



**MINUTES OF MVFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022
6:45 p.m.**

The Members' Night and the Annual General Meeting of MVFN was held via a ZOOM session on the above date and the attendance was estimated to be up to 50% of the paid members. Preceding the AGM session, the membership was able to receive Ken Allison's presentation on Bird Sightings as well as have an opportunity to view photos of flora and other sightings submitted by members in the area.

Two other presentations were also organized by the Program Committee. Ron Williamson introduced the presenters: Dave Overholt, speaking on "Phragmites: Updates from a Local Invasive" and Joachim Moenig speaking on "Biodiversity in a Small Space Continuum". He proceeded to outline the Agenda and Program planned for the evening.

Dave Overholt described Phragmites as Canada's most invasive plant according to Agriculture Canada and stated that it can easily be found in Lanark County's wetlands and marshes. He addressed ways of identifying this species and how to stop its invasive spread indicating that invasive sites can be recorded on Eddmaps which can subsequently be shared with other Townships, regions, property owners as well as Government departments.

Leslie Williamson thanked Mr. Overholt for his informative presentation and for addressing the questions and concerns raised by members.

Prior to Joachim Moenig's presentation, permission was granted for Trish Larkin to address the membership on behalf of the Cliff Bennett Bursary Committee. She proceeded to explain how and why the Bursary Committee was started 15 years ago - in 2007 - and tonight she was going to announce this year's recipients of the Bursary Awards. The first finalist is Mercedes (Sadie) Hilton, a Fish and Wildlife Technician at Fleming College. Her goal is to become a Conservation Officer protecting and embracing the beauty of the outdoors and our environment. The second finalist is Jordan-Anne Rich whose interests will focus on Environmental Science and studying the issues impacting nature and our environment. She hopes to earn an Honours/Bachelor of Science in Biology (Co-op).

Trish Larkin was thanked for her presentation and her dedicated work on the Cliff Bennett Bursary Committee over the past four years.

Joachim Moenig was introduced to the membership as tonight's guest speaker on the topic of "Biodiversity in a Small Space Continuum". He shared photos and presented ways of optimizing biodiversity from one's own backyard.

On behalf of the Club, Leslie Williamson thanked Mr. Moenig and his wife Wendy for their well-put-together presentation. Ron Williamson also took this opportunity to offer his thanks and appreciation to the presenters and he outlined the topics that the Program Committee was planning to cover at the

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2022-23 Nature Talks evenings. He also extended sincere thanks to Denis Gallant for his technical abilities in arranging the ZOOM sessions for the Program Committee's events as well extending appreciation to the Committee's planning team members.

The AGM formal meeting was called to order at 8:20 p.m. and chaired by Linda McCormick, MVFN's President. She welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting and reviewed the format that she planned to follow regarding the voting process during the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Denis Gallant, seconded by Ron Williamson that BE IT RESOLVED THAT the membership approve the Agenda, as circulated.

CARRIED

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM MEETING – MAY 20, 2021

Moved by Val Wilkinson, seconded by George Yaremchuk that BE IT RESOLVED THAT the membership approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on May 20, 2021.

CARRIED

3. 2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Moved by George Yaremchuk, seconded by Bill Pratt that BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Membership approve the 2021-22 Annual Report, as circulated. CARRIED

4. CHANGE TO FISCAL YEAR

Moved by John Blais, seconded by Ken Allison that WHEREAS it will simplify accounting practices and the Financial Report, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the membership approve a change to the Fiscal Year from April 1 to March 31 to January 1 to December 31.

Moved an amendment by Sylvia Miller, seconded by Val Wilkinson that the Membership Year remain unchanged, i.e. April 1 to March 31.

CARRIED

The amended main motion CARRIED.

5. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS RE TERMINOLOGY

Moved by Jocelyn Gordon, seconded by Sue Prior that WHEREAS the term "Audit and Auditor" are specific terms used by accountants to define specified procedures and qualifications, and further these procedures are very costly and not appropriate for an organization such as MVFN; BE IT RESOLVED THAT item 3 in the Constitution and Bylaws be changed to read: "Financial Review or Audit".

The motion CARRIED.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR/FINANCIAL REVIEWER

The following recommendation, proposed by the Board of Directors, was placed before the membership for consideration:

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Moved by John Byers, seconded by George Yaremchuk that -

At its Annual General Meeting, the MVFN shall appoint an accountant to conduct an audit of the MVFN accounts, or shall appoint any other person, to conduct a financial review of such accounts, as members may direct at that meeting. The auditor or reviewer shall not be a member of the Board or an Officer or employee of the MVFN or a partner or employee of such persons; and furthermore,

That WHEREAS John Moore reviewed the financial policies and procedures of MVFN, and further that he was employed as a CPA in both the private and public sectors;

BE IT RESOLVED that John Moore, a financial professional, be appointed to review the MVFN accounts.

