

SAMEL WILMOT NAURE AREA MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VIRTUAL MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2020

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

**Present:** Carrie-Anne Atkins, Kate Potter, Leo Blindenbach, Tom Hossie, Brian Reid, Ken Mercer, Patrick Bothwell, Rod McArthur, Jocelyn Whalen

**Regrets:** Corinna Traill, Meaghan Vandenbrink, Maggie

**Welcome and Introduction of new Staff Liaison :** Brian welcomed the members to our first virtual meeting and introduced Ken Mercer . Ken is known to many of us on the Committee by virtue of his role on the Operations side of things with the Municipality of Clarington. Ken shared some details of his experience with the municipality and this committee. We look forward to working together.

**Approval of the Agenda:** moved by Jocelyn, seconded by Leo that the agenda be accepted. **Carried**

**Approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 8<sup>th</sup>:** moved by Carrie Ann, seconded by Patrick, that the minutes of the meeting of September 8<sup>th</sup> be approved. **Carried.**

**Updates/Status Reports:**

**Monarch Tagging** – Tom Hossie advised that as of the time of the meeting, he had received tagging data for approximately 230 monarchs. And that others had tags yet to be submitted. Brian reported that he had an additional 75 that he would be getting to Tom shortly. It is clear that the concentration of monarchs this year was quite different from the past two years, probably due to hot dry weather early in the season ( affecting the growth of pollinator plants ) and an fall cold snap that affected the duration of the migration.

**Wildflower meadow project** – Leo advised that Mr. Kemp had been in contact with him and will do the final cultivation and planting later this fall.

**Spring Wildflower Planting Project** – members will recall that this was postponed due to our inability to do this as a public event. OPG has advised us that they will allow the money they had allocated for this year’s project to be carried over to

next year. It was suggested that if we are not able to do this in our usual manner in the spring of 2021, we could still undertake the project as a public event by scheduling small numbers of participants at different times.

**Retractable Banner** – Brian and Kate will continue to work on this project with a view to having something available for events in the new year. The previous cost estimate for this was approximately \$465 plus HST. Ken will investigate where funds could be made available to pay for this.

**Possible Winter Event** – Brian reminded members that we had previously scheduled Dr. Sheila Colla, a professor from York University, to do a presentation for us on her specialized work with bees. This had been cancelled due to covid. Brian will follow up with Dr. Colla with a view to holding this event in the spring of 2021 subject to covid. It was also suggested that this might be done virtually. Brian will explore this option with Dr. Colla as well.

**Great Lakes Local Action Fund** – Leo reviewed what he had sent to members previously concerning the possibility of obtaining funding to undertake a smart-phone information project for SWNA similar to what Valleys 2000 has undertaken. After some discussion, Jocelyn agreed to take a lead role in this project with assistance from Carrie-Ann and Kate. Ken will provide contact information for Jocelyn and review any requirements from the municipality.

#### **COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FOR KEN:**

Ken was asked to review the mowing schedule for the area along the Lakebreeze waterfront where we have been planting pollinator plants for the past three years. The idea is that a mowing should be done late each season to allow for fresh growth of these perennials in the spring.

Ken was asked to look into the possibility of having an annual budget of some sort for the work of the committee.

Garbage and removal: Ken was asked to look into the possibility of having some type of lids for the various garbage receptacles throughout the Nature Area and/or the possibility of obtaining a heavier grade of plastic bags. Ken advised that the municipality is looking into different types of waste receptacles as well. Ken was also asked if the municipality could take a larger role in the emptying of the containers themselves.

**Repairs:** two major items were discussed: repairs to the sign at the snake hibernaculum and the reconstruction of the observation platform at the foot of the Cobbledick side of the nature area. The latter is in the budget for 20121. Repairs at the snake pit are on the operations to-do list.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Adjournment:** moved by Carrie-Ann, seconded by Patrick. **Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.