



Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Ed welcomed everyone at 7:00 p.m including a few new faces, including Isabelle from Calgary; Pat Hutchins, and Sarah Weaver, among others.

Minutes:

Janet clarified a detail about the funds from the Shuswap Community Foundation, as discussed in the November minutes. Otherwise, the minutes were accepted as circulated. Moved by Ted, 2nd Marlene.

Treasurer's report:

Ted reported the following for November 2011:
Bank balance as of November 1, 2011 was \$950.56.
Revenue:

Dues	\$120.00	
Coffee	\$15.75	
Donation	\$10.00	Total: \$145.75
Expenditures:		
Christmas Bird Count	\$10.10	

Bank balance on Dec. 6 \$1,136.21 (\$350.42 of that for Nature Park)
Ted moved acceptance of the report, 2nd Greg.

Announcements:

1. Elections in January
Think about whether you'd like to run for any of the positions, and if you're interested, contact Joanne.
2. Award presentation
Janet – the Naturalists' bursary was presented to Larina Thornton (spelling?) who is in third year taking earth sciences at TRU. She was happy to receive the money and will write a letter to the club telling us a little more about herself.
3. North Shuswap Christmas Bird Count
Ed McDonald spoke with Rick Howie, and the North Shuswap club would like some help with their bird count to be held on December 15. Ed M and John Coffey will do the White Lake area, and the Dahls will do the Blind Bay area.

Business:

1. Friends of Little Mountain Park
Sandra is proposing the formation of a new society called Friends of Little Mountain Park. She is hoping that the society will have an open, informal dialogue with City Hall, and that this would provide some opportunity for input from a pro-park perspective when City Hall makes decisions.

It would also provide a forum for communication among park users. Those interested in joining the society, please let Sandra know and she will add you to the email list.

Ed M mentioned that Little Mountain Park is worthy of protection because of the presence of species such as Western Toad, Indian Pipe, and Coral Root, among others.

2. Christmas Bird Count

This will be held Sunday, Dec. 18, with the reception to be held at the Seniors' Drop-in Centre. All participants need to pay a \$5 fee; and the count begins at 9:00 a.m. (Reception at 3:00 p.m.) Ted is organizing the teams – please contact him for the details of who is leading in each of the four quadrants.

Volunteers are needed for cleanup after the reception, and attendees are requested to bring finger foods, either savoury or sweet.

Gary & Darlene will be taking numbers for the backyard counts, which may be submitted up to the following day, Mon. Dec. 19. Phone numbers as follows: Gary 250-832-4171; Darlene 250-832-7285.

Reports

1. SABNES – Don

The center is currently in winter shutdown mode; and beavers have been gnawing on trees along the trail, so it may become necessary to put wire around the base of the bigger trees to prevent further damage.

Joyce: The City has hired someone to trap and kill beavers at the wharf;

Ed Dahl: Hanne is planning to write a letter on the matter to the papers; plus she also plans to forward the letter to the new mayor.

Joyce: would like to make a motion to write a letter to the Mayor and City Council.

MOTION: that the club does not support this practice of trapping beavers, and to this end the club will write a letter to Mayor and Council.

Moved by Joyce, 2nd Sherry.

Sightings

- Gillian – Pygmy Owl
- Ted – lots of pigeons, and a Gyrfalcon after them
 - Also a Rusty Blackbird among a flock of Red Wings, west of the nature trail.
- Ted Kay – a chickadee with a curved tail feather.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m., moved by Gary.

After the meeting there were Christmas goodies to be had at the break, and member presentations afterwards.