

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
of the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Incorporated  
Friday, February 21st, 2020  
Civic Garden Complex, London, Ontario**

**1.0 Call to Order and Quorum**

Gordon Neish, President, called the 2020 Annual General (AGM) to order at 7:30 pm. Thirty members constitute a quorum for the AGM. Approximately 60 members were present.

**2.0 Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting were posted in advance of the meeting on the Nature London (McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London, Ontario, Inc.) website. A couple of amendments to the minutes were pointed out and acknowledged by the recording secretary.

**Motion** – Moved by Nick Bell and seconded by Norm Corrin: **That the minutes of the February 15th, 2019 Annual General Meeting be approved as amended.** Carried.

**3.0 President's / Annual Report**

The Annual Report, which highlights the activities of the various groups within Nature London, was made available to the membership ahead of the meeting on the website. Gordon reviewed some of the highlights and acknowledged the part that so many volunteers play in the smooth running of the organization. He reported that we had another successful year.

**4.0 Financial Report**

Prior to giving her report Lesley Pergau introduced herself and gave the membership a brief background as to her association with Nature London.

The Financial Statement to August 31, 2019 was posted on the website prior to the meeting for the membership to review. Lesley reported that Nature London is in sound financial condition with surplus funds. The Board has allocated \$15,000 for the Eco-Grants program in 2020, following \$13,000 in 2019, and \$17,700 in 2018. If more monies become available this amount could be raised to \$20,000.

**Motion** – After some questions were answered it was moved by Bernie VanDenBelt and seconded by Irma Harris: **That the 2018-2019 Financial Statements be adopted.** Carried.

**Motion** – Moved by Gordon Neish and seconded by Henry Przysieszny; **That the appointment of the auditor, if required, be deferred to the April 17th, 2020 meeting.** *[Note – Due to the pandemic, this issue was addressed at an Extraordinary*

General Meeting of Nature London Zoom Videoconference *held Wednesday July 15, 2020. The minutes of this meeting are provided as an addendum to these minutes.*]

## **5.0 Election of Directors**

Bernie VanDenBelt, Past President, presented the Nominating Committee Report. He acknowledged the work done by Norm Corrin during his term on the Board and thanked him for his six years as a Director at Large.

Bernie also welcomed two new members to the Board—Stacey Jaczko and Dan Tigchelaar—and he provided a brief synopsis of their interest in Nature London.

Bernie declared the slate of candidates for the 2020-2021 Nature London Board of Directors elected by acclamation. The Board members are as follows:

Bernie VanDenBelt	Past President
Gordon Neish	President
<i>Vacant</i>	Vice President
Lesley Pergau	Treasurer
Elizabeth Bell	Secretary
Nick Bell	Director at Large
John Berry	Director at Large
Mike Channon	Director at Large
Irma Harris	Director at Large
Stacey Jaczko	Director at Large
Paul Stevens	Director at Large
Dan Tigchelaar	Director at Large

## **6.0 Appointees for 2020-2021**

Before going through the list of appointees for 2020-2021 Bernie thanked those members who have volunteered to take on these positions. He also noted that some positions still need to be filled and that some volunteers have noted that they are looking to stand down within the next year. Consequently, we are always looking for new members to fill these positions. The membership is asked to contact Bernie or Norm (Volunteer Coordinator) if they are interested in filling a position.

Below are the appointees for 2020-2021

### **Object #1: To acquire and disseminate knowledge of natural history**

Archivists - Winifred and David Wake

Brochure Editor - Ray Robertson

E-Newsletter Editors - Ric and Sandy Symmes

Cardinal Editorial Committee - John Berry, Mike Channon, Ron Martin, Barb Bain  
*[Erratum: Muriel Andreae's name was inadvertently omitted from the list provided to members at the AGM.]*

Image Database - John Berry  
Editors of the *Guide to The Natural Areas of London and Region* - Roslyn and Jim Moorhead, Mike Channon  
Facebook Coordinator - Mady Hymowitz  
Nature Line Coordinators - Rick Martin, Cathy Quinlan, Gail McNeil  
Publicity Administrator - Sheila Scott  
Webmaster - Chris Baldock

