



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**March 24, 2021 : 8.20 pm**  
**Electronic Meeting (GoTo Webinar Platform)**  
**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

CHAIR -Judy Norbury (Musician), Recording secretary - Alison Maingon (retired Professor), Treasurer - Allyson Hamilton (Accountant), Members: Lindsay Elms (Residential Care Aid), Curtis Lyon (Carpenter), Loys Maingon (Biologist) , John Waters (Carpenter).

**REGRETS:** Erica Benson (Community Health Nurse); Randal Mindell (Paleontologist),

**Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator:** Laura Isaacs.

**Members of the Public :** Dave Weaver, Claire Gordon, Debbie Sundberg, plus 20 others

**The CHAIR welcomed attendees, introduced the Board members and the new Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Isaacs. She thanked Randal Mindell, who is stepping down, for his many contributions to SWI. Then the meeting was called to order at 8.25 pm.**

1. Minutes of the 2020 AGM had been posted electronically.  
Motion to accept- Allyson H., 2<sup>nd</sup> Judy N. All in favour.
2. Judy presented the **Directors' Report**, noting that 2020 was our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and giving a brief overview of background history.
  - As a result of COVID -19, most of our plans for the 2020 Season were not realized – no interpretive walks, hikes or workshops, no Accessibility Day, no 25th Anniversary Celebration. We did operate the Visitors Centres at Paradise Meadows and Buttle, with staffers (1 student and 18 volunteers) meeting the public out of doors; no entry to the buildings was permitted. Some volunteers understandably declined to contribute their time because of Covid, but we did attract new volunteers to add to our cohort.
  - In 2020 our only presentation was our AGM lecture on March 11th – Catherine Gilbert's talk "Safeguarding Wilderness in Strathcona Provincial Park" -the last public event of 2020
  - The Centre, open for only 81 days from July 16 until Thanksgiving, recorded about 3608 visitors (= ave 45 per day, down from 55 per day in 2019) and 95% of these were BC residents. While in general the number of Visitors to the Park was up by as much as 50%, visitors clearly were less inclined to approach the Centre. And over on the west side of the Park, our information Hut at Buttle Lake was open for just 20 days, staffed by Volunteers (we had no student for Buttle) and recorded 770 visitors.
  - Support from the Canada Summer Jobs program provided us this year with one students for the Centre (Rupert returning for third year with us) and three others, Erin, Helen and Dan, all of whom were employed in field research (of which more under item 5). We

are ever grateful for the dedication of our volunteers, some of whom have been with us for many years. They were organized in 2020 by our contracted Coordinator Megin Peake.

-- Re Funding: we have been helped financially this year, as always, by generous private donations and funds from the Grant-in-Aid Program of the CVRD and from BC Parks' Licence Plate Program. Many thanks to all.

3. Allyson gave the **Treasurer's report**. Overall, our financial performance in 2020 was quite similar to 2019, despite the challenges of the pandemic. Grant revenue in particular was quite consistent overall. We received grants from local governments through the Comox Valley Regional District, from the provincial government through BC Parks, and from the Federal Government through the Canada Summer Jobs program. We did see a reduction in revenue for sales, presentations, programs, and rentals, which isn't surprising given the restrictions on in person events through our busy season; however we saw a corresponding reduction in expenses in cost of sales, presentation expenses, and travel. We ended the year with a small surplus and a slight increase in our net assets.  
Motion to accept – Judy N., 2<sup>nd</sup> John W. All in favour.
4. For the **SPWC Building Report**, Lindsay noted that the major concern at the moment was heavier than usual snow-load on the SPWC this winter; any damage will only be apparent once the snow has melted.
5. Re **Summer Activities 2020**, Alison reported on how we addressed our education mandate without our usual Interpretive Hikes and Workshops, through the distributions of free Self-guiding maps of the Paradise Meadows area. Through our new Brochure we invited hikers to send us their wildlife observations. We had 3 students out on the trails photographing floral and faunal species. These observations were uploaded into the **SWI Data Collection Project** on iNaturalist (an online platform for Citizen Science) and thus made available to the public. As of the end of the 2020 season the Species Count was 987 (now over 1000 and the Observation Count was over 5000, approximately 50% of which were submitted by the 3 students. The students gave public Webinars, which along with others relevant to the Natural History of the Park, are made available through our Website. Our student Dan T. and two directors (RM and LM) are the major contributors to two other projects on iNaturalist (**Bryophytes of SPP** and **Lichens of SPP**). From these inventories, one publication is being updated by DT and RM "The common Subalpine Bryophytes of SPP" and a new publication on Lichens is in preparation.
6. **SWI plans for the 2021 Summer Season**: The Wilderness Centre and the Buttle Hut will be open, with the same protocols in place as last summer (staffers meeting the public outdoors etc) Until COVID is under control with widespread immunization, we will NOT be scheduling our educational programmes for visitors in 2021. However, we will continue to promote Citizen Science; we hope to have CSJ funded students out on the trails adding to our floral and faunal inventories. Our public education mandate will be fulfilled again through brochures, publications and webinars such as the one we have just hosted on Orchid Pollination in SPP. Our new Outreach Coordinator is working on Educational Packages that we hope will be used by SD71 classes in the Fall.

7. **SWI Board Elections** with Dave Weaver as Returning Officer.

Dave read out the names of Directors standing for re-election.

Incumbent directors - Chairperson –Judy Norbury, Treasurer –Allyson Hamilton, Secretary – Alison Maingon; Directors at Large: Erica Benson, Lindsay Elms, Curtis Lyon, Loys Maingon, John Waters.

Two new nominations for Director had been received: Claire Gordon & Debbie Sundberg. No nominations were received from the floor.

The two new candidates were voted in unanimously.

Motion to approve the 2021 Slate of Directors – John W., 2<sup>nd</sup> Curtis L. All in favour.

8. The following Directors remain as **Signing Officers**:

Allyson Hamilton, Judy Norbury, Lindsay Elms and John Waters.

**Motion to adjourn AGM at 8.50 pm – Loys M. All in favour.**

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