

Motion to amend Bylaw 2, section 2.03

The motion is

“Participation at meetings of members may be by telephone, electronic or other communication facility in the event that meeting in person is not possible”

Minutes from NANPS 2019 AGM

26 October, 2019 at Toronto Botanical Garden

The meeting got off to a late start but approximately 80 people attended.

9:50: Harold Smith gave the introduction and the land acknowledgment: *We acknowledge that we walk upon the traditional territories of the Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation, Anishnawbe, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat Indigenous Peoples, the original nations of this land.*

Financial: Jeffrey Milgram presented the financial report, which indicated that NANPS had a small deficit in 2018 but it was owing to one-time costs. The financial statements for 2018 may be found on the NANPS website.

Jeffrey notes that NANPS should remind people that they get a tax receipt for donating certain amounts: Jeffrey, a longtime amateur mycologist, also provided a warning never to eat mushrooms without a positive ID and recounted his (and his friends’) recent unhappy personal experience with the consequences of ignoring this advice.

Moved by Dilys Bowman, seconded by Tom Atkinson: that we approve the 2018 financial statements. Carried.

Moved by Dilys Bowman, seconded by Janice Keil: that we reappoint Jeffrey Milgram as NANPS’s auditor. Carried.

Introduction of past and current board: Alice Kong gave a brief introduction and appreciation of the people who are stepping down: Colleen Cirillo, who stepped down in February; Nishaa Agarwal; Arielle Dillonsmith; and Harold Smith.

Jason Bernardon introduced the current board members (Adam Mohamed; Janice Keil; Tyler Dore; Dilys Bowman; Atena Keshavarzian; Alice Kong; Ralph Fernando; Jason Bernardon) and the three new ones: Housseyn Belaouier, Ryan Godfrey and Subroto Ghosh. Donna Lang is also on the board but was unable to attend.

Moved by Tom Atkinson, seconded by Jason: that we accept and vote in the board members standing for election. Carried.

Year in review: Dilys recounted NANPS’s activities over the last year: 11 *information tables* (at the Urban Ravine Symposium at TBG last year and this; a Master Gardeners Technical Update event at TBG; the Guelph Organic Conference; two Seedy Saturdays, at TBG and in Scarborough; Canada Blooms in Toronto; OMNRF event in Peterborough; the Plant Faire at the Royal Botanical Gardens; 10,000 Trees for the Rouge in Markham; Meadoway in Scarborough); three speakers (Paul Heydon on growing native plants from seed; Scott McIvor on wild bees in

Toronto; Lorraine Johnson on decolonizing gardens); *three May plant sales* (at TBG, at Riverwood in Mississauga, and at Christie Pits Park in Toronto) partnered with David Suzuki Foundation on all three as well as with the Riverwood Conservancy (Mississauga) and Mike Layton's Bike with Mike at Christie Pits; *two excursions*, to our properties Shining Tree Woods and Zinkan Island Cove; *the Seedex or seed exchange* and attendant volunteer packaging and selling; *NANPS's presence on social media* (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Flickr); and *board meetings*.

Awards: Harold Smith presented the *Garden Award* to Agnes Macphail School for their native plant garden, based on a First Nations Medicine Wheel. Farah Wadia accepted on behalf of the school and gave a short presentation about their garden, which is incorporated into their environmental education program and supports ecological literacy.

Janice presented the *Founders Conservation Award* to the city of Richmond Hill: Ann Marie Farrugia accepted and gave a presentation about Richmond Hill's Community Stewardship Program, which encompasses volunteer stewardship events, restoration projects (both of land and streams), treeplanting, and removal of litter and invasive species, and includes data collection and maintenance of projects. The city partners with several other agencies and organizations, including LEAF, TRCA, Ontario Streams, MNRF, Evergreen and others.

Tom Atkinson gave an appreciation of Jim Hodgins, cofounder of the Canadian Wildflower Society (NANPS's antecedent organization), who was also the instigator of NANPS's acquisition of Shining Tree Woods, Seedex and Wildflower Magazine, and who died on the 10th of October.

Presentations: Tyler Dore introduced Ryan Godfrey and Jarmila Becka Lee from **WWF**. Jarmila gave a talk about increasing healthy native habitat in the Carolinian zone through the **WWF program In the Zone**, using neighbourhood-level engagement, specialized resources, expert conservation/gardening advice, and impact assessment; Ryan gave specific examples of what that has entailed, including partnership with corporations including IKEA; production of booklet on wildlife gardening; a west-Toronto neighbourhood initiative involving pop-up free plant giveaways in six neighbourhoods, and other aspects.

Atena Keshavarian introduced Brenna Anstett from **LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) Toronto**. Brenna talked about the numerous programs that LEAF runs, including tree tenders volunteer training; guided walking tours; a Young Urban Forest Leaders program; Junior Urban Forest Rangers program; LEAF's learning garden at Wychwood Barns; an adopt-a-park tree program, an adopt-a-tree street program; naturalization plantings; Toronto Community Housing Corporation plantings and stewardship with local tenants and site staff; and a backyard tree/shrub / native plant planting tree program.

Adam made closing remarks, reminded attendees of two coming talks, on bees (11th March) and butterflies (15 April) in 2020 at the Koffler Building at U of T. This was followed by a raffle for door prizes, and the meeting adjourned. Housseyn made a video of highlights of the AGM; it can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw1tJnG5xvw>