



NORFOLK FIELD NATURALISTS

BYLAWS

DATE:	September 12, 2017	AMENDED:	September 10, 2019 September 12, 2023
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Section 1 — General

1.01 Definitions

In this by-law, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a. “Act” means the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (Ontario) and, where the context requires, includes the regulations made under it, as amended or re-enacted from time to time;
- b. “NFN” means Norfolk Field Naturalists, the Corporation that has passed these by-laws under the Act or that is deemed to have passed these by-laws under the Act;

1.02 Interpretation

Other than as specified in Section 1.01, all terms contained in this By-law that are defined in the Act shall have the meanings given to such terms in the Act. Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa, and words importing one gender include all genders.

1.03 Severability and Precedence

The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this By-law shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions of this By-law. If any of the provisions contained in the by-laws are inconsistent with those contained in the Articles or the Act, the provisions contained in the Articles or the Act, as the case may be, shall prevail.

1.04 Execution of Contracts

Deeds, transfers, assignments, contracts, obligations and other instruments in writing requiring execution by the NFN may be signed by any two of its Officers or Directors. In addition, the Board may from time to time direct the manner in which and the person by whom a particular document or type of document shall be executed. Any person authorized to sign any document may affix the corporate seal, if any, to the document. Any Director or Officer may certify a copy of any instrument,

Section 2 — Directors

2.01 Election and Term

A minimum of three and a maximum of nine Directors shall be elected by the Members at the annual meeting. Directors must be members of NFN. The term of office of the Directors (subject to the provisions, if any, of the articles) shall be from the date of the meeting at which they are elected or appointed until the annual meeting in two years or until their successors are elected or appointed. All Director positions are two-year terms, with no limit on number of terms elected.

2.02 Vacancies

The office of a Director shall be vacated immediately:

- a. if the Director resigns office by written notice to NFN, which resignation shall be effective at the time it is received by NFN or at the time specified in the notice, whichever is later;
- b. if the Director dies or becomes bankrupt;
- c. if the Director is found to be incapable by a court or incapable of managing property under Ontario law; or
- d. if, at a meeting of the Members, the Members by ordinary resolution removes the Director before the expiration of the Director's term of office.

2.03 Filling Vacancies

A vacancy on the Board shall be filled as follows, and the Director appointed or elected to fill the vacancy holds office for the remainder of the unexpired term of the Director's predecessor:

- a. if the vacancy occurs as a result of the Members removing a Director, the Members may fill the vacancy by an ordinary resolution;
- b. a quorum of Directors may fill a vacancy among the Directors.
- c. if there is not a quorum of Directors or there has been a failure to elect the number or minimum number of Directors set out in the articles, the Directors in office shall, without delay, call a special meeting of Members to fill the vacancy and, if they fail to call such a meeting or if there are no Directors in office, the meeting may be called by any Member; and

2.04 Committees

Committees may be established by the Board as follows:

- a. The Board may appoint from their number a managing Director or a committee of Directors and may delegate to the managing Director or committee any of the powers of the Directors excepting those powers set out in the Act that are not permitted to be delegated; and
- b. Subject to the limitations on delegation set out in the Act, the Board may establish any committee it determines necessary for the execution of the Board's responsibilities. The Board shall determine the composition and terms of reference for any such committee. The Board may dissolve any committee by resolution at any time.

2.05 Remuneration of Directors

The Directors shall serve as such without remuneration and no Director shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from occupying the position of Director; provided that:

- a. Directors may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses they incur in the performance of their Directors' duties.

Section 3 — Board Meetings**3.01 Calling of Meetings**

Meetings of the Directors may be called by the Chair, president or any two Directors at any time and any place on notice as required by this by-law.

3.02 Regular

The Board may fix the place and time of regular Board meetings and send a copy of the resolution fixing the place and time of such meetings to each Director, and no other notice shall be required for any such meetings.

3.03 Notice

Notice of the time and place for the holding of a meeting of the Board shall be given in the manner provided in Section 10 of this by-law to every Director of NFN not less than seven days before the date that the meeting is to be held. Notice of a meeting is not necessary if all the Directors are present, and none objects to the holding of the meeting, or if those absent have waived notice or have otherwise signified their consent to the holding of such meeting. If a quorum of Directors is present, each newly elected or appointed Board may, without notice, hold its first meeting immediately following the annual meeting of NFN.

3.04 Chair

The Chair shall preside at Board meetings. In the absence of the Chair, the Directors present shall choose one of their number to act as the Chair.

