



Delta Naturalists Society

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DELTA NATURALISTS SOCIETY MEETING March 3, 2020 Draft Minutes

Welcome: President Tom called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. He introduced the executive present – Anita, Audrey, Jim and Syd – and welcomed guests. He outlined the basic structure of the meeting: a short business meeting, including a discussion of the final Program Review report; a break for socializing and refreshments; then a presentation by Lina Azeez of the Watershed Watch Salmon Society.

Minutes: Jim Ronback moved that the circulated minutes of the Feb. 11, 2020 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Marilynn King. The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported income of \$178.05 in February. There were significant expenditures during the month as we paid the annual hall rental fee of \$450 and BC Nature dues/insurance of \$1,746.90. Membership stood at 122 individuals, split almost exactly 50:50 between individual and family membership holders.

Acknowledgements: Joanne and Tom thanked Valerie Whitham for coordinating the social aspect of tonight's meeting. Valerie, in turn, thanked Margaret, Carol and Jane for bringing goodies for the meeting. Valerie acknowledged that she contributed some treats, as well. Tom commented on the great work that the Birds and Biodiversity Committee is doing. Tom also introduced our new Membership Coordinator, Joanne Van Snellenberg, who is working closely with Jim on membership administration matters and giving us more recruitment work capacity. Joanne offered to send a letter to guests if they will please leave a legible name and address when they sign the guest register at the front desk.

Environment Issues/Upcoming Speakers: Anita had no environmental issues to report. She provided a run-down of the scheduled, upcoming meeting speakers.

BC Nature Report: The BC Nature Conference & AGM is planned for Princeton, May 28-31, 2020. Tom reported that several DNS members are planning to attend.

Recent Society Activities:

There have been four Delta Naturalists Casual Birding (DNCB) weekly outings since the February meeting. Members can check the DNCB Blog at: www.dncb.wordpress.com for outing reports and photos.

Other club activities since the Jan. 2 meeting include:

1. Fri. Feb. 14 BBPA meeting, Cammidge House
2. Mon. Feb. 17 DNS executive meeting, Tom's house
3. Wed. Feb. 26 Birds/Bioblitz meeting, Terry Carr's home
4. Birds and Biodiversity Committee meeting

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Editorial Note: All these events have been cancelled because of the virus crisis. The DNS executive has also cancelled the April, May and June monthly meetings. We hope to resume regular meetings in September following the usual break over July and August.

- 1) Fri. Mar. 6, BBPA meeting, Cammidge House,
- 2) Wed. Mar. 18, quarterly Birds on the Bay outing, Cammidge House, 9:00 AM
- 3) Sat. Apr. 4, Birds in Focus Presentations, Tsa Arts Centre, 6:30 PM
- 4) Sun. Apr. 5, Birds in Focus workshop, Cammidge House, 9:00 AM

Other Reports: Tom reported that the BBPA (Boundary Bay Parks Association) has hired a great new coordinator. There is lots of cross over between that organization and DNS. Indeed, the BBPA membership is comprised largely of DNS members. Tom mentioned that we're scheduled to show and staff our display at a whole bunch of upcoming events; see Terry for details and if you can help out. We've also got four big Bird Week events coming up that we could sure use some help with.

Bird Box Team report: Jack reported, on behalf of the team, that two barn owl nest boxes at Kings Links golf course are occupied by barn owls this spring. The team is planning to make 10 more for installation around the Lower Mainland, wherever hosts can be found. The team has also cleaned out local tree swallow nest boxes (e.g. BBRP; Kings Links golf course) in preparation for the arrival of the tree swallows.

Program Review ("Moving Forward" proposal) discussion: Tom introduced the discussion, referring to this year-long project to review the activities of DNS and reflect on what we might wish to do, going forward. The project culminated recently in the Moving Forward conceptual plan that was distributed electronically to the membership and is available in hard copy here tonight. Finally, he acknowledged the 11 member working group, including the DNS executive, that conducted the project and opened the floor for discussion of the proposed plan.

Carol: Sensed the proposed plan is seeking to raise the profile of DNS. Spoke in favour of some distinctive clothing for club members to wear (e.g. when volunteering on public

club projects), recounted a comparable experience with another organization and said she might be able to help with this initiative, if we go forward.

Paul: Is the point of the plan to enhance recruitment?

Tom: That's one of several objectives.

Carol: Another good reason (to come up with a uniform clothing item) is to identify DNS members (when they're volunteering in a public setting).

Ann: Commented on how other people at the AGMs really liked the DNS T-shirts that DNS attendees used to wear.

Paul: Should we try to engage UBC students?

Carol: We don't fund raise; how would we fund a scholarship?

Richard: Didn't we have a student working for us collecting data on English sparrows usurping the tree swallow nest boxes in BBPA?

Tom: That was a BBPA student.

Deb Jacks: Do we celebrate Earth Day?

Tom: We support the Delta Watershed Park annual salmon release on or around that day, in partnership with the City of Delta.

Ann: Is there a day called INature coming up?

Tom: Yes, we're going to participate @ Iona Regional Park in April.

Guest: Lots of good ideas (in the report); you're going to need some funding to implement them.

Syd: Yes. The plan is to advance a short list of ideas on an annual basis, as part of the annual budgeting process, and deal with it that way (e.g. one bite at a time).

Deb Jacks: Are we interested in (doing some work on) fungi?

Tom: I think our Birds and Biodiversity Committee are planning a publication on this.

Abby: With respect to greater involvement with schools, the private school (Southpointe Academy) near the Baptist Church in Tsawwassen might be a good one to contact.

Valerie: What does general nature walks mean? Looking at plants?

Tom: Yes, could well be.

Richard: Years ago, we tried to get involved with a school and it didn't work very well.

Program Review (“Moving Forward” proposal) conclusion: Tom asked whether there was support to adopt and move forward with the proposed plan. There was a large show of hands signifying support.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 7 at 7:30 PM.

Social Break

Presentation: Lina Azeez gave an interesting and informative presentation regarding what her non profit organization, the Watershed Watch Salmon Society, is doing in an effort to restore important salmon rearing habitat in the Lower Mainland, including here in Delta.

Meeting Adjournment: President Tom thanked Ms. Azeez for her presentation and adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:15 PM

2nd Draft, March 25, 2020.