

**Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

Vice-President Janet Pattinson welcomed everyone, including President Ed McDonald who was trying out a seat in the audience this time.

Minutes:

The January 2017 minutes required amendments:

1. Isabel Anderson relayed a request from Janet Aitken to note there were additional members who volunteered to staff the SOS Songbird table at Piccadilly Mall in December.
2. The Western Grebe and Yellow-billed loon noted in White Lake/Balmoral bird count highlights should have been attributed to the Salmon Arm count.

Mike Saul moved to accept the minutes as amended. 2nd Marg Filiatrault

Treasurer's Report:

Ted Hillary presented the following Financial Statement for February 7, 2017

Bank balance December 31, 2016		\$4717.62
Receipts		
Dues	325.00	
Donation	25.00	
Interest	.19	\$ 350.19
Disbursements		
BCN Annual Dues	1049.75	\$1049.75
Bank Balance February 7, 2017		\$4018.06
Patronage		\$.62

Ted moved acceptance of the report. 2nd Pam Saul

Announcements:

1. The Club is looking for a Program Director to oversee programs for the coming year. It would be helpful to have someone with technology experience re: the library A/V equipment. Programs are in place for March, April and May, and suggestions are under consideration for October and November. If you are interested in this position (looks like an easy entry into the role this year!), please talk to Janet Pattinson.

Reports:

1. Environmental Advisory Committee:

a. Janet Pattinson reports SASS students have joined the committee. Their teachers, Dave Ramsey and Barry Wilson are seeking funding to support their pilot project, BC Tomorrow.

MOTION: Blaine Carson moved that the Club donate \$500 to support the BC Tomorrow project. 2nd Ed McDonald.

b. Salmon Arm city council will be using an exemption to the Pesticide Bylaw to allow treatment of weeds this spring.

- c. An Alternative Energy Workshop will be held.
- d. Jeremy Ayotte's report on dogs on the foreshore was presented. The nature trail will be monitored for another year. So far, it appears there is 97% compliance with the 'dogs on leash' order.
- e. Discussion took place re: natural disaster mitigation funding, e.g. for flooding during new highway construction west of the city. No conclusions.

2. **SOS Songbird Committee** will meet on Thursday, February 9 to discuss their next initiative, to deal with the problem of cat predation of birds.

3. **BC Nature:**

Our Club will need to amend its constitution to match changes upcoming by BC Nature.

MOTION: Janet moved to appoint Mike Saul as our representative for voting at the AGM in Lillooet in May. 2nd Ed McDonald

Following the environmental summits in Rio, 1992 and Japan, 2010, 20 targets were identified for 2020. Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments will meet in February re: Target 1, Pathway to Canada.

4. **Good News:**

In Hanne MacKay's absence, Gillian Richardson noted the recent release by Parks Canada of 16 wild plains bison to Banff National Park, restoring them to their traditional range after a 140 year absence. They will remain in an enclosed area for 16 months before being allowed to roam the park freely.

Blaine Carson noted the skillful and creative work of the Spidex machine as it placed sand for turtle nesting near the new hummocks.

Isabel noted that Victoria is moving forward with its long overdue plan to treat sewage before it enters the ocean.

5. **Outings:** Dawn McDonald welcomes suggestions for this year's outings. The committee hopes to have a list ready by March.

6. **Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS)** wants photos to build a social presence on its Facebook page for these rivers as part of Canada 150 project. See heritagerivers@pc.gc.ca for more information.

7. **Sightings:**

Dawn McDonald spotted a moose cow and calf near Little Mountain

Sarah Weaver saw a mink on the foreshore

Blaine Carson reported many moose signs in Larch Hills

Sharon Lawless called Pat Hutchins to report a pygmy owl dining on collared dove in her driveway

MOTION to adjourn at 7:45 pm: Mike Saul.

After the break, Sarah Weaver, representing Gardom Lake Stewardship Society, shared data and updates on lake management activities over the past year. The Society is promoting 'Be a Gentle Visitor', will be holding workshops, and always welcomes volunteers to help with their monitoring efforts. Find out more at their new website www.gardomlakestewards.org