

## Shuswap Naturalist Club Minutes - Wednesday, March 2, 2022

**NOTE:** This is the AGM for 2022, as meetings in January and February were cancelled due to COVID/weather.

Acting Chair, Communications Director Janet Aitken, welcomed 26 members to Room 130 at Okanagan College at 7 pm.

**Minutes:** Gillian Richardson read the last AGM minutes from February 4, 2020, and moved acceptance. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pam Saul

### **Treasurer's Report: Ted Hillary**

#### **Financial Statement 2021**

Bank Balance January 1, 2021 \$3297.26

#### Revenues

Dues	2055.00	
Coffee (gift)	5.00	
Gifts	225.00	
Interest	1.71	
Donation Eric Grayston - Bursary Fund	1000.00	\$3286.71

#### Expenditures

Administration		
Room rent	472.50	
Web site	103.72	
Misc	65.00	
BCN Annual Dues	1171.80	
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary/weed pull	419.46	
Community Foundation - Bursary Fund	1000.00	\$3232.48

Bank Balance December 31, 2021 \$3351.49

Ted moved acceptance of the Financial Statement. 2nd Mike Saul

#### **Budget 2022**

#### Revenue

Membership Dues	1600.00
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Coffee	100.00
Club Funds	520.00
Fund raising	250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2470.00</b>

Expenditures

BCN Dues	1140.00
Room rental	425.00
Newsletter/postage	25.00
Web site	105.00
Representative's Expenses	500.00
Christmas Bird Count	75.00
Miscellaneous	200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2470.00</b>

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the Budget. 2<sup>nd</sup> Di Wittner

**Business:**

- 1) Chair for the next meeting, April 6 – Di Wittner

**Reports:**

- 1) **Membership:** Ted Hillary reported the membership total is 92.
- 2) **Salmon Arm Christmas Bird Count:** Ted Hillary reported the Count was held Dec 19, a bright day after a cold spell. Total species 69, with large numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds. Notable were a Lincoln Sparrow, and Tree Sparrows.
- 3) **Mara Meadows:** Warden Jeremy Ayotte was not present, no report.
- 4) **Songbird Committee:** Janet Aitken, Pat Danforth, Gillian Richardson, Clare Meunier, Pat Turner - no report as the committee plans to meet on Friday, March 4 at 1:30. Contact Janet Aitken if you would like to participate in this committee.
- 5) **Weed pull Project:** Ed McDonald, Janet Aitken – Our club's woody nightshade weed pull project began in 2015 with a total of 332 bags of this invasive weed being removed before this year when we succeeded in removing another 17 very large bags. We thank all those who have participated over the years and hope to continue with this important and worthwhile project with another weed pull this year. Watch for details.
- 6) **Environment Advisory Committee, City of Salmon Arm:** Janet Pattinson – See the report in the February Newsletter. A subcommittee is meeting every Monday night on Zoom to work on the Revision of the City Bylaw regarding Pesticides. A goal is to reduce the amount of pesticides in the community that drain into the Bay. Education is the key to changing behaviour in this regard. Also the

subcommittee is working on the Tree Removal Bylaw (will change the name to Tree Preservation Bylaw).

Dawn McDonald alerted us to the issue of extensive fire prevention cleanup in Little Mountain Park, as it appears to result in considerable wildlife habitat destruction. Biodiversity is being lost as low growth around trees, and the trees support wildlife. Janet Aitken asked Dawn for a report with more details about the concerns.

**7) Naturalist Trail:** Greg Wiebe was not present, no report.

**8) Bird Box Report:** Di Wittner reported she has a number of new nesting boxes painted and ready to go up in the bay. Also an owl box. Werner Groeschel has kestrel and woodpecker boxes. Di would like someone to come along when boxes are installed/inspected so there is a backup person familiar with the locations, and she'd appreciate help to monitor the 90 boxes set up along the foreshore. Please contact Di if you can help with this important project.

**9) Outings Committee:** Pat Danforth, Hanne MacKay, Dawn McDonald—Dawn reported that the list of Spring Outings is in preparation for the middle of March. Using the survey results from the last meeting, the committee will propose 6 hikes. Members are reminded to check their email the day of the hike in case of changes. Also, only paid members can participate with the Club because of insurance rules. John Woods will lead a couple of early morning bird walks in the area: watch for details. Mike Saul mentioned that Marmont Ranch (off Chase/Falkland Rd) should be available for an outing in the fall. **New:** the committee would like those planning to attend to send RSVP so they know what participation to expect. In the past, the outing leaders have gone to the site, and no one has shown up: please respect their time and efforts to offer these fun and informative hikes.

