

**DUFFERIN MARSH NATURE CONNECTION**

**MEETING Minutes**

Wednesday, March 14th 2018

Attendees: Mary, Dave, Eric, Jen, Angela

Regrets: Charles, Joe, Terry, Brenda, Elspeth

Start: 7:44 pm

1. Feb. 8th Minutes

Motion to approve.

Moved: Mary

2nd: Jen

Approved.

1. Treasurer Report

Dave circulated the treasurer’s report previously by email. It will be amended to show coffee and hot chocolate donations for the skate.

The balance in the account is $4037.30.

New donations came in from the skate ($155), Bird Studies Canada ($273.75) and Bruno Conzelmann ($200).

Motion to receive as amended.

Moved: Eric

2nd: Angela

Approved.

1. Review Community Skate and GBBC
* Community Skate

The ice was smooth and thick and perfect. There was a lot of snow and shoveling needed. Thanks to harry Hoare and all the other volunteers. About 75 people attended which was a little less than previous years. More hot chocolate was need and suggest that 4 carafes are required for next year. The wood duck boxes were cleaned out during the event while volunteers were available.

The ice was so nice it was suggested that we advertise the ice (on Facebook?) after the event if appropriate. It was noted that not many came to skate at 2 pm – the new time. Most arrived at 3 pm – the old time. I was decided to still keep the new time from 2 to 5 pm.

A number of hot dog forks were lost in the snow. Brenda bought more to replace them.

* Great Backyard Bird Count

This is a fun event but only 5 people showed up. We saw around 20 species and over 70 Gold Finches. Brian and Jess said they would be happy to help deliver the nature events for the group.

1. Business Arising From the Minutes
* The Bat Detector arrived from England. It is very cool. We will use it in a bat program this year.
* Email Communications

The Mailchimp test email was noted to be very image heavy requiring that some had to download the content. It was decided that we do not need to use Mailchimp to customize emails for event announcements.

We will talk about this at the next meeting when Terry and Elspeth are available.

It was noted that an email for Earth Hour has not been distributed yet.

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**Action: Mary** will send out an email on Earth Hour

1. Beaver Damage

There have been several complaints from the public about the tree damage associated with the beaver activity. It was determined that there is nothing to be done about the beaver. (added – Maybe we can put up an information display on the bulletin board about beavers?)

**Action: Mary** will talk to Jen about a bulletin board display.

1. Clean Out Bird Boxes

The tree swallow boxes need cleaning out.

Date selected: April 7 at 11 am.

Volunteers – Mary, Dave, Jen?, Eric?

All other volunteers are welcome to help.

**Action: Mary** will send out a request for more volunteers.

1. Clearing scrub around bird boxes

See bird box clean out above.

1. Earth Hour

This event will be held on Saturday March 24.

Tasks

 Ad in paper - Eric

 Volunteers – Mary, Dave?,

 Wood -

 Fire bowl, paper, matches, green bin, blue bin, cups, napkins, spoons, carafes - Mary

 Guide from library -

 Marshmallows -

 Sticks - Brenda

 Hot choc - Mary

 Coffee, cream and sugar – Eric

 2 tables – Brenda, Mary

 Telescopes – library, Charles?

**Action: Mary** will send out list.

 **Mary** will contact Charles about scope.

 **Someone** – order scope from library

1. Frog Monitoring

The workshop will be held on April 5. We need to advertise for Volunteers and get a poster.

Volunteers – Angela.

**Action: Mary** will request a poster from Donna

1. On-going Items
* Bird Feeder trail - defer
* Library Bags - defer
* Sign Replacement –

Need a quote to redo signs at the Trisan Centre and the welcome signs at the marsh.

Welcome to marsh need new design but the others just need reproduction.

Jen will start working on this. She advised that text would be needed. Mary will work with Jen and the Township.

* Insurance – defer - Terry

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review/confirm list of activities/events for this year

See updated list below.

1. Bird Studies Birdathon

Mary will be doing the Birdathon again this year sometime in May and will be looking for sponsors.

1. Community Trail/Natural Nodes

We need to talk about the next steps for this project at the next meeting.

Adjourn: Eric

End: 9:16 pm

NEXT MEETING IS Wednesday, **April 11th**, 2018 at 7:30

List of Upcoming 2018 DMNC Events:

**Mar. 24 8:00 pm Earth Hour Bonfire**

**April 5 7:00 pm Frog Monitoring Workshop**

April 13 7:00 pm Swift Monitoring Workshop

**April 21 9:00 am Dufferin Marsh Clean-up**

**May 12 8:00 pm Frog Night Out – Dufferin Marsh**

May 27, 28 Schomberg Fair Booth (not done in 2017)

**May 27 6:30 am Bird walk**

May 10:00 am Garlic Mustard Pull

May Swift Watch Program??

July 20 8:00 pm Swift Night Out

July 29 2:00 pm Dragonflies and Butterflies

July TBC Bats

July TBC Moth Mania

**Sept. 16 10:00 Bird feeder Building Workshop / Street Gallery**

Oct. TBC Beer Tasting

Nov. afternoon AGM - 2:00 hike; 4:30 meeting, 6:00 dinner

**Dec. 1 4:00 to 8:00 Main St. Xmas – Chestnuts: 55 lbs. is enough**

**List of Previous DMNC Events:**

February Annual DMC Skate

March Birding Workshop – Nature Conservancy

March Earth Hour Event

April Dufferin Marsh Clean-up

April Bird Banding Demonstration

April Earth day Clean Up

May ORM Clean Up

May Tree Planting

May Frog Night Out – Cold Creek

May Frog Night Out – Dufferin Marsh

May Bird Hike at Cold Creek

May Fair Booth

May Bird Walk

May Garlic Mustard Pull

June Wine Tasting

July - August Swift Night Out, Bats, Moth Mania, Dragonflies and Butterflies

August Work events for DMC: Loosestrife, remove goose rope

September Bird feeder Building Workshop (Confirmed to match up with Street Gallery)

September Phragmites removal

October Tree planting at marsh

October Beer tasting

November AGM

December Chestnuts for Main Street Xmas