



Delta Naturalists Society

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Delta Naturalists Society Meeting – Minutes (2nd Draft)

Jan. 2, 2019

Introduction: President Tom Bearss called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. He welcomed the membership and guests present, including those from Point Roberts. He then acknowledged the executive present, including Treasurer Jim Kneesch, Vice-President Elizabeth Perrin, and Directors Anita Den Dikken, Chris McVittie and Syd Barber, who is taking the minutes tonight. Tom thanked Paul for handling our audio-visual equipment, as usual. He mentioned that Mike is selling 50:50 tickets and that Audrey's injury is preventing her from preparing the newsletter for the time being.

Approval of Minutes: Carol Rennie moved that the Society's December 4, 2018 meeting minutes be approved. Valerie Fuller seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Mail: Treasurer Jim K. reported that no mail was received during the last month.

Financial and Membership Report: Treasurer Jim K. reported that our December 31 bank balance stood at \$7,526.08. December expenditures totaled \$851 while deposits were \$409. The major expenditure was about \$600 for barn owl nest box materials. We collected \$363 in membership dues. Jim went on to say that we have 48 paid up individual members and 28 paid up family memberships, representing a total of 104 individuals.

Jim further reported that we purchased a supply of Delta Naturalists business cards in December at a cost of \$95. These cards bear the Society's attractive logo, our name, and our internet and Facebook addresses. They also have a blank line to allow members to write in their name before they hand them out to people who may be interested in Delta Naturalists.

Finally, Jim reported that we're now online with our umbrella provincial organization, BC Nature.

Acknowledgements: President Tom took a moment to remind us that BC Nature has 51 affiliated naturalist clubs ranged across the province, including ours. All members receive a quarterly BC Nature magazine. Our own Society membership year, by the way, is September 1 – August 31.

Tom thanked Valerie for orchestrating the "awesome" recent publicity of our monthly meeting in the Delta Optimist.

Environmental Issues: Anita reported that she has just returned from a holiday and therefore has nothing to report with regard to environmental issues.

Speakers upcoming: Tom noted that our Tuesday, February 5 monthly meeting will feature Jocelyn Demers and a video on the Fraser River Watershed. On March 5, Misty McDuffee of the Raincoast Conservation Society will talk to us about the Southern Resident Killer Whales.

Social Committee: Tom thanked Joanne and Jennifer for coordinating the social part of our meeting. They acknowledged the following people for bringing treats tonight: Margaretha Schramm; Noreen Rudd; Valerie Fuller; Angela Burnett; Anita Den Dikken and Ann Avery.

Recent Activities: Tom reported that the Birds on the Bay event in mid-December was well attended by about 32 participants. Terry has posted a report and photos on our website. The next weekly (i.e. Tuesday morning) club outing will be on Jan. 8 to White Rock and nearby environs.

President Tom also commented on the Christmas Bird Count, which we participated in. One hundred and twenty-nine (129) species were tallied in the South Delta area by the various teams involved, down from some recent years, possibly in part because of bad weather on count day. Victoria counters saw 140 species so they beat us – again!

Finally, Jim K reported on the recent work of the Bird Box team, whose work has been aided and abetted by a BC Nature grant. The team has completed building 10 barn owl nest boxes for inside buildings and 2 to be mounted outside buildings. Six of the interior boxes and one of the exterior boxes have been installed. The team, consisting of Jim, Peter, Chris, Jack and Roger, have started to build another six boxes for placement outside of buildings. Sofi Hindmarch is the barn owl technical expert guiding the design and placement of the nesting boxes.

Upcoming Events: Upcoming events include:

1. participation in a Boundary Bay Park Association meeting
2. a bird box building workshop with Nature Kids on Feb. 20 (*since changed to Feb. 28*), and
3. participation in Boundary Bay Park Association's Heritage Day at Cammidge House on Feb. 22.

Notable Bird Sightings: None reported.

Question from the floor: Jim Ronback noted that the next BC Nature AGM is in Duncan but wondered where the meeting headquarters was going to be in Duncan. Tom said he couldn't recall, offhand, where the headquarters will be but that the BC Nature website has lots of information about the upcoming AGM and should note the hotel headquarters, as well. *{Secretarial note: The Winter 2018 edition of BCnature also contains detailed information about the AGM (on pages 32 and 33). This information identifies the Duncan Ramada Hotel as the location of "All Meetings and Speakers".}*

Next meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 5 at the usual time and place, with Jocelyn Demers narrating a video on the Fraser River Watershed.

Adjournment: President Tom adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.