

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF NATURE LONDON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2022
Via Zoom**

Prior to the official start of the meeting, Gordon read the following Land Acknowledgment:

“We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, and Lunaapeewak peoples who have longstanding relationships to the land, water and region of southwestern Ontario.”

1.0 Call to Order

Gordon Neish, President, called the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to order at 7.35 p.m. Thirty members constitute a quorum. There were approximately 60 members in attendance.

2.0 Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were posted on the Nature London website prior to the meeting for members to read.

Motion: It was moved by Norm Corrin and seconded by Bernie VanDenBelt: **That the minutes of the February 19th, 2021 Annual General Meeting be approved as amended.** Carried

3.0 2020-2021 Annual Report

The Annual Report, posted on our website, is a comprehensive report of the range and scope of our activities, and Gordon encouraged everyone to read it. He noted that Nature London continued to be very active over the past year despite COVID restrictions.

4.0 Financial Report

The unaudited Financial Statements to August 31st, 2021 were posted on the website prior to the meeting. Lesley Pergau presented the report and advised the membership that the club is in a sound financial position with surplus funds. Our net assets as of August 31st, 2021 were \$142,349 with revenue over expenses of \$28,241. Our cash in hand was \$106,571. The Board has allocated \$20,000 for our Eco-Grants Program in 2022. Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) was invested in a 10-year limited term endowment fund (Nature London Fund) within the London Community Foundation.

Motion: It was moved by Lesley Pergau and seconded by Gordon Neish: **That the 2020-2021 Financial Statements be adopted subject to the satisfactory internal review to be performed later in 2022 when circumstances permit.** Carried

5.0 Audit Dispensation

It is proposed to dispense with an external audit for the 2021-2022 fiscal year ending August 31st, 2022 due to i) cost savings; ii) the relative lack of usefulness of external audits for Nature London's fiscal accountability and hence iii) the ultimate responsibility for financial statements resting with the Board.

The resolution requires a majority of at least 80% to pass, and, if passed, only applies to the current year.

The current expenditure control measures and additional oversight (due diligence) measures will continue to ensure robust fiscal oversight.

Motion: It was moved by Gordon Neish and seconded by Garry Cruickshank: **That the members of Nature London resolve that the Corporation dispense with the annual external audit for the year ending August 31st, 2022.** Carried

6.0 Election of Directors

Bernie VanDenBelt, chair of the Nominating Committee, facilitated this agenda item.

Four Board members are stepping down this year (Nick Bell, Dan Tigchelaar Chrisoula Van Oirschot and Bernie VanDenBelt). These members were thanked for their work and commitment during their terms in office.

Bernie then introduced two new members to the Board — Darby Alderson and Don Taves. Darby and Don both said a few words to introduce themselves.

Bernie VanDenBelt declared the slate of candidates for the 2022-2023 Nature London Board of Directors elected by acclamation.

The Board members are as follows:

Gordon Neish	Past President
To be determined	President
To be determined	Vice President
Lesley Pergau	Treasurer
Liz Bell	Recording Secretary
Darby Alderson	Director at Large
John Berry	Director at Large
Mike Channon	Director at Large
Garry Cruickshank	Director at Large
Jennifer Evans	Director at Large
Grant Hopcroft	Director at Large
Stacey Jaczko	Director at Large
Don Taves	Director at Large

7.0 Appointees for 2022-2023

Before going through the list of appointees for 2022-2023, Bernie thanked those volunteers who have stepped down from their positions, those who are continuing on and those who have agreed to take on new positions. Anyone interested in becoming part of a committee is asked to contact our volunteer coordinator, Norm Corrin, or Bernie VanDenBelt.

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

- Archivists - Winifred and David Wake
- Brochure Editor - Ray Robertson
- E-Newsletter Coordinators - Ric and Sandy Symmes
- Email Coordinators - Ric and Sandy Symmes

The Cardinal Editorial Committee - Muriel Andreae, John Berry, Mike Channon, Carrie Long
Image Database - John Berry
Natural Areas Guide Editor - Mike Channon
Facebook Coordinator - Mady Hymowitz
YouTube Coordinator - Kathleen Holland
Webmaster - Chris Baldock

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

Cedarcroft Manager - Barb Kaiser
Conservations Action Committee Chair - Sandy Levin
Friends of the Coves Liaison - Bill Maddeford
Ontario Nature Representative - Anita Caveney
Thames Talbot Land Trust Liaison - David Wake
Urban League Representative - Susan Price
London Environmental Network Representative - Susan Price
Bird Friendly City Representative - Stacey Jaczko

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

Field Trips Coordinator - Evelyn Rogers
Indoor Meetings Coordinators - Glenn Berry, Ruth Dickau, Rick Martin
Nature in the City Coordinator - *vacant*
Saunders Library Liaison - *vacant*

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

Butterfly Count Coordinator - George Prieksaitis
Birding Wing Program Coordinators - Garth Casbourn, Kathy McCoy, Gail McNeil, Paul Roedding
Chimney Swift Liaison - Winifred Wake
Christmas Bird Count Compiler - Pete Read
Osprey Monitoring Coordinators - Ric and Sandy Symmes

Club Administration

Audio Visual for Indoor Meetings - Rick Martin, Ric Symmes

Audio Visual for Birding Wing - Gordon Neish

Awards Banquet Coordinator - *vacant*

Awards Banquet Prizes Coordinator - 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 Donations Coordinator - Betsy Baldwin

Volunteer Coordinator - Norm Corrin

Web Host - Sylvia White

Special Committees

Awards Committee - Muriel Andreae, Anita Caveney, Bernie VanDenBelt

Eco-Grants Committee - Carol Agocs, Garry Cruickshank, Jennifer Evans, Susan Hall, Sandy Levin, Lesley Pergau, Susan Relecom, Bernie VanDenBelt

Finance Committee - Garry Cruickshank, Grant Hopcroft, Sandy Levin, Lesley Pergau, Bernie VanDenBelt

8.0 Other Business

There was no other business

9.0 Adjournment

Motion: It was moved by Anita Caveney and seconded by Don Taves: **That the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m.** Carried