3.05 Voting

Each Director has one vote except for the Chair (or Director chairing a meeting). Should there be an equality of votes, the Chair will have the deciding vote.

3.06 Participation by Telephone or Other Communications Facilities

If all of the Directors of NFN consent, a Director may participate in a meeting of the Board or of a committee of Directors by telephonic or electronic means that permit all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting. A Director participating by such means is deemed to be present at that meeting.

Section 4 — Financial**4.01 Banking**

The Board shall by resolution from time to time designate the bank in which the money, bonds or other securities of NFN shall be placed for safekeeping.

4.02 Financial Year

The financial year of NFN ends on April 30 in each year or on such other date as the Board may from time to time by resolution determine.

Section 5 — Officers**5.01 Officers**

The Board shall appoint from among the Directors a Chair and may appoint any other person to be president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary at its first meeting following the annual meeting of NFN. The office of treasurer and secretary may be held by the same person and may be known as the secretary-treasurer. The office of Chair and president may also be held by the same person. The Board may appoint such other Officers and agents as it deems necessary, and who shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as the Board may prescribe from time to time.

5.02 Office Held at Board's Discretion

Any Officer shall cease to hold office upon resolution of the Board. Unless so removed, an Officer shall hold office until the earlier of:

- a. the Officer's successor being appointed,
- b. the Officer's resignation, or
- c. such Officer's death.

5.03 Duties

Officers shall be responsible for the duties assigned to them and they may delegate to others the performance of any or all of such duties.

Section 6 — Protection of Directors and Others**6.01 Protection of Directors and Officers**

No Director, Officer or committee member of NFN is liable for the acts, neglects or defaults of any other Director, Officer, committee member or employee of NFN or for joining in any receipt or for any loss, damage or expense happening to NFN through the insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired by resolution of the Board or for or on behalf of NFN or for the insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the money of or belonging to NFN shall be placed out or invested or for any loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency or tortious act of any person, firm or Corporation with whom or which any moneys, securities or effects shall be lodged or deposited or for any other loss, damage or misfortune whatever which may happen in the execution of the duties of his or her respective office or trust provided that they have:

- a. complied with the Act and NFN's articles and By-laws; and
- b. exercised their powers and discharged their duties in accordance with the *Act*

Section 7 — Conflict of Interest**7.01 Conflict of Interest**

A Director who is a party to a material contract or transaction or proposed material contract or transaction with NFN or is a director or officer of, or has a material interest in, any person who is a party to a material contract or transaction or proposed material contract or transaction with NFN shall make the disclosure required by the Act. Except as provided by the Act, no such Director shall attend any part of a meeting of Directors during which the contract or transaction is discussed or vote on any resolution to approve any such contract or transaction.

7.02 Charitable Corporations

No Director shall, directly or through an associate, receive a financial benefit, through a contract or otherwise, from NFN if it is a charitable corporation unless the provisions of the Act and the law applicable to charitable corporations are complied with.

Section 8 — Members**8.01 Members**

Membership in NFN shall consist of individuals interested in furthering NFN's purposes and who have been accepted into Membership in NFN by resolution of the Board.

8.02 Membership

A Membership in NFN is not transferable and automatically terminates if the Member resigns or such Membership is otherwise terminated in accordance with the Act.

8.03 Disciplinary Act or Termination of Membership for Cause

- a. Upon 15 days' written notice to a Member, the Board may pass a resolution authorizing disciplinary action or the termination of Membership for violating any provision of the articles or By-laws.
- b. The notice shall set out the reasons for the disciplinary action or termination of Membership. The Member receiving the notice shall be entitled to give the Board a written submission opposing the disciplinary action or termination not less than 5 days before the end of the 15-day period. The Board shall consider the written submission of the Member before making a final decision regarding disciplinary action or termination of Membership.

Section 9 – Members' Meetings**9.01 Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting shall be held on a day and at a place within Ontario fixed by the Board. Any Member, upon request, shall be provided, not less than five business days or other number of days that may be further prescribed in regulations before the annual meeting, with a copy of the approved financial statements, auditor's report or review engagement report and other financial information required by the By-laws or articles.

The business transacted at the annual meeting shall include:

- a. receipt of the agenda;
- b. receipt of the minutes of the previous annual and subsequent special meetings;
- c. receive a report from the President;
- d. consideration of the financial statements;
- e. report of the auditor or person who has been appointed to conduct a review engagement;
- f. reappointment or new appointment of the auditor or a person to conduct a review engagement for the coming year;
- g. election of Directors; and
- h. such other or special business as may be set out in the notice of meeting.

