

**Shuswap Naturalist Club Meeting**  
**Peter Jannink Park**  
**Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 4 PM**

Today's meeting brought 22 members to Peter Jannink Park picnic shelter on a warm, summery day. **Janet Pattinson** chaired the meeting which began at 4 pm.

Janet began the meeting with an acknowledgement that we are gathering and living on the traditional lands of the Secwepemc people, lands that were not ceded or surrendered.

She suggested a good read: *Unsettling Canada* by Neskonlith author, Arthur Manuel, available at the library. And she reminded us that June is Indigenous History Month.

**Minutes:** Di Wittner moved acceptance of the May 4 Minutes as circulated. Glenda Hanna, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.

**Treasurer:**

Ted Hillary submitted the Financial Statement for June 1, 2022

Bank Balance May 1, 2022		\$3202.80
Receipts		
Dues	300.00	
BC Nature	2500.00	
Interest	.24	
		\$2800.04
Disbursements		
None		
Bank Balance June 1, 2022		\$6004.04
Patronage		.89

Ted moved acceptance of this report. Mike Saul, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Di Wittner noted that an anonymous donation of \$8000.00 was made at the BC Nature AGM for the Larch Hills Interpretive Trail Sign Renewal Project

**Reports**

1) Di Wittner attended the **BC AGM** held May 26-28 in Kelowna. Attendance was low.

a) There are a number of Clubs dealing with a lack of President, as we are. Solutions suggested included inviting more young people to participate in Club events, limiting the term of office of President to 2 years plus one year as Past President.

b) Di has previously attempted to have Salmon Arm Bay designated as an IBA (Important Bird Area) but it did not meet qualifications. Now there is an additional designation—KBA (Key Biological Area), and Di will again submit Salmon Arm Bay as a candidate.

c) Western Grebe data we have collected over many years can now be posted on eBird. Di will work on adding our data.

d) The Larch Hills Interpretive Trail Sign Renewal Project was singled out for special mention and a showing of photos at the AGM. Note the \$8000.00 anonymous donation mentioned above. We are especially appreciative of Pat Danforth and the Committee for initiating this project.

**2) Little Mountain Fire Mitigation Project** - Colin Spence briefly reviewed information gathered at the May 20 meeting with the City of Salmon Arm and Silvatech. The Urban Woodland Parks Committee have now drafted a response to the City based on their observations and pointing out serious deficiencies, with recommendations for addressing them going forward. This draft letter was submitted to members via email prior to the meeting to solicit review/comments. Discussion about the letter focused mainly on information regarding the value of deciduous vs coniferous trees/shrubs for reducing the level of wildfire risk. Di Wittner suggested the letter could be sent to Peter Ballin, Chair of BC Nature's Conservation Committee, who has offered to review and help with the wording of such letters. Thanks was extended to the Committee for their hard work to deal with this issue in a timely way.

**MOTION:** Joyce Henderson moved that we accept the name, Urban Woodland Parks Committee for this group. Sandra Seale, 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**3) Blackburn Park 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trees** - Joyce Henderson noted that some of the trees planted in 2020 have died and need to be replaced, and that a work party is needed to deal with weeds impacting the remaining trees. She asked for volunteers to help weed. **Date: Friday, June 10 at 10 AM.** Contact Joyce at [joiceh@shaw.ca](mailto:joiceh@shaw.ca)

**MOTION:** Joyce Henderson moved that \$400 be made available for trees and mulch. Ted, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Di Wittner offered to supply free mulch.

4) Molly Cooperman has asked for \$60 for a table for use by BC Nature Kids at various events.

**MOTION:** Janet Aitken moved to provide \$60 for the table. Ed McDonald, 2<sup>nd</sup>

**5) SABNES** - Janet Aitken reported that 2 students have been hired for the summer, but the requested Canada Summer Job grant to pay them was not approved this year. One grant has been provided by the City of Salmon Arm Grants-in -Aid program. (*Just received word that the second student is not going to take the job so we do need another student.*) Another Student and Volunteers are needed to keep the Brighthouse Centre open during non-student available hours. Let Janet know if you can help. [www.jane-taitken1@gmail.com](mailto:www.jane-taitken1@gmail.com)

6) Julia Beatty, Chair of the **Shuswap Climate Action Committee**, invited us to learn more about the group's activities and initiatives. See Julia's report in our June eNewsletter, or visit their website at [www.shuswapclimateaction.org](http://www.shuswapclimateaction.org). An upcoming event: Meet & Greet, Sunday, June 12 at Armstrong Memorial Park.

7) Joyce Henderson expressed our thanks to Ed and Marlene for their ongoing work to create the informative monthly eNewsletters.

8) **Gathering of Gratitude** – will be held on Saturday, June 4, 11:00 – 3:00 at the bandstand in Marine Park. It is presented by the Shuswap Community Foundation to celebrate those who give to the community in so many ways and to those non-profit organizations who have used their gifted contributions to make the Shuswap strong, caring and vibrant. There will be a SABNES/SNC information table.

9) Ted confirmed that fall meetings will once again be held **at SASS library** on the first Tuesday of the month, beginning with **Tuesday, October 4 at 7 pm**. The September meeting will continue as traditionally held at **Sunnybrae Provincial Park, September 6, 11 AM**. Food details TBA.

**\*\*\* A volunteer is needed to Chair the September meeting.**

#### **Sightings:**

Marlene McDonald - a bear in their Sunnybrae yard

Sharon Lawless - a pair of bluebirds in nest box at their South Canoe home

Fern Fennell - 4 boxes occupied along the bluebird trail (one bluebird, 3 tree swallows), lazuli bunting

Janet Aitken - a bear and cub on the upper bluebird trail

Mike Saul - related news of research into bats in Italy making buzzing noises to repel owls

Meeting was adjourned by Mike Saul at 5:04 PM.