**10) Young Naturalists:** Molly Cooperman sent this report.

1. We have a large interest and have limited the event on March 10<sup>th</sup> to maximum 40 people. It is a visit from our local Falconer, Mandy Moore. She will come to Hillcrest Elementary outdoor classroom to show her birds and talk to our group.

2. We are looking for a new co-leader, Pattie Perkins is too busy with teaching.

3. We had a successful Christmas Bird count. Thanks so much for Shuswap Naturalist volunteers, they were awesome!

4. Will be planning more in-person Explorer days in the coming months. Hope to do some tree planting around Earth Day but not confirmed. Please let us know if you would like us to help with tree planting in the future

Molly put together a Salmon toolkit for NatureKids BC last year. See it here:  
<https://naturekidsbc.ca/be-a-naturekid/stewardship-citizen-science/supporting-salmon/>

**11) Larch Hills Interpretive Trail:** Pat Danforth, Dawn McDonald, Anne Caughlan – see note about the work-in-progress and plans in the March 1 Newsletter

12) **Award /Bursary** Dorothy Parks is our contact person for TRU. They thanked us for our support of TRU students as the bursary funds help them pursue their education and realize their dreams. **Alexa Wiebe**, Bachelor of Natural Resource Science student, is the recipient of the latest Shuswap Naturalist Club Award. We can expect a letter of appreciation from her.

13) **SABNES:** Janet Aitken reports the bird viewing platform builder, Allan Phillips, will coordinate the repairs in August after nesting. Estimated cost \$30-40,000. A presentation was made to Shuswap Rotary to ask for funds. Also, a grant application has been made to Canada Summer Jobs for a student to work at the Brighthouse Nature Centre. City of Salmon Arm - Grants in Aid will fund one student.

14) **Coffee:** Pat Turner, Pam Saul and Marcia Woods will provide the refreshments for our meeting breaks. Thank you!

**Election:** Janet Aitken ran the election. There were no new nominations for the 4 Executive positions.

**President:** vacant

**Vice-President:** vacant

**Past President:** Ed McDonald

**Treasurer:** Ted Hillary

**Secretary:** Gillian Richardson

**Directors at large:** Janet Aitken, Pat Hutchins, Sharon Lawless, Dorothy Parks, Janet Pattinson, Past President Ed MacDonald, Di Wittner

Note: members are always welcome to join/help with any of the following committees.

Programs: Anne Caughlan

Communications: Janet Aitken

Membership: Ted Hillary

BC Nature Representative: Di Wittner

Website: Dorothy Parks

Publicity: Loretta Prosser

BC Nature e-news reporter: Gillian Richardson

Newsletter: Ed and Marlene McDonald

Historian: Gillian Richardson

Coffee Conveners: Pat Turner, Pam Saul, Marcia Woods

Award /Bursary: Dorothy Parks, Janet Pattinson

SABNES: Janet Aitken (Pres.)

Western Grebe Count: Di Wittner

Bird House Project: Di Wittner

Enderby/Armstrong Bird Count: Geoff Styles

*\*Motion: Ted Hillary moved that the signing authorities with the Credit Union account of the Shuswap Naturalist Club for the fiscal year 2022 will be the following: Secretary (Gillian Richardson), and Treasurer (Ted Hillary). Two of four Executive must sign, and both must sign.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Di Wittner. Carried.

### **Sightings:**

Di Wittner heard a wolf near her property and saw tracks, also cougar tracks 3 times but she did not see the critters themselves

Dawn McDonald saw a moose in her yard

Gillian Richardson noted the scarcity of feeder birds over the past month that she has done Project FeederWatch.

Elaine Goertzen saw a coyote walking across the bay ice

Fern Fennell saw around 20 Common Redpolls at Peter Jannink Park, also one swallow before the cold snap last week.

**Motion to adjourn:** Mike Saul moved to adjourn at 8:15 pm

After coffee break, **Tom and Eleanor Marshall** offered a presentation (video and slides) on clear cut logging issues in their home area, a large tract of land below the cliffs south of Gardom lake, within its watershed. It includes Mallory Ridge Social Trails, highly valued for diversity of habitat, wildlife, and plants of interest. The site has been flagged by Tolko for clear cut logging. Local community advocacy groups are determined to protect/preserve this area considered by locals as a gem for recreation and community enjoyment. Attempts are ongoing to communicate with Tolko, while the group is working to get existing and long-used trails officially recognized, and to establish a non-profit society. Our support is encouraged.