

**Samuel Wilmot Nature Area Management Advisory Committee
(SWNAMAC)
Minutes**

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Date: April 12, 2022

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

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1. Call to order – Brian called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

All members present

2. Additions to the Agenda – New directive re in-person minutes

3. Adoption of the Agenda – moved by Kate Potter, seconded by Tom Hossie that the agenda as revised be approved. **Carried**

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) – moved by Leo Blindenbach, seconded by Leah Bourgeois, that the minutes of the meeting of March 8, 2022 be approved. **Carried**

5. Status Reports/Updates

1. Signage re Bridge Surfaces and Re Cyclists/Hikers – Ken reported that installation of this signage will be incorporated into his department's work schedule. This will be moved to the "items pending" section of the agenda for our next meeting

2. Treatment Plant Study/Storm Drainage Pond – Brian reported that he had a constructive conversation with Tony Ricciardi of the municipal engineering department re this matter. Tony has met with representatives of Kaitlin and will advise Brian of any developments. He also offered to provide a copy of the landscape plan. Brian invited Tony (and representatives from the Region) to our next scheduled meeting on May 1th which will be on-site at the Toronto Street lot adjacent to the project site. The question of closing off access to vehicles to the south of the entrance way was also discussed. Ken will look after this as an “ operations “ item.
3. Traffic/Usage Survey – Brian and Kate. The forms to be used have now been revised and are ready for implementation. It was agreed that it would be best to wait until approximately the end of May to begin due to our other commitments until that time.
4. Calendar/Chart of Activities – Kate. This has been updated to include our spring cleanup, a possible planting project in late May, and a virtual spring scavenger hunt around the same time.
5. Interpretative Signage/QR Codes Project – Tom reported that we have four narratives ready to go. A fifth has been submitted and two others are nearing completion. Tom will review each and undertake some final editing. Ways of affixing the QR codes were discussed. Patrick offered to explore the possibility of creating some laminated versions of these using the marketing department of his employer. Commercial options may also be explored.
6. Bird box monitoring and cleanout – Carmen, Rod, Leo and Brian undertook this annual spring project on April 7th. Again this year, someone else appears to have done this before us – presumably last fall. We are reasonably confident that our occupancy rate remains high because of the amount of discarded nesting material found below most of the boxes. However, we need to make sure that this does not happen again. After some discussion, it was decided that some type of marker would be prepared and affixed to each nesting box advising people that these are used for research and data collection purposes as well as shelter and must not be disturbed. It was also noted that a large multi chambered nesting box had been mounted on our martin pole below the martin house itself. It appears to be the work of the same person given that identical hardware to that used on many of the nesting boxes had been used.
7. Spring Cleanup – Leo reported that all is in readiness for our cleanup of the Port, Bond Head and SWNA on April 23 beginning at 10 a.m. No Frills is sponsoring the event; bags and gloves will be supplied as usual. All members indicated they would be present for at least part of the day. Some have already been “ assigned “ to the Port or Bond Head. The rest will gather at the Toronto Street parking lot. Additional volunteers from the Port side will be deployed to SWNA as necessary. It was agreed that the Cobbledick Side does not require a crew this year

8. Spring wildflower planting – Brian reported that he had been in contact with OPG and had submitted a request for a donation to cover the cost of additional plantings. He has also contacted the supplier who indicated that he could indeed have the required number of plants available for us in late May if we do in fact obtain the funding. Brian will advise the rest of the Committee as news develops.
May 28 was suggested as the date for this event
9. Bee Houses – Leah reported that the group she works with at Courtice High School can provide 8-10 of these units for deployment throughout the SWNA.
Thank you Leah!

6. Items “ on hold “:

1. **Storm Drainage Pond** – see comments above
 2. **Butternut Tree Planting** – nothing new to report
 3. **Scouting/Birdhouse Project** – Leo reported that the scout group he has been working with can provide 8 wren and 4 “ regular” nesting boxes to us for installation on April 18th. Ken will ensure that we have sufficient t or u bars available. Brian, Leo and any other available committee member will assist the scouts with installation to ensure proper placement.
 4. **Silt fencing along waterfront trail** – Ken reported that this will be entered into the work schedule of this department. On a related matter, the region appears to have been doing some maintenance work along the south side of the waterfront trail just east of the Memorial Forest and has an area approximately 15 x 20 feet fenced in with orange plastic fencing. Ken will explore what this is all about and endeavor to determine when it can be removed.
 5. **Mowing of wildflower garden** – Lakeshore . Ken will endeavor to have this done in time for the above mentioned planting project. It was noted that even if that project does not happen this year, mowing is still desirable.
 6. **Newcastle Fall Festival** – October 1, 2022 – no action required at this time
 7. **Parking along Toronto Street/ gating to hydro corridor** – nothing new to report
- 7. Other Business** – Ken reviewed a new directive sent out by the municipality which allows for a return to in-person meetings and/or hybrid meetings. It was agreed that we will begin this for our June meeting. Ken will book a room
8. **Round Table** – All Members were asked if they had anything they wished to share or report, Kate advised that she has a new position as Executive Director of the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association.

Congratulations Kate!!

Kristin reported that she had been accepted into a Master's Program at Dalhousie for September but will continue to work with us until that time.

Congratulations Kristin!!

Tom reported that wood frogs have been calling in the Nature rea for several days now. He also reported that a Great Horned Owl has been spotted there

10. Next Meeting

Tuesday May 10, 2022 – on site, Toronto Street, 6:30 P.M.

11. Adjournment