

Summary of the Minutes of the February 9, 2012 HNC Board Meeting

By Joyce Litster

Items discussed:

HNC Storage Space

Lois Evans gave the Storage Committee the HNC documents she has been keeping in her house. It appears that combined with the Minutes now in the Ontario Archives, those brought by Lois and those currently held by Joyce Litster, the current Club Secretary, the Club has a complete set of minutes from 1919 to the present. Lois also brought some items of value to the Club. These include a first edition of R.T. Peterson's A Field Guide to the Birds (1934) which belonged to Owen Merriman, the Club's first President, a first edition of Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the United States and Canada (1896), several scrapbooks including one compiled by former Club President Marion Shivas, and George North's tripod and scope. The Minutes will go into the Hamilton Public Library Archives, but the Board will have to decide whether all the memorabilia should go into the HPL Archives or some of them should go into our display at the Hamilton Conservation Authority office at Woodend.

Birding Hotline

It's official, the Birding Hotline has been discontinued. Consult the *Wood Duck* for the number where you report your rare birds and interesting sightings.

Website Committee

Members of the Committee held their first meeting. They will examine the web site and develop ideas for improvement. One item to be addressed is the establishment of a clear chain of command to get the information to our webmaster, Mark Green.

Cootes to Escarpment Draft Governance Model

David Galbraith of the RBG will be meeting with the CEO's of all the stakeholders involved in the Cootes to Escarpment plan to reach agreement on a governance model. McMaster University, which was not previously involved, is now very interested. HNC and the other stakeholders will attend a CEO's Breakfast on March 7th.

Potential Change of Auditors

Treasurer Jim Heslop investigated the possibility of changing the Club's auditor in order to find a less expensive auditing service. He has found Gibb-Widdis of Ancaster. The Board has agreed to nominate Gibb-Widdis to conduct our annual audit. The Club's membership must approve the change before it can occur, so the nomination will be presented for membership approval at the April meeting.

Brock St. (Dundas) Development

Conservation and Education Director, Terry Carleton, advised the Board that a 7-story apartment development below the Dundas Peak on Brock St. has been proposed. The developer is attempting to put the development closer to the drip-line of the Environmentally Sensitive Area below the peak than regulations allow. This is something the Club would oppose.

Motions Passed:

That the Board approve the transfer of \$8,464 (for fiscal years 2010 and 2011) to the Hamilton Community Foundation for deposit in our Habitat Preservation Endowment Fund, according to our agreement with HCF. An HNC policy recommends that a 15% portion of the funds raised for land acquisition be transferred to the HPEF at the end of the Club's fiscal year, based on financial feasibility. This is to help ensure the long-term sustainability of our nature sanctuaries.

That the Board approve a change of auditors from A. Polzer to Gibb-Widdis, subject to the approval of the HNC Membership which will be requested at the April general meeting.