

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF NATURE LONDON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, 2023**
This was a hybrid meeting

Prior to the official start of the meeting, Bernie 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.

We, as a club, are committed to continuing our dialogue with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.”

1.0 Call to Order

Bernie VanDenBelt, President, called the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to order at 7.35 p.m. Thirty members constitute a quorum. There were approximately 60 members in attendance - 30 in person and more than 30 at home via Zoom.

2.0 Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were posted on the Nature London website prior to the meeting for members to read.

Motion: It was moved by Don Taves and seconded by Anita Caveney: **That the minutes of the March 18th, 2022, Annual General Meeting be approved as presented.** Carried

3.0 2021-2022 Annual Report

The Annual Report, posted on our website, is a comprehensive report of the range and scope of our activities, and Bernie encouraged everyone to read it. He thanked Gordon for putting the report together and all the volunteers who had contributed. Bernie went over the highlights of the report and noted that Nature London continued to be very active over the past year when other clubs struggled through the Covid pandemic.

4.0 Financial Report

The unaudited Financial Statements to August 31st, 2022, 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, 2022, were \$132,669.

Expenses for the year were \$50,426 and revenue was \$41,582. This left us with a deficit of \$8,884 which was due to a payment of \$12,000 to have a tree removed at Cedarcroft. Fortunately, we had the funds to cover it. Without that expense we would have had a surplus.

Our cash in hand as of January 31st, 2023, was \$123,467. The Board has allocated \$15,000 for our Eco-Grants Program in 2023.

A question was raised as to whether there is a line in the budget for marketing. Currently there is no such a line, but Bernie noted that we market the club through attending public events such as Seedy Saturday and Earthfest. We also have a Facebook page which has over 900 followers.

Another question was raised as to why money from our Eco-Grants program in 2021 was donated to Childreach. Bernie explained that Childreach runs an outdoor learning program that the Eco-Grants committee agreed was worthy of support.

Motion: It was moved by Lesley Pergau and seconded by Ruth Dickau: **That the 2021-2022 Financial Statements be adopted.** Carried

5.0 Audit Dispensation

It is proposed to dispense with an external audit for the 2022-2023 fiscal year ending August 31st, 2023, 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.

This proposal is consistent with compliance with Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA).

Motion: It was moved by Stan Caveney and seconded by Bob Wright: **That the members of Nature London resolve that the Corporation dispense with the annual external audit for the year ending August 31st, 2023.** Carried

6.0 Election of Directors

Gordon Neish, Past President, facilitated this part of the agenda.

Two Board members are stepping down this year (Mike Channon and Bernie VanDenBelt). These members were thanked for their work and commitment during their terms in office. It was noted that Mike is doing a great job with the *Natural Areas Guide* and that Bernie had served an extra year on the Board as is permitted by item 2.2 in the Manual.

Gordon then introduced a new member to the Board — Matthew Palarchio. Mathew said a few words to introduce himself.

Gordon 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
Don Taves	President
Bob Wright	Vice President
Lesley Pergau	Treasurer
Liz Bell	Recording Secretary
Darby Alderson	Director at Large

John Berry	Director at Large
Garry Cruickshank	Director at Large
Jennifer Evans	Director at Large
Grant Hopcroft	Director at Large
Stacey Jaczko	Director at Large
Matthew Palarchio	Director at Large

7.0 Appointees for 2022-2023

Before going through the list of appointees for 2023-2024 Gordon thanked those volunteers who have stepped down from their positions, those who are continuing 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 Gordon Neish.

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 - Glenn Berry

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 - Pat Tripp

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 - *vacant*
 Chimney Swift Liaison - Winifred Wake (until end of 2023 swift season)
 Christmas Bird Count Compiler - Pete Read
 Osprey Monitoring Coordinators - Ric and Sandy Symmes

Club Administration

Audio Visual for Indoor Meetings - Glenn Berry
Audio Visual for Birding Wing - Glenn Berry
Awards Banquet Coordinator - *vacant*
Awards Banquet Prizes Coordinator - Deb Gorman-Smith
Giving Program Coordinator - Grace Edwards
Cookie, Coffee and Tea Coordinators - *on hold*
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

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, Bob Wright

8.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

9.0 Adjournment

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