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Samuel Wilmot Nature Area Management Advisory Committee

MINUTES

September 17, 2024

Municipality of Clarington Building

Room 1 C

Participation:

Y/N	Person	Y/N	Person
y	Brian Reid (Past Chair)	Y	Leanne Fernandez
y	Carmen Aeillo	R	Leo Blindenbach
y	Councillor Margaret Zwart (Council Liaison)	R	Patrick Bothwell
		Y	Kayla Stevens
R	Kate Potter (Chair)	Y	Tom Hossie (Vice Chair)
Y	Ken Mercer (Staff)	R	Rod McArthur
Y	Leah Bourgeois	Y	Meg Vanbaily

Agenda Items

1. Call To Order And Welcome - in Kate's absence, Vice-Chair Tom chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone, including guest Jennifer Smith, Manager of Park Services.

Tom also read the land acknowledgment.

2. Additions To The Agenda / Adoption Of The Agenda – moved by Meg , seconded by Leah - CARRIED

3. Adoption Of Minutes Of Previous Meeting

- a. [June 17, 2024, no quorum for Aug meeting]

Moved by Carmen, seconded by Leah - CARRIED

4. Committee Administration

- a. Annual report to Council – Kate [on hold until next meeting]. Tom suggested that Kate could use some assistance in pulling relevant material together. He will assist and Kayla offered to assist as well. Our blog is a good record of what we have done for the past several years.

5. SWNA Workplan:

a. Q3 and Q4

- **Moth week Event**– Tom provided details of another successful moth week which included identifying 122 species of moths, some of which are new to the SWNA and five of which are species of concern in Ontario. A summary of this year’s moth week and its findings is contained in the blog article posted last week.
- **Monarch tagging event** – Tom, Brian et al. – by all accounts this was another successful event with a strong public turnout . The original date was to have been September 7th but poor weather forced postponement to the 14th. Despite posting notice of postponement on our various social media platforms, some persons did show up on the 7th. We will take steps to ensure additional notification measures are taken should this situation arise again in the future.

The number of monarchs tagged during the event itself was quite low. However, everyone seemed to enjoy the event. It was pointed out that later that same day, Tom and Brian tagged 100 on the Cobbledick side and over the next two days, with minimal time spent, another 125 were tagged by Carmen, Brian and Deb. Members who still have tags were urged to make use of them while the favourable weather pattern continues

Consideration will also be given to holding the event on the Cobbledick side of SWNA next year since the numbers of monarchs there is much higher than along Lakebreeze Drive. Additional planting of goldenrod or other late blooming plants next spring was suggested as a way to increase the number of monarchs found along Lakebreeze.

It was also suggested that we acquire additional nets to supplement our current number. Ken believes he could cover the cost from the Operations budget. Brian and Tom will identify the vendor and advise Ken accordingly.

- **Atlantic salmon** – Leah [2pm October 20th @ Diane Hamre]

Advertising, logistical support & member availability – Leah reported that only some of the logistical issues remain to be sorted out: > she will design and distribute a poster

>Ken will arrange for the appropriate a/v equipment to be available

> Leah and Ken will confirm start time and setup time required by the speaker

> Meg indicated that her daughters will staff an information table with things like colouring sheets etc for children attending

> Brian will contact the Orono Times

Members (so far) indicating they can attend are: Tom, Leah, Brian, Carmen, Kate, Marg, Meg

- **Bird box maintenance (fall)** – on track for early November
- **Christmas bird count** – Brian has initiated contact with someone responsible for the count in this part of the region. Details will be available closer to the time of the event, likely to be the first week in January, 2025

b. Last quarter (Q1)

- **LEAF program** – on hold
- **SWNA codes** – stickers etc. are all still in place without damage. Tom will update the Committee quarterly on user volume

c. 2025 workplan ideas?

- **Stormwater pond path / trail** – Tom enquired about the possibility of “formalizing” the current haphazard trail that runs around the storm water pond, noting the area has recovered nicely and hosts a variety of plant and animal species that are of interest. He also pointed out that defining the trail more clearly would prevent damage to the area from trampling etc.. Staff pointed out that there are potential liability and maintenance issues associated with designating something as an actual “ trail “ but will investigate further. A variation or alternative could be a small platform, possibly placed to the south of the Baldwin Cairn , to allow for viewing the area.

6. External Projects:

a. (Update) Special projects / general update on relevant items from the Municipality of Clarington (Ken)

- **Management Plan** – nothing to report
- **Parks and Recreation Plan** – Marg reported this has now gone to council committee
- **Waterfront Strategy** – nothing to report
- **Stormwater Plant work** - this project is well underway. Our concerns remain about remediation. It was suggested that this be reflected in the Report to Council referred to above.

- **NOTE:** the days following this meeting, Brian received a response from the Regional Project Engineer via Regional Councilor Willy Woo to whom he had written about the above concerns. A copy of the response has been circulated to the members under separate cover.

7. Other Business

- a. **By-law infractions** (camping, fishing, mountain biking/pits, harvesting) – nothing to report except the continuing practice by some of having campfires on the beach
 - b. **Fall Cleanup** – after some discussion, it was agreed that a small scale cleanup should be done as the salmon fishing season nears an end. This will take place on Saturday November 2nd starting at 9:00 a.m. We will meet in the Toronto Street parking lot. The fishing line receptacles will be emptied at that time as well.
8. **Round Table – All Members** – Carmen advised that he and Deb had removed a small area of dog strangling vine near the south lookout/junction approximately 6 weeks ago and that as recently as yesterday there had been very little regrowth. . Kayla has enjoyed walking and birdwatching there in recent weeks. Meg noted that the limited access to the trail system recently has meant she has confined her visits to the beach area. Tom and Brian continue to be regular visitors to SWNA
9. **Next Meeting** - October 22nd – Location TBD
10. **Adjournment:** moved by Meg, seconded by Leanne CARRIED