

Summary of the Minutes of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club Board Meeting, December 6, 2012.

By Joyce Litster

Mike Street addressed the December Board Meeting and discussed three topics.

1) The proposed wave break at La Salle Marina and the effect this would likely have on the Trumpeter Swans that winter there. There is concern that the wave break would allow the water to freeze in the winter, and the hard work that has gone into restoring the swans to Ontario would be undone.

2) The proposed Niagara wind farm will be placed on land that is much more highly populated than that at the Leamington wind farm. The turbines will be twice as tall and the blades twice as long as those at Leamington. If the windfarm is located near the escarpment, the Niagara Hawk Watch may be able to oppose it, but if it is farther away, there may be nothing that they can do. Mike will keep us informed.

3) The Falcon Watch is in a state of flux at the moment. Audrey Gamble has retired as the co-ordinator and Mike has taken over temporarily. The Falcon Watch needs more volunteers and more funding from grants, which are getting harder to come by, and from donations.

Website Renewal

Peter reported that he had a quote of between \$3500 and \$4000 for the Wordpress software. He will keep us informed about this, and in the meantime, the Website Committee will meet in early January.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraising Report

The Club made approximately \$3000 with over \$1000 coming from the silent auction. Attendance was down, and the Sanctuary Committee discussed the reasons for this. We plan to hold the spaghetti dinner again next year.

Econet

Econet has put together a sustainability plan and assigned a fee to each participating group. The HNC will pay \$75 per year to support Econet and its website, Act Locally.

Social Coordinator

Tony Scacchi has retired as Social Coordinator. The Board expressed its thanks for Tony's work. Catherine Flatt, who has been helping Tony, was appointed the new Social Director.

Volunteer Director Portfolio

Elaine Serena is retiring from the Volunteer Director position. The Club is looking for a replacement.

Cootes to Escarpment Memorandum of Understanding.

Our commitment to the Cootes to Escarpment System is \$1100 per year for three years, after which time the commitment will be reviewed to see if it is working. The Board approved the contents of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Donation of Nolan Property, HCA

The Board has agreed to donate \$5000 to the Hamilton Community Foundation to support the HCA in the acquisition of the Nolan property, which will be part of the Cootes to Escarpment System. The Nolan property is location on York Road in the Pleasantview area of Dundas.