

# Samuel Wilmot Nature Area Management Advisory Committee

## AGENDA

**March 26, 2024, 8:00 P.M.**

Diane Hamre Recreation Centre

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### Participation:

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

### Agenda Items

1. Call To Order and Welcome - by Chairperson Kate
2. Additions to the Agenda / Adoption Of The Agenda
  - > Birds Canada contact - Brian -
  - > Pollinator Plant donation – Leah

Moved by Tom Hossie, seconded by Leah Bourgeois that the agenda with additions be adopted. **CARRIED**

3. Adoption Of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by Brian Reid, seconded by Margaret Zwart, that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved . **CARRIED**

4. Committee Administration

- a. Terms of Reference – Ken advised that these had been ratified by Council. The Committee expressed its concern that the process had taken an inordinate amount of time.

- b. Advertising of member vacancies – Ken advised that this will commence shortly. We may encourage anyone we believe would be interested to apply and that persons do not have to wait for the advertisement to appear before doing so.
- c. Annual report to Council – Kate reported that she and Tom are working on this. It will include such things as a summary of activities and projects undertaken in the previous year , the degree of public use and participation etc. It was noted that provision of such a report is now a requirement under the revised Terms and Conditions for municipal committees.

5. SWNA Workplan:

- a. This quarter
  - i. LEAF program – Leah is still in discussions with the LEAF group re a possible speaker/presentation or guided walk. It was suggested that we could promote the sales component of the program to the public via our blog.  
  
It was suggested that GRCA may be able to provide someone to lead a tree identification and familiarity walk. Margaret will investigate this possibility .
- b. SWNA codes – Kate reported that she had created scavenger hunts based on our new QR code signage and posted them during March Break. At the time of the meeting, the degree of uptake was not yet known.
- c. Next 2 quarters
  - i. Spring clean up – April 20<sup>th</sup> – plans are proceeding for this event. Jill Richardson will be the overall project lead based in the Port; Rod will be the lead for Bond Head and Kate for the SWNA. Brian, Tom and Kate will be present to assist at SWNA. The remaining committee members will be canvassed prior to the date. Ken's staff will provide pick up of collected material and any additional bags, gloves etc. that may be required.

- ii. Bird box maintenance – Brian and Rod will attend to this between March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- iii. Invasive weed removal – as agreed our last meeting, this item is on hold until next year in order to prepare a proper assessment and plan of action
- iv. Wildflower planting - scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup>. Brian advised that the plants have been ordered from the same supplier as last year – and at the same price. Marking and pre-digging of holes will be undertaken prior to the event in accordance with our usual practice. Brian and Ken have discussed the possibility of clearing and cultivating a small area near the entrance to the Memorial Forest and use some of the plants referred to above to start a pollinator garden in that location. This will add to the aesthetics of this high traffic area and has the advantage of being close to the parking lot to allow for ease of watering and weeding as required.
- v. Leaf ID – see above
- vi. Moth week – on target for the week of July 21-28
- vii. Monarch tagging – on target for September 7<sup>th</sup> ( backup date September 14<sup>th</sup> ). It was noted that we have not yet seen the data from Monarch Watch about the results of this year's overwintering. Tom will share this information as soon as it becomes available.
- viii. Pollinator presentation – there is still a possibility of holding such a presentation, possibly in conjunction with our tagging event. Tom will investigate further.

d. Final quarter

- i. Atlantic salmon – Leah reported that her contact is available to present on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Ken has booked the large rooms at the Hamre Centre from 2-430 p.m.
- ii. Bird box maintenance (fall) – this will take place again in late November

- iii. Christmas bird count – Brian is continuing to investigate the possibility of having our group be involved in this in some way this year

#### 6. External Projects:

- a. (Update) Special projects / general update on relevant items from the Municipality of Clarington (Ken)
  - i. Management Plan – no new developments
  - ii. Parks and Recreation Plan – no new developments
  - iii. Waterfront Strategy- no new developments
  - iv. Stormwater Plant work – no new developments
  - v. Fiddlehead signage – Ken advised that these have been ordered

#### 7. Other Business

- a. By-law infractions (camping, fishing, mountain biking/pits, harvesting)

Tom reported that a large package of rock salt has been dumped in the Toronto Street lot. Ken will have it removed
- b. Birds Canada – Brian advised that he had been in touch with a representative of Birds Canada about our nesting box program and more specifically about the nesting colony of bank swallows along the SWNA bluffs. Birds Canada will provide some signage and encourages us to monitor the sites and report relevant data through e-bird or another medium
- c. Leah reported that she has been working with students from Courtice High School who have been growing a variety of pollinator plants in their classrooms. Arrangements are being made for a field trip to SWNA to plant them in a location of our choosing. Brian and Leah will work together on this. Target date is May 21st . It was noted that the site referred to above near the Memorial Forest would be ideal.

#### 8. Round Table – All Members

>Brian – will lead a group of people from the Durham Region Field Naturalists on a walkabout on Saturday , March 30<sup>th</sup>

>Ken advised that he has a small budget approved for upgrades to our entrance kiosks. Priority will be given to the one on the Cobbledick side. It was agreed that a better “bulletin board” section is needed, possibly enclosed, to allow us to post relevant information

> Tom advised that a Great Horned owl has been spotted in the old-growth forest

9. Next Meeting - April 16th – Diane Hamre at 8 pm