

**Minutes from the NANPS AGM, 24th October 2020, 1-3 p.m.
online meeting via Zoom**

Janice Keil welcomed NANPS members (and visitors) to the meeting.

Janice read the land acknowledgment: *We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is in the dish with One Spoon Territory and is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.*

Subroto Ghosh, on behalf of the board, welcomed attendees and gave instructions on how members could vote via Zoom. A quorum was established (minimum is 10 members, had 76, + ~60 general public).

Finances: Ralph Fernando introduced our auditor Jeffrey Milgram, who presented the financial report. Although NANPS revenues were less than half of the 2019 figure, because we did not hold any plant sales owing to the pandemic, the organization still had a small net income (\$6364) over the course of the year by virtue of reducing expenses as much as possible. *Moved* by Atena Keshavarzian, seconded by Adam Mohamed, that the financial report be approved. *Carried.* *Moved* by Ralph Fernando, seconded by Dilys Bowman, to reappoint Jeffrey Milgram as auditor for the coming year. *Carried.*

Approval of minutes: *Moved* by Atena Keshavarzian, seconded by Donna Lang, that the 2019 AGM minutes be approved. *Carried.*

Board members: Alice Kong introduced the board members who were standing for election/re-election: Jason Bernardon, Dilys Bowman, Ralph Fernando, Subroto Ghosh, Janice Keil, Atena Keshavarzian, Alice Kong, Donna Lang, Adam Mohamed. Housseyn Belaouier and Ryan Godfrey have stepped down from the board. *Moved* by Harold Smith, seconded by Miriam Henriques, that the board members be approved for the 2020-2021 year. *Carried.*

Bylaw change, proposed because of disruptions owing to Covid: *Moved* by Alice Kong, seconded by Janice Keil: that Section 2.03 be amended to “participation at meetings of members may be by telephone, electronic or other communication facility in the event that meeting in person is not possible.” *Carried.*

Year in review: Dilys Bowman noted the huge shadow that the coronavirus cast over the year starting in March: although the Seedex volunteers met as usual to prepare and package seed, only four information tables were held (in late winter) before the cancellations of all events, including NANPS’s plant sales. NANPS had one speaker event (*The Wild and Wonderful World of Bees* with Laurence Packard), in early March, and a new webinar on native plant balcony gardening, given by botanist and NANPS member Ryan Godfrey. All the board meetings since March, including the board retreat, have been held virtually. As part of the organization’s response to Covid’s huge blow to our main sources of revenue, several board members have begun working on a fundraising plan. Also: many thanks to Janice for organizing this year’s

AGM (including the discussion section), and to Christian Skublak for organizing the garden video contest.

For guests and nonmember attendees Harold Smith gave a brief presentation on the history of NANPS since its beginnings in 1985 as the Canadian Wildflower Society.

The meeting then moved to breakout/chat rooms. Ryan Godfrey, Atena Keshavarzian and Janice Keil moderated discussion of the topic: **What are the major issues, positive and negative, that you are facing regarding native plants in your area?** Among others, from attendees from across Canada and a few in the U.S., these included lack of native plant, including wetland native plant, availability; invasive plants; lack of knowledge about native plants versus “nativars” (including on the part of nurseries) and versus invasives; and loss of land that had been native plant habitat.

Native Plant Garden Video contest: Christian Skublak played the videos submitted by the five semi-finalists (Dylan and Cassandra Muileboom from Niagara Falls; Laura Tipton from Whitchurch-Stouffville; Mike Smith from Chatham-Kent; Baz Conlin from Peterborough; and Kimberlee Adams from Mulmur) and the grand prize winner, Sayeh Beheshti. Voting was held at the meeting, and Sayeh was awarded \$50 to purchase native plants at her favourite nursery, and a one-year NANPS membership.

Janice Keil gave closing remarks and the meeting was adjourned.