It was pointed out that John Moore was not a member of MVFN and that this position will be reviewed annually at the Annual General Meeting. However, concern was expressed that an address should be identified for Mr. Moore and recorded in the Minutes. The President offered background information on Mr. Moore indicating that he has acted in the capacity of Treasurer for the Union Hall for several years. His experience is well known and he has worked at Deloitte Canada as well as Canada Revenue Agency.

Val Wilkinson agreed to undertake to have added in the Minutes of tonight's meeting, John Moore's local address. John Moore : 2581 Wolf Grove Road Almonte KOA 1A0

The motion then **CARRIED**.

7. MVFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2022-23

Moved by George Yaremchuk, seconded by Ken Allison that the Board of Directors recommend the following candidates as MVFN's Directors for 2022-23:

President:	Val Wilkinson
• 1st Vice-President:	George Yaremchuk
• 2 nd Vice-President:	Eric Lay
• Past President	Linda McCormick
• Treasurer:	Vacant
• Chair of Programs:	Vacant
• Finance:	Vacant
• Environmental Education:	Bob Smith
• Conservation & Habitat:	Paul Frigon
• Membership:	Sylvia Miller
• Nature Protection:	Tineke Kuiper
• Director at Large:	Cliff Bennett
• Director at Large:	Brenda Boyd
• Corporate Secretary	Vacant

The President proceeded to call for nominees from the floor for the position of Treasurer. There was no response. As a result, the President explained that the Board is recommending the following:

That the membership be asked to approve that John Blais term as Treasurer be extended by one (1) year.

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The above recommendation was approved.

Each of the candidates shown above was then asked to indicate by a show of hands, whether or not they will stand for nomination.

The Board of Directors was approved as follows:

President:	Val Wilkinson
• 1st Vice-President:	George Yaremchuk
• 2 nd Vice-President	Eric Lay
• Past President	Linda McCormick
• Treasurer:	John Blais
• Chair of Programs:	Vacant
• Finance:	Vacant
• Publicity:	Vacant
• Environmental Education:	Bob Smith
• Conservation & Habitat:	Paul Frigon
• Membership:	Sylvia Miller
• Nature Protection:	Tineke Kuiper
• Director at Large:	Cliff Bennett
• Director at Large:	Brenda Boyd
• Corporate Secretary	Vacant
• Recording Secretary (non-voting member)	Beverly Blais

The President took this opportunity to thank other members of the Club, who did not serve in an official capacity, for their time and efforts in keeping the Club and its activities running.

8. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- May 29, 2022 – the first Paddle event
- June 4th – a late spring bird walk
- A Young Naturalist session will be organized for June
- Nature sightings will be continued with Ken Allison during the summer months on the 3rd Thursday of every month.
- The committee organizing outings will be getting together soon and will send out their information schedule via email.
- A public meeting is planned by Cavanaugh Construction and their Consultants Golder Associates for Wednesday, May 25th at 2:00 p.m. at the Civitan Hall to receive input and comments regarding an expansion of their quarry by 44 acres. Should you wish to attend, please contact John Blais by email: john.blais3@gmail.com

10. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The President encouraged members to read the Annual Report for information on the work carried out by the various committees and took this opportunity to highlight the following:

Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists

Member of the Ontario Nature network

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- Denis Gallant will not be chairing the Program Committee but deserves the Club's sincere thanks for his efforts in a technical capacity during the past year as well as being part of the Program Committee's coordinated effort in acquiring a donation of \$2500 from the Elizabeth Kelly Foundation which was put towards the purchase and updating of A/V equipment used by the Club.
- Patty McLaughlin, the long-time coordinator for the Young Naturalist Program has resigned to focus on her family and full-time job. Her efforts have been note-worthy and she will be missed. However, effective in June, Stephanie Cleland, a Bio-Archaeologist with a Master's Degree as well as having experience working with children, has been recommended by the Education Committee as Patty's replacement.

Ron Williamson took this opportunity to thank Linda McCormick for her dedicated work as President as well as working behind the scenes, on behalf of the Club, during the past three years.

Neil Carleton commented on the essential work of the volunteers on MVFN and the success they bring to the Club's function.

Moved by George Yaremchuk that the meeting adjourn.

The Chairman thanked everyone for participating in this virtual discussion. The motion **CARRIED**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Beverly Blais
Recording Secretary.