

## Shuswap Naturalist Club Meeting Minutes - September 8, 2020

Ed McDonald welcomed 25 members at 11:00 at Sunnybrae Park picnic area, our first gathering since March.

**Minutes** from March 3, 2020 (submitted as Enewsletter) were approved by Dorothy Parks, seconded by Janet Pattinson.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Here is Ted Hillary's Financial Statement for September 8, 2020

Bank Balance March 3, 2020		\$3,466.61
Receipts		
Coffee	44.80	
Dues	555.00	
Refund - School District	56.70	
Interest	.93	
		\$ 657.43
Disbursements		
Web Site	99.62	
50th Anniversary - trees	576.62	
		\$ 675.24
Bank Balance September 8, 2020		\$3447.80
Patronage		\$ .89

Financial Statement seconded by Mike Saul

### **Announcements** (interrupted by kingfisher sighting)

1. Pat Danforth invited questions and suggestions on the Outing Plan Fall 2020 recently distributed by email. All were in favor of continuing outings, although car pooling is not advised. Participants should carry mask and gloves for use if required.
2. Ed reported the passing of longtime member Rosemarie Breymann at age 88.
3. Ed reported that Kyle Fitzpatrick, member from Enderby who recently completed his Education degree will be moving to Comox for employment. We'll miss his contributions, especially on outings.

### **Business**

1. Di Wittner had no further update to the grebe report in the September 1 eNewsletter, but might do one more count as there were some late courting and nesting grebes post-high water in August. A nest box survey (still to be completed) revealed every box occupied including one wood duck box. The

ring-billed gull survey undertaken with Mandy McDiarmid was unsuccessful due to high water swamping much of Christmas Island.

2. Joyce Henderson reported on further plans for the 50th anniversary tree planting. Keith Cox (consultant working with us) suggested around September 18 for fall planting along the edge of Blackburn Park. Geoff Styles will advise if students from the Outdoor School will be available to help. Funds remain from the spring planting (\$450), and Ted Hillary advised that more money is available from the Club to complete this project. Our request to Salmon Arm Daybreak Rotary regarding a donation was not successful. Joyce will request volunteer help from members for planting in September.

3. Janet Pattinson recently shared an outdoor learning segment on CKVS, The Voice of the Shuswap.

4. Di Wittner and Ed McDonald and others shared details of several wildlife rescues:

- 4 female mallards at McGuire Lake which appeared to have been struck by vehicles.
- a 6 AM call with sparse details about chickens on a mountain trail (not followed up),
- an injured squirrel report (which Di chose not to follow up)
- Di did go above and beyond the call of duty to rehouse 2 young saw-whet owls when their nesting tree blew down and to hand raise 10 cliff swallows orphaned from a nest removed (illegally?) from the Prestige Hotel. Swallows were successfully released in Enderby and Salmon Arm
- Joyce Henderson told of an eagle found on the foreshore that turned out to be a recently released bird that was not yet able to fly
- Anne Caughlan shared good news about a project to provide safe nesting for painted turtles at Gardom Lake. Gravel was installed on a portion of shoreline property donated by member Blaine Carson in hopes of reducing turtle mortalities from crossing the highway to nest. Check <https://www.gardomlakestewards.org/gardom-lake-facts> for more details about restorations and projects that have attracted numerous species of birds to the protected environment.

## 5. Show and Tell

Gillian Richardson brought the Pacific-slope Flycatcher nest and shared a few more details about the nesting that took place over her front porch this summer. Janet Aitken took the nest for display at the Brighthouse Interpretive Centre.

## 6. Future plans

It was decided to hold the October 6 meeting at the shelter in Blackburn Park, Salmon Arm at 1:00 pm (pending booking with the city). SASS has said they would contact us when the school was open and available again, but it was felt the library there will not be conducive to social distancing for the time being.

**MOTION:** by Janet Pattinson that we look into rental of the hall at United Church for the November 3 meeting. Syd Visser seconded.

Ted Hillary advised that the Christmas Bird Count would go ahead without car pooling and with no followup social. Teams would phone their results to Ted instead.

## 7. Sightings

Mike and Pam saw a white headed woodpecker near their home

Tom Brighthouse has watched a weasel from his window at Lakeside Manor

Glenda Groeschel saw a yellow-bellied marmot near their Appleyard home

Greg Wiebe had a tree frog climbing his window  
Isobel Anderson told about several encounters with pine sawyer beetles

**MOTION** to adjourn at 12:05 by Mike Saul

Members visited as they had lunch and caught up on summer news.