

Quinte Field Naturalists

General Meeting of the Membership

October 16, 2023, 7pm

Centennial Secondary School Cafeteria

Attendance 58

Minutes prepared by Sharron Blaney

1. Elizabeth Churcher welcomed all. Anyone wanting a free rain barrel- see Karen St.Germain.
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Housekeeping items: directions to washrooms, next speaker David McLagan "Wildfires, Pollution and Impact". Elizabeth thanked Debi Butler and Nancy Stevenson for the snacks available after the presentation.
4. Treasurer's report: Dan Guenther reported a balance of \$9900 which will be \$16000 once city hall reimburses money spent for tree planting.
5. Denice Wilkins again reminded members that QFN needs a Marketing Convener. Looking for anyone with writing skills, artistic skills, tech skills and social media experience.
6. Update on tree planting October 10,2023 at Shirley Langer Trail: Greg Parsons presented a detailed report on the tree planting event thanking Belleville Firefighters, 35 students from St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School, representatives from 2 Home Hardware stores and members of QFN for assistance with planting. Greg also thanked John Lowry, Dan Guenther, Connan Nurseries and Native Themes for their contributions. Celia Johnston from Trees Canada declared this planting the best event she had attended this year and encouraged QFN to apply for further grants next year. Communities can apply for \$3000 grant and municipalities can apply for \$10000. Money raised from the plant sale (\$4500) will be used to purchase more plants. Another plant sale is planned for next spring. This committee is looking for additional members.
7. Beaver Committee Report: Catherine Baier gave an update on QFN's efforts to persuade Belleville council to amend their current wildlife/trapping policy in order to change its focus from killing beavers and to rely on non-lethal management techniques that would foster their goal of coexistence with wildlife. In April 2023 QFN recommended to council that they hire a qualified beaver management professional to address any conflicts with beavers. Council did not respond to

QFN's letter so QFN requested a deputation to the Green Task Force which was held on July 28 to clarify our position and to offer support. Representatives from the Highland Waters Metis Council, Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre and the Humane Society of Hastings and Prince Edward also attended the deputation to read statements supporting QFN's recommendations. The Green Task Force are meeting on October 27 to make a decision on QFN's request that the GTF recommend to council that they support QFN's position. Chris Malette, chair of the GTF has agreed for Skip Lyle, an internationally renowned beaver management expert, to attend the meeting via conference video to provide more information. The committee is hoping for a positive response from the GTF that would benefit the residents, the beavers, the wetlands and be good economics for the town of Belleville.

8. Draw: John Lowry presented 3 prizes. He also reported that the alcohol container and pop can collection has reached \$2777 and the buckthorn removal project at Sandbanks had lots of QFN members helping.
9. Sightings 2 bald eagles
10. Speaker: Jonathan Balcombe was introduced by Catherine. His talk "Bats: Myth and Reality" entertained and enlightened us with interesting facts about bats. His many photos of bats showed us there is more variety in bats than we realized. And no- they do not get caught in your hair! Penny Vance thanked Jonathan.
11. Closure: Elizabeth Churcher thanked all for coming and reminded all to enjoy a treat before leaving.