

MINUTES - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date – Thursday September 6, 2012

Time – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location – Thompson Room, Civic Centre, Sault Ontario



- 1) Call to order 7:00 p.m. with Tony Walker, Dave Euler, Carl Linhart, Valerie Walker, Carrie Ginou, Gail Andrew, Robert Cohen, Don Hall in attendance.
 - Gail offered to take minutes
 - *Regrets* – Harvey Robbins, Ron Prickett, Donna Ryckman-Rooney
- 2) Additions to the agenda?
 - Tony's request for gas money for Ontario Nature conference will be covered with his ON report
- 3) Approval of last meeting's minutes
 - Moved by Tony Walker, seconded by Dave Euler. Passed
- 4) Business arising from the minutes
 - a) Don to summarize program discussions by compiling a proposed program committee structure
 - done, but already somewhat dated
 - b) Ron to investigate changes to Fisheries Act and their environmental consequences
 - deferred to October meeting
- 5) Committee and other reports
 - a) Treasurer – Gail Andrew
 - Canadian Account CIBC \$1794.30
 - US Account (Huntington) \$592.71
 - GIC #1 (Nov 12 2012) \$4149.67
 - GIC#2 (June 17 2013) \$2755.60
 - b) Outings – Val Walker
 - Outing List should be available next week
 - Pukaskwa trip was cancelled due to low interest and last minute cancellations
- c) Programs – Carrie Ginou
 - Programs are organized until April 2013
 - Carrie must step down as program coordinator, efforts to replace her (and restructure the committee) are ongoing
- d) Michigan Audubon – Carl Linhart
 - MAS has many interesting outings and activities, (some were mentioned) but most are at great distance, in southern Michigan.
- e) Ontario Nature
 - Tony will attend the ON Northern conference on Manitoulin Island.
 - Motion to approve gas expenses of slightly over \$100. Moved by Gail Andrew seconded by Robert Cohen. Passed
 - **ACTION** – Don will seek approval of general membership for this expense (over \$100)
 - Robert asks that Tony find out what he can from ON concerning white nose syndrome in bats
- 6) Old business
 - a) Review Hub Trail Challenge
 - Tony says “very successful, may become an annual event”
 - Robert – good feedback from participants, club info distributed.
 - Most prizes were donated by members.
 - Many brochures handed out.
 - Donna distributed water, apparently at her own expense. Much appreciated by participants. Next year could consider bulk water, fill water bottles.
 - Agreed that we should likely continue this in future years.

- Possible theme for next year “Nature in the City
- b) Possible Kirtland’s Warbler (KW) surveys in spring 2013
- Lengthy discussion of merits of participating in KW surveys. Surveying in Michigan might be redundant, as others are already searching.
- Dave feels that the KW recovery team and CWS are very poorly organized, and we should not be involved until they have a better handle on things.
- If contacted for help, Don will indicate that we need clear direction, good lead times and good support.
- c) Program Committee/personnel restructuring.
- Carrie must step down as program coordinator.
- Dave is willing to take over as program chair or coordinator, provided the work is spread over several people. Don is willing to serve on the committee
- Earlier suggestions of the executives all contributing to programming efforts were not well received. Some executives are already overworked and it would be good if we could draw in others to help out. Active workers are few.
- **ACTION** - Don will contact 3 or more members who are not active workers and attempt to get them involved.
- Robert mentioned that program topics might at times be too academic
- Don suggested that workload could be eased somewhat if a biography and photo of speakers were optional, solicited only when it seems appropriate.
- d) Fall Newsletter – submissions needed!
- Bill Purnis and Flo MacLeod are editing the fall newsletter. Deadline for submissions will be very soon.
- Dave and Don have already submitted several articles.

- Donna has said she will submit an article on The Hub Trail Challenge.
- Don will contact Harvey to see if he will write a piece on new bass regulations.
- Carl will consider writing a short article about Franklin’s Lady’s Slippers at Pukaskwa
- Robert will write an article concerning the odonata conference.
- Tony will write an article concerning Whitefish Point.

7) 7) Updates and reminders

- a) Send *Nature on the Net* links to Dave
- b) Nordik Institute/Hub Trail Proposal
- Information Item – Tony and Don met with Jude Ortiz over the summer. Jude has a plan to “animate” the Hub Trail with QR codes every 500m. They would link to websites, and the club would be asked to contribute the nature-related content. This would be a good public service and has great promotional potential. It would also involve a lot of work, a big commitment.
- Apparently the funding deadline was missed so nothing is happening right now, but we may hear more of this in the future.

8) New business

- a) Pancake Bay Promotional Events
- In July Don, Vivian and grandson Christopher delivered 2 interpretive events at Pancake Bay Provincial Park, one concerning bird songs and one tree ID. Club name was on posters throughout the park, brochures were available, etc.
- Events were well received, and the club would be welcomed back again next summer.
- A “Nature Day” was suggested, one day when club members share their expertise in a number of different events, perhaps based at a group campsite. The idea was well received

by the executive, Val would be willing to help with stream life. If this were listed as an outing it might attract local interest.

b) Gros Cap Bluffs

- Jeff Elgie is the new owner of the Gros Cap Bluffs. He has reportedly contacted the Algoma Highlands Conservancy to discuss a partnership.
- Jeff will be meeting with Dave and Don. His intentions are not clear, but it is felt that this is a positive development.

9) Nature observations, anything else to cover?

- Robert and Joy, Val, Carl and Evelyn attended the Great Lakes Odonata society meeting, July 6-8. Very interesting and informative.

10) Adjourned – 8:55 p.m.