

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting October 8, 2019.
Hosted by Anne Bernhardt...

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Phil Horch, Eileen Cowtan, Ian and Angela Turner, Anne Bernhardt, Linda Fisher.

Guest: Martha Munz Gue

1. Call to Order: 1:40 pm. Members present: 9 GN members
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from September 3, 2019. **CARRIED**
Business arising from these minutes:
 - Item 4.b. The Fall Festival was snowed out.
 - Item 4.c. Phil will speak to Dennis regarding GN items in the filing cabinet.(see Item 6.a. below)
3. Additions to the Agenda:
 - a. **SK PCAP Native Prairie Speakers Webinar Oct. 30 7 pm MDP**, Bats, Common Nighthawks. Register online. Hugh will check with Milt about putting this in the Chronicle.
 - b. **Operations Committee:** There are positions open for members on this Committee. Thank you to Anne Bernhardt for her dedicated and unstinting service.
Anne suggested evening meetings might interest new committee members.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Committee Budgets to Paul:** Requested by November 15th .
 - b. **Volunteer for October GM set-up:** There is a sign-up sheet at the Nature Centre. Two people have signed up. Ian and Angela volunteered in October for this.
 - c. **Volunteer needed to help Tina at GN table at MHPL November 5:** Angela will not be able to help Tina, as she did in June, since she and Ian are hosting the Board meeting November 5.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen reported the GN "Club" Savings Account stands at \$16,495.44 as of September 30, 2019 and the Chequing Account balance is \$4,750.85 on September 30. Common shares are \$1.30 bringing Total Current Assets to \$21,247.59. Other assets consist of a Prepaid Insurance Expense of \$342.73. This brings the Total Assets to \$21,590.32.
The Casino Balance is \$15,046.41.
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen reported that GN membership is 85.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Alberta Conservation Association sent the twice yearly Conservation Magazine, Eileen reported.
 - d. **Operations Committee/ MHIP Report:** Meeting was held October 7 at 1:30 pm at Police Point Park. Corlaine's report will go into the October Sagebrush Chronicle. Eileen's report of the meeting was **ACCEPTED** by the Board. Eileen reported that Elaine Spitzer will be staying on the Committee since Anne Bernhardt is leaving. Thank you Elaine! Hugh said he will receive a report at the end of October regarding finances spent on Nature Centre renovations.
 - e. **Issues Committee:** Martha showed the Board photos, of wildflower blooms and a meadowlark, from this morning's snowy Neighbourhood Walk at Ranchlands Area F&G. Surprisingly, Martha also encountered a slow-moving salamander stepping through the snow.
 - There was some discussion about possibly varying future walk dates between Tuesdays and Wednesdays, rather than only on Tuesdays, as they are set up now.
 - Esplanade presentation to SEAWA-There was a good turnout of GN members at the October 3rd. event. The Board commented on Martha's excellent introduction of Gary Lentz, Chair of SEAWA Board of Directors, recipient of the (Environmental) Community Spirit Award.
 - SEAWA Water Art show is on display Tuesday's and Thursday's from 11:30 to 1:30 pm for the month of October at the Arcade Plaza, Martha noted.
 - There is also a SEAWA Public Forum Nov.1: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at St. Barnabas Church. Martha reported SEAWA will have a weed-pull earlier that day at Saratoga Park.
 - Martha noted that Marilou Montemayor, Executive Director of SEAWA, sent a letter to Mayor Clugston concerning environmental advisement for all departments in the City. Martha brought up the question of how to encourage members to participate on City Advisory Boards.
 - Members can respond to climate emergency happenings, every Friday at 4 pm at Café Verve, Martha said.

- Invasive Plants: Martha commented on how the Invasive Plant Workshop, organized by Gerry Ehlert and others, has given useful information that can be used on GN weekly walks. Nick Regehr, for example, is using EDDMapS and teaching others how to use the app to report locations of invasive plants.
- Municipal Development Plan: Phil Horch and Martha both attended the Planning Department meeting on July 31st, 2019 and submitted their priorities in writing. Phil will have his report in the October Chronicle as well as sending it to the MH News. Phil noted the MDP hopes to present a draft to the public and stakeholders for review and comments by February 2020.

