



Delta Naturalists Society

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DNS Final Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2024 via Zoom and In-Person

Present: Approximately 25 by Zoom and 18 at the Ladner All Saints Anglican Church.

1 & 2. DNS members gathered at the church shortly after 7pm with treats supplied by DNS and organized by Nicki and Bruce. Syd started the formal meeting at 7:30pm.

3. Agenda – Syd, by Zoom, stated that it was a good turnout for the meeting and wished all members a Happy New Year and all the best for 2024. He asked for agenda comments. Item #5 will be deferred as Thea is not available this evening. Syd: The agenda was otherwise endorsed.

4. Minutes of November 7, 2023 DNS Meeting – Syd asked for errors or omissions and asked all to send him comments if necessary. No comments raised so he deemed the minutes approved.

5. N/A

6. Financial and Membership – Syd thanked Jim and Jonathan for all the effort concerning financials and membership. Jim showed the Financial Report and reported that the DNS is projecting a small loss this fiscal year; however, the bank balance is solid. About \$1,700 will be submitted to BCN – our membership dues - in the near future. DNS membership, currently 34 Family and 68 Individual memberships, is about the same as at this time last year. Kristina Johnston is a new member from Tsawwassen. Syd entrusted that the new website may help with membership. Paul Rennie asked if our UBC Bearss Bursary was topped up; Jim verified that it was. Syd stated that the bursary was fully endowed with a principal of \$61,000, and receives 5%/annum dividends. Syd expressed the hope that DNS may be able to meet at least one of the bursary recipients. Audrey noted that DNS received a nice thank you letter from one of the recipients and that DNS needed to respect the UBC policy which affords bursary recipients the right to privacy. Paul agreed but said that it would be nice if at least some the recipients would identify themselves.

7. Birds and Biodiversity Committee - Anne Murray gave a comprehensive report concerning the recent Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and Christmas Bird Count (CBC) bird surveys.

Anne noted that the KBA work was organized by BirdStudiesCanada and covered Fraser Delta land and sea areas. 133 bird species were counted totalling 178,168 individual birds. Six species met the population threshold for a KBA.

The Ladner CBC was held on December 17th with 25 counters and resulted in 87 species observed from the Ladner Area. There were several bird feeder counts and 23 e-Bird lists. Nicki organized the CBC wrap-up at a local watering hole!

Anne stated that the Birds and Biodiversity Committee will update the two Bird Brochures Delta's Mayor has asked for DNS advice on the wildlife importance and management of the City grassland at the south end of Boundary Bay Regional Park, Work will resume on the snake hibernaculum issues in the spring.

8. Presentation - Elizabeth introduced Martin Gregus's Jr. talk about his adventures in photography from Pole to Pole. Elizabeth noted that Martin is an international award-winning photographer whose article and photos on polar bears were published in National Geographic, Canadian Geographic and Geo France. Questions following his amazing talk were moderated by Elizabeth and Syd.

9. Next Meeting – February 6th with Ron Long speaking about the Botany of Chile and Argentina.

10. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at about 9:15pm.