No other item of business shall be included on the agenda for annual meeting unless a Member's proposal has been given to the secretary prior to the giving of notice of the annual meeting in accordance with the Act, so that such item of new business can be included in the notice of annual meeting.

9.02 Special Meetings

The Directors may call a special meeting of the Members. The Board shall call a special meeting on written requisition of the Members who hold at least 10 per cent of votes that may be cast at the meeting sought to be held within 21 days after receiving the requisition unless the Act provides otherwise.

9.03 Notice

Subject to the Act, not less than 10 and not more than 50 days written notice of any annual or special Members' meeting shall be given in the manner specified in the Act to each Member, each Director and to the auditor or person appointed to conduct a review engagement. Notice of any meeting where special business will be transacted must contain sufficient information to permit the Members to form a reasoned judgment on the decision to be taken, and state the text of any special resolution to be submitted to the meeting.

9.04 Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business at a Members' meeting is 15% of the Members entitled to vote at the meeting, whether present in person or by proxy (Section 64(1)). If a quorum is present at the opening of a meeting of the Members, the Members present may proceed with the business of the meeting, even if a quorum is not present throughout the meeting.

9.05 Chair of the Meeting

The Chair shall be the chair of the Members' meeting; in the Chair's absence, the Members present at any Members' meeting shall choose another Director as chair and if no Director is present or if all of the Directors present decline to act as chair, the Members present shall choose one of their number to chair the meeting.

9.06 Voting of Members

Business arising at any Members' meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes unless otherwise required by the Act or the By-law provided that:

- a. each Member shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting;
- b. votes shall be taken by a show of hands among all Members present and the chair of the meeting, if a Member, shall have a vote;
- c. an abstention shall not be considered a vote cast;
- d. before or after a show of hands has been taken on any question, the chair of the meeting may require, or any Member may demand, a written ballot. A written ballot so required or demanded shall be taken in such manner as the chair of the meeting shall direct;
- e. if there is a tie vote, the chair of the meeting shall require a written ballot, and shall not have a second or casting vote. If there is a tie vote upon written ballot, the motion is lost; and
- f. whenever a vote by show of hands is taken on a question, unless a written ballot is required or demanded, a declaration by the chair of the meeting that a resolution has been carried or lost and an entry to that effect in the minutes shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of votes recorded in favour of or against the motion.

9.07 Adjournments

The Chair may, with the majority consent of any Members' meeting, adjourn the same from time to time and no notice of such adjournment need be given to the Members, unless the meeting is adjourned by one or more adjournments for an aggregate of 30 days or more. Any business may be brought before or dealt with at any adjourned meeting which might have been brought before or dealt with at the original meeting in accordance with the notice calling the same.

9.08 Persons Entitled to be Present

The only persons entitled to participate in a Members' meeting (where motions are considered and recorded) are the Members, the Directors, the auditors of NFN (or the person who has been appointed to conduct a review engagement, if any) and others who are entitled or required under any provision of the Act or the articles to be present at the meeting. Any other person may be admitted only if invited by the Chair of the meeting or with the majority consent of the Members present at the meeting.

Section 10 — Notices**10.01 Services**

Any notice required to be sent to any Member or Director or to the auditor or person who has been appointed to conduct a review engagement of NFN shall be delivered personally, or sent by prepaid mail, facsimile, email or other electronic means to any such Member at the Member's latest address as shown in the records of NFN; and to such Director at his or her latest address as shown in the records of NFN or in the most recent notice or return filed under the Corporations Information Act, whichever is the more current; and to the auditor or the person who has been appointed to conduct a review engagement at its business address; provided always that notice may be waived or the time for giving the notice may be abridged at any time with the consent in writing of the person entitled thereto.

10.02 Error or Omission in Giving Notice

The accidental omission to give any notice to any Member, Director, Officer, member of a committee of the Board or auditor or person conducting a review engagement, if any, or the non-receipt of any notice by any such person where NFN has provided notice in accordance with the By-laws or any error in any notice not affecting its substance shall not invalidate any action taken at any meeting to which the notice pertained or otherwise founded on such notice.

Section 11 – Adoption and Amendment of By-laws**11.01 Amendments to By-laws**

The Board may from time to time in accordance with the Act amend or repeal and replace this By-law, following approval of the membership at the next scheduled Annual Meeting as required in the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 [amended 2021], Part III, Section 17(2).

Enacted the 12th day of September 2023

Bernie Solymár
President

Inga Hinnerichsen
Secretary