bike trail possibility: connecting the Hub Trail at Wellington Square to the paved shoulder that goes to Echo Bay

- i) Publicity
Cindy has resigned. No report
We need a new Publicity Manager. RON will ask for volunteers at the AGM
- J) Local Citizens Committee Forestry Management No report

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Creek Revitalization Plan-on hold

6. UPDATES AND REMINDERS

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Northern Nature Trading
Viv and Don will volunteer. It's a great way to contact young people, educate young people about nature.
Alan Lukala is coordinating this and manning the center Fridays and Saturdays More volunteers are probably needed
Trading Center is opening Tuesday Nov 8. Science North will be there; it is a satellite venture of Science North.
This has been very successful in Sudbury and is expected to be successful in the Sault.
Do we want to have a formal relationship with the Bushplane Museum?
Suggestion: mention this at the AGM as an opportunity for members to volunteer.
Val expressed concern that this is encouraging people to kill insects and plants and collect things from nature. Robert observed that people who collect insects have a positive effect on our knowledge base.
There are additional projects we could become involved with, such as Fire Ecology. Chuck comments that there is information we could share.
Robert echoes the concern about the message of collecting living objects from nature. How does Science North handle this message?

MOTION Soonats will offer to partner with the Bush Plain Museum to participate in educational programs associated with the Northern Trading Center. Moved by Tony, seconded by Jerry, carried with one abstention

ACTION: Ron will introduce Don and Viv to speak to the membership at the AGM asking for volunteers.

- b) Apply for funding to protect Ramsar Designated wetlands on the St Marys River
ACTION: Ron will forward to EAC.
- c) Environmental Commission ideas. This is a serious commitment of time. Submission is due on November 11
Western Honeybee colony collapse.
Neonicotinoid use / ban
General insect decline
SWIFT decline

ACTION: Ron will prepare and submit as much as possible in the time available

- d) UPEC: St Marys River Environment Celebration in May 2017; SooNats will participate
 - e) Fisheries Management Committee
 - We have been invited to submit a member for Zone 9 (Lake Superior Thunder Bay to SSM)
 - Val is a member of Zone 10 (Wawa to Manitoulin Island inland lakes)
 - Two meetings a year

ACTION: RON will ask for volunteers at meeting next week
 - f) Environmental Assessment Review decided not to participate
 - g) Swift Project progress meeting this morning, Ron, Chuck and Val
 - about 2700 Swifts were counted this year
 - Cameras will be re-installed next year in Post Office and Courthouse.
 - Outreach programs have been started to elementary schools
 - Will be looking for Swift nesting areas in Blind River. SooNats will not participate due to the distance
 - h) Long Term Energy Plan; Open House November 15 6-8 pm at Water Tower Inn
- ACTION: RON will mention at meeting next week, and send to John Lehman for posting on Wiki

8. NATURE OBSERVATIONS

Bald Eagle and Snow buntings
Still some juncos and goldfinches
Harrier on St. Joe

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Moved by Jerry, Seconded by Don

ATTACHMENT A: MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Total No. Memberships (not including organizations)	2016	2015
Life (paid)	18	
Individual	49	11
Family	40	15
Student	1	5
Complimentary senior members	6	
Complimentary for guest speakers	5	
Total Membership	119	31
Total memberships	150	
Total # CA	130	
Total # USA	20	
Total Membership	150	
Organizations, Audubon, Ontario Nature etc.	6	

Date: November 2nd 2016

- Memberships for 2015, are memberships that are not due yet or have been send a membership renewal reminder
 - reminder letters were emailed out to 23 members
 - Clubs - 3 Canada and 3 the States
 - 6 complimentary memberships for older members, not well at the present time and who have been members for 10 years or more
 - 5 complimentary are for guest speakers
 - 1 new family memberships joined this month in Canada, welcome letter was sent with information concerning club outings, plus upcoming programs and e-membership card
 - e-membership cards were sent out those members who renewed membership
- By: Don and Vivian Hall*

ATTACHMENT B: ONTARIO NATURE REPORT

Submitted by Carrie Ginou

On October 20th, I represented the Sault Naturalists during the Ontario Nature Regional Meeting Conference Call for the Northern Clubs. I updated the Northern Clubs on the Sault Nats activities and got information about what all of the other region Clubs have been doing. Projects of other Clubs include managing land trusts, raising funds for a Heritage Plaque, engaging the public in education programs, owl surveys, trail construction and interpretation, and boardwalk maintenance. All Clubs have some form of talks or outings, however, the Sault Nats still seem to be the most active in that regard.

-The Ontario Nature/Ontario Government court case regarding the new Endangered Species Act is over with the ruling being in favour of the Government (exemptions for major industrial activities upheld).

-The newest Ontario Nature Reserve purchase has almost been completely funded. It is the Sydenham Nature Reserve (London area) and includes water access.

-The Spring Ontario Nature Regional Meeting (usually held in May) has been tentatively scheduled for Manitoulin Island.

-Ontario Nature has an Ontario Spider Identification Guide on their online ON Nature magazine.