

## Minutes from the NANPS AGM, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021, 1-3 p.m. – online meeting via Zoom

Heather Crochetiere welcomed members and did the introduction and read the land acknowledgment.

Quorum was established using the thumbs-up icon in Zoom.

**Finances:** Blair Marik, on behalf of the board, introduced our auditor, Jeffrey Milgram. Jeffrey presented the financial report. He noted that in this (2020) report, total revenue was down by half to under \$26,000, but the organization is lean: there is no permanent payroll or office space, so overhead is low. Net revenue was still positive (\$6,364) though much lower than the (prepandemic) 2019 net revenue of \$20,698. Donations almost doubled over 2019. There were no plant sales in 2020, accounting for most of the large difference between 2020 and 2019 revenues. Net assets were slightly larger in 2020 than 2019.

*Moved* by Harold Smith, seconded by Alice Kong, that the membership accept the financial statements. *Carried.*

*Moved* by Harold Smith, seconded by Sharon Lovett, that the membership approve Jeffrey Milgram as auditor for the coming year. *Carried.*

Natasha Gonsalves reviewed the 2020 AGM meeting minutes. *Moved* by Natasha, seconded by Alice Kong, that these minutes be approved. *Carried.*

**Changes to the board:** Natasha thanked Subroto Ghosh, Ralph Fernandez, Donna Lang and Adam Mohamed for their contributions and hard work. They are leaving the board this year after serving from one to eight years. Subroto had served for a year and shadowed Ralph, who served for four years, three as treasurer. Donna's help in event planning and her grant writing experience have been very helpful in organizing webinars and bringing in money to NANPS. Adam, who was on the board for eight years, has done a sterling job on our social media accounts.

Alice introduced the new board members: Heather Crochetiere, a senior specialist in ecosystem restoration at WWF, with an interest in strategic planning; Natasha Gonsalves, a Conservation Authority biologist with expertise in biological inventorying; Blair Marik (our new treasurer) with 25+ years of work with financial service organizations; and Lynn Wu, an accountant with a burgeoning interest in native plants who has recently moved to Toronto.

Current board members are Atena Keshavarian, who has been on the board 3 years and is now taking time off; Dilys Bowman (also on the board for 3 years); Janice Keil (11 years on the board, past treasurer and longtime sale volunteer); Jason Bernardon (4 years on the board, active member of the land management committee and a senior manager in real estate strategy at BMO); Alice Kong (on the board 10 years, mainstay of the plant sale and the Seedex).

*Moved* by Alice Kong, seconded by Kimberlee Adams, that the new/current board slate be accepted. *Carried.*

*Year in Review* (Dilys): Briefly, despite the continuing restrictions caused by Covid-19, NANPS was still able to host four successful webinars: *The Wild and Wonderful World of Butterflies*, by biologist Jessica Linton; *How to Grow and Support Native Species*, by Ryan Godfrey, biologist and NANPS

volunteer; *Rewilding the Veggie Garden: Native Plants as Companions and Pollinator Powerhouse*, by Janice Keil, longtime board member and NANPS volunteer; and *Plant Selection that's for the Birds*, by Kevin Kavanagh, owner of South Coast Gardens. NANPS also had two plant sales: one in the spring, offering 10 pre-ordered kits, with a choice of 5 pickup sites around Torontog, and one of trees and shrubs (again, pre-ordered) in the fall, at 5 Toronto pickup sites and one in Hamilton. We did one online event at Toronto Seedy Saturday; we sold seeds to twice as many members as usual (60 versus 30); a newly struck fundraising committee managed to garner a \$38,600 Ontario Trillium Fund grant to revamp the website and enable online ordering, and a \$10,000 McLean Foundation grant to help create an instructional video on installing a native plant garden. We have maintained or initiated partnerships with David Suzuki Foundation, Ottawa Biosphere EcoCity, Rainscape Toronto and others. Finally, membership surged by 28% last year despite the Covid-induced difficulties, to 720 members.

*Garden Video Contest:* Adam Mohamed presented the winners. Thanks to Janice Keil, Christian Skublak, and Adam Centurione for their help with organization. First prize for an individual's garden went to Sayeh Beheshti of Toronto; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize to Brenda Near of Zephyr, Ontario; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize to Kimberlee Adams of Mulmur, Ontario; 4<sup>th</sup> prize to John Magee of Middleburg, Virginia. First prize to an institution went to Highlands Biological Station in Highlands, NC.

*Moved* by Jason Bernardon, seconded by Natasha Gonsalves, that the meeting be adjourned. *Carried.*