Martha will have an article on GN Issues in the October Chronicle.

- f. **Indoor Committee:** Linda Fisher reported that Meca Klem, Priority Species at Rick Biologist, will be speaking on recovery actions to help the endangered Greater Sage-Grouse at the October GM.
Lacey Hebert, Conservation Research Field Technician from the Calgary Zoo Endangered Species Program, will be speaking at the November GM.
There will be a December 15 Potluck after the Annual Bird Count, rather than a General Meeting or speaker.
January 2020 speaker will be Brent Smith, Biologist and Instructor at MH College, speaking on Agroecology.
February 2020 may be a night for members to speak about their own trips.
- g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh reported there is no activity at this time. There is no report.
- h. **Field Trip Committee:** (as taken from The Chronicle)
- Tuesday, October 15, 10:00 am. A viewing and dedication of the Memorial Bench for Bev Slater will be held at the top end of Marlborough Coulee at College Drive SE, 800 Block. The walk will then continue down the path into Marlborough Coulee and east to Saratoga Park. All GN members and friends are welcome.
 - Saturday, October 19, 8:00 am; Field trip to Schuler and Many Islands Lake area to look for migratory waterfowl. Meet at the main Medalta parking lot. Bring a lunch.
 - Saturday, October 19: Beavers at 5:45 pm. Meet at the Nature Centre.
 - Tuesday, October 22 at 10:00 am: Neighbourhood walk in the Ranchlands Environmental Reserve to view teepee rings, monuments, and to identify invasive plants. Meet at the far end of Ranchlands Blvd.
 - Fall Story Walk: on a Park trail throughout November,
 - Sunday, December 1: Annual Christmas Hay Ride sponsored by the Lions Club.
 - Sunday, December 15: Annual Christmas Bird Count, Feeder Count, and Potluck supper. No December GM
- i. **Communications Committee:** Angela said there was nothing to report at this time. The Committee will get their Budget to Paul.
- j. **Birding Trails:** Phil is working on setting up a meeting with Lonna Hoggan, of Canadian Badlands Tourism.
B.T. Guides were delivered in Lethbridge to the Galt Museum, and the Helen Schuler Nature Centre. They were also delivered to the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre and the Gift Shop.
A Board member questioned if the MH College bookstore might be interested in B.T. Guides.
- k. **Bird Tales:** Hugh reported for Paul and Dee that the group will be meeting every second week starting in November.
- l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela reported that Nature Alberta will be holding a Director's meeting, on strategic planning, from 7 to 9:00 pm by teleconference October 9th.
NA will be holding their AGM on November 30th, 2019.
- m. **Web Cam Update:** Hugh reported there is no Bird feeder up at the Nature Centre yet.
Paul will be checking web cam speed once he is back from holidays.
6. Other Business
- a. **Filing Cabinet Sorting:** Phil will talk to Dennis Baresco. (See item #2 above) Some of the historic information will be archived.
Martha spoke briefly on the history of Hope Johnson, a well-known GN member, who died in 2010.
- b. **A/V training for GM presentations:** Hugh reported that David Gue will train members, such as Linda Fisher, Ian Turner, and others, who set-up monthly speakers.
Hugh noted that operating the new A/V equipment is much easier than operating earlier equipment.
- c. **Methanex:** Ian Turner, a member of Methanex's Community Advisory Panel, suggested a few topics that could be brought to CAP. These could include a talk about Field Trips (such as the upcoming trip to Schuler and Many Islands Lake), an invitation to GN Neighbourhood Walks and weed-pulls, as well as information about the Interpretive Program.
- d. **Next Board Meeting** 1:30 pm, November 5th 2019 at Ian and Angela's house.
- e. **Adjournment** 3:35 pm
- f. Refreshments

