

Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting Tuesday, November 1, 2016

Ed McDonald welcomed everyone at 7:05 pm.

Sherry Bowlby sends news that James has been moved from Royal Inland to Salmon Arm hospital and is making good progress there.

Minutes:

Sharon Lawless moved the minutes of the October meeting be accepted as circulated. Seconded by Marlene McDonald.

Treasurer's Report:

Ted Hillary sent his Financial Statement for November 1, 2016

Bank Balance October 4		\$4601.42
Receipts:		
Dues	50.00	
Interest	.19	\$ 50.19
Disbursements:		
SongbirdSOS Productions	487.50	\$ 487.50
Balance for November 1, 2016		\$ 4164.11
Patronage SASCU		.62

(Nature Park - \$286.06)

(Fall AGM - \$3652.16)

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the report. Seconded by Pat Mearns

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Announcements:

- 1) The Education Award (in memory of Harry Higgins) will be presented on Nov 24 at TRU. Janet Pattinson will attend, and Lois Higgins will be asked to go as well.
- 2) Clive Bryson has been submitting reports of unleashed dogs on the foreshore. The numbers are declining.
- 3) Local high school students attended a meeting of the Environmental Council and have joined an organization sponsored by the Suzuki Foundation with interests in protection of the environment.
- 4) Weed Pull – October's effort yielded 50 bags (our total for 3 events is 150 bags) of woody nightshade from the Nature Sanctuary. The boardwalk area is clear, but a large patch remains to be tackled in the spring between the trail and

Christmas Island. Senior high school classes have indicated willingness to help with the spring pull.

5) Geoff Styles will give an introduction at the showings of *The Messenger*, Nov 3, 7:30 pm and Nov 13, 2:00 pm at Salmar Classic. This important documentary film details how human activity has created another “silent spring” like that of the 1960s and 70s when DDT devastated many bird species.

6) Clive Bryson circulated a list asking for volunteers to bring snacks for coffee break for an upcoming meeting.

Business:

1) The South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls (SORCO) in Oliver is struggling to stay in operation and needs funding assistance.

MOTION: Mike Saul moved that SNC donate \$500 to SORCO. Seconded by Janet Aitken. Carried.

2) Gerry Leering, BC biologist, has been working as consultant with City of Salmon Arm regarding updating the 1970s era sewer pipe that runs alongside the foreshore trail. SABNES has received a \$48,000 Habitat Conservation Trust Grant to pay for the pipe relining project. Gerry has recommended minimizing disturbance to the marsh with the use of swamp mats during winter instead of a temporary access road. Other suggestions include planting of trees and native vegetation on raised hummocks, poles for nests, bat/bird boxes, nesting platforms. All of this will create new habitat amid the open reed canary grass marsh with a goal to increase biodiversity. Gerry showed and explained some of the blueprints and drawings for the project.

Reports:

1) Janet Pattinson shared information that BC Nature is looking for input regarding new fees.

MOTION: Janet moved we agree to increase our club’s membership fees by \$5 to cover that increase. Seconded by Loretta Prosser. Carried.

Sightings:

Mike Saul shared photos of a great gray owl seen at Marmont’s farm.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Saul at 8:00 pm

Speaker:

Pat Hutchins shared his stunning close-up photos of birds in flight. Using the latest digital camera equipment, he’s been able to capture freeze-frame action moments of take off, landing and aerodynamic flight. We could pick out individual feathers and colors that are impossible to see otherwise.