**Object #2: To conserve wildlife and protect its natural habitat**

Cedarcroft Committee Chair - Barb Kaiser  
Conservation Action Committee Chair - Sandy Levin  
Friends of the Cove Liaison - Bill Maddeford  
Ontario Nature London Representative - Anita Caveney  
Thames Talbot Land Trust Liaison - David Wake  
Urban League Representative - Susan Price  
LEN Representative - Susan Price

**Object #3: To stimulate public interest in and understanding of nature and its protection and preservation**

Field Trip Coordinators - Christine McGonigle, Evelyn Rogers  
Indoor Meetings Coordinators - Rick Martin, Ruth Dickau, Jane Edwards  
Nature in The City Coordinator - Pat Tripp  
Saunders Library Liaison - Pat Tripp

**Object #4: To develop and sponsor special interest groups in the various fields of natural history**

Butterfly Count Coordinator - George Preiksaitis  
Birding Wing Programme Coordinators - Rose Braxton, Kathy McCoy, Quinten Wiegiersma  
Bird Records Secretary - Pete Read  
Chimney Swift Liaison - Winifred Wake  
Christmas Bird Count Compiler - Pete Read

**Club Administration**

AV for Regular Meetings - Rick Martin, Ric Symmes, Gordon Neish  
AV for Birding Wing - Quinten Wiegiersma  
Awards Banquet Coordinators - Deb Gorman-Smith  
Giving Program Coordinator - Susan Relecom  
Cookie, Coffee and Tea Coordinators - Linda and Jim Bristow  
Manual Secretary. - Cathy Quinlan  
Membership Database Support - Hugh Casbourn  
Membership Secretary - Gail McNeil  
Sales Coordinator - Ann Henderson

Book Donation Coordinator - Betsy Baldwin  
Volunteer Coordinator - Norm Corrin  
Web host - Sylvia White

### **7.0 Other Business**

No other business items were raised.

### **8.0 Adjournment**

**Motion** – Moved by Bernie VanDenBelt and seconded by Mike Channon: **That the meeting be adjourned.** Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

## **ADDENDUM**

### **Extraordinary General Meeting of Nature London Zoom Videoconference Wednesday July 15th, 2020 At 7:00 pm**

Gordon Neish called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm after it was verified that 52 members had logged in and that we had consequently reached our quorum of 30 members.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the dispensation of our annual audit.

To start the meeting Gordon gave a brief outline on the background of audit dispensation; viz.,

- a) In the past the club was required to have an annual audit under the *Ontario Corporations Act*. The cost was approximately \$3,000 in 2017-2018.
- b) The *Cutting Unnecessary Red Tape Act* of 2017 allows corporations with annual income under \$100,000 to dispense with an audit in a given year.
- c) Notice of the meeting and of the intention to pass an extraordinary resolution must be given. The resolution requires a majority of at least 80% to pass. If passed, the resolution only applies to the current year.
- d) In 2018-2019 Nature London's by-laws were amended to permit the audit dispensation option to be implemented.
- e) Subsequently, Nature London members resolved on April 26th, 2019 that the Corporation dispense with the external audit for the year ending on August 31st, 2019.
- f) It is proposed to dispense with annual audit for the 2019-2020 fiscal year ending on August 31st, 2020 due to:
  - i) cost savings;
  - ii) the relative lack of usefulness of external audits for Nature London's fiscal accountability; and, hence,
  - iii) ultimate responsibility for financial statements with the Board.
- g) The current expenditure control measures and additional oversight measures will continue to ensure robust fiscal oversight.
- h) The issue was originally intended to be dealt with at an Indoor Meeting scheduled for April 17th, 2020; however, the meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- i) With Nature London's adoption of Zoom meetings, we can now address this issue.

After Gordon' s presentation the following motion was put forward:

**Motion** – It was moved by Mike Channon and seconded by Anita Caveney: **That the members of Nature London resolve that the Corporation dispense with the annual external audit for the year ending August 31st, 2020.**

There being no further discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

**Motion** – There being no further business, it was moved by Gordon Neish and seconded by Chris Ellis: **That the meeting be adjourned at 7:20 pm.** Carried.