

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held April 17, 2014, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks:

Gaye Beckwith welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. He thanked Peter and Jane Greathead for supplying refreshments.

Tickets are still available for the annual dinner meeting to be held May 15 at the Cataraqui Golf and Country Club. The guest speaker, Mike Runtz, has titled his talk "Dam Builders". Tickets are \$35 and are available from Polly Aiken and Janis Grant.

A KFN field trip is planned to Algonquin Park, May 2 – 4. Those who are interested should let Gaye Beckwith know either by telephone (613-376-3716) or e-mail (beckwithb@sympatico.ca). Gaye will make arrangements for the group to stay at the Gateway Motel but individuals are expected to make their own reservations. We will look for moose, deer and birds.

The annual Helen Quilliam Sanctuary cleanup takes place April 26. Those planning to participate should call Erwin Batalla at (613) 542-2048 for carpooling. Please meet at the gravel pit at the sanctuary at 9:30 am. Bring clippers, hammer and your camera for a trail clean up and opportunity to observe nature while there.

Mike Burrell has asked KFN members to help Ontario Nature with a study on Chorus Frogs. Please contact www.surveymonkey.com/s/ontchorusfrog-marshbirdlctns to report any Chorus Frog sightings.

The annual Spring Roundup takes place over 24 hours the weekend of May 17 & 18. There will be more information in the next Newsletter.

The Teen Naturalists are participating in the Baillie Birdathon May 7 & 8. Anne Robertson has pledge sheets for members who wish to sponsor our teens.

Acceptance of Minutes of General Meeting for March 20, 2014

Recording Secretary, Janis Grant, referred members to the minutes of the March meeting which are posted on the KFN website. There were no corrections.

Motion

Moved by John Poland, seconded by Elaine Davies that the minutes be accepted.

Carried

Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Chuck Clavet, a representative of the Friends of the Sanctuary, spoke about the need to repair and replace badly deteriorating board walks at the Upper Canada

Sanctuary. The sanctuary is situated near Ingleside, south of Cornwall and was established from flooded farmland during construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway. It is administered by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. Chuck gave an interesting account of activities available throughout the year and the extensive use made of the sanctuary by the public. Those interested in helping can go to the website at Friends of the Sanctuary.org. Gaye stressed that KFN has sent a letter of support to assist the Friends of the Sanctuary with corporate funding.

KFN Invited to Horticultural Society Meeting

KFN members have been invited to attend the Horticultural Society's May 8 meeting at 7:30. The guest speaker, Susan Chan, will talk about the effect of pesticides on bees. Those interested in attending should talk to Narjis Phillips for more details.

Annual General Meeting

- a) Treasurer's report – See attachment
Larry McCurdy presented 3 reports – 1) Income/expenses for past fiscal year. 2) Balance sheet. 3) Budget for 2014/15. During discussion he demonstrated how fees and other income are used to service memberships. He thanked the members for their cooperation in accepting the Bluebill and Newsletter in electronic format, which will save the club over \$5,000 in postage and printing costs/year. KFN now has a surplus in its Land Acquisition Fund, which will be used to help the Nature Conservancy of Canada protect important habitat in our area. Larry emphasized that the club is fiscally well managed.

Motion

Moved by David Murray, seconded by John Critchley that the budget be accepted.

Carried

- b) Appointment of Auditor
Bud Rowe has agreed to be our auditor for 2014/15
- c) President's Report
Gaye presented highlights from the following committee reports, which will be printed in the June edition of the Blue Bill:
- Conservation Committee – Chris Hargreaves. Volunteers who wish to work on the Conservation Committee are welcome. Please contact Chris Hargreaves if you are interested.
 - Education Committee – Shirley French
 - Nature Reserves – Erwin Batalla
 - Field Trips – Kurt Hennige
 - Juniors/Teens – Anne Robertson
 - Bioblitz – Anne Robertson
 - Membership – John Critchley. KFN has a membership of 550.

- Bluebill – Alexandra Simmon
- Newsletter – Janet Elliott
- Facebook – Polly Aiken
- Website – Chris Grooms

Nominations Committee see attachment

Chair, Janis Grant thanked Nominations Committee members Chris Grooms and Peter Good for their help with nominations. Four executive members are leaving the Board this year. They are John Cartwright, Chis Grooms, Shirley French and Darren Rayner. A proposed list of officers and committee chairs was presented. There were no nominations from the floor.

Motion

Moved by Bud Rowe, seconded by Paul MacKenzie that the proposed executive be accepted by the membership.

Carried

Gaye thanked the 4 Board Members who are leaving and expressed hope that they will continue to be involved with club activities. Four new Board Members, Polly Aiken, James Barber, Mike Burrell and Mark Read are joining the board. Polly and Mark were introduced.

Member's Observations

Gaye Beckwith – ice is still thick in Sydenham Lake. If it is still there on April 20 it will break a record.

Steve Manders – The Osprey is back on its nest at the Lennox and Addington Generating Station. Long Tail Ducks and Buffleheads could be seen off the Martin Edwards Reserve today along with one Snow Goose. There were Song Sparrows, a Turkey Vulture, 4 Tree Swallows using the nesting boxes and Chorus Frogs singing in the pond. The Osprey Nest on the ME Reserve is not in use. No shore birds were observed.

Rose-Marie Burke -has seen Coltsfoot blooming.

David Murray has seen Coltsfoot at LeMoine Point.

Chris Grooms – Has not seen the Peregrine Falcons on the Princess Towers recently. He asked if anybody else had seen them. Rose Marie Burke mentioned hearing Peregrines near the Service Ontario building but was told the sound comes from a loud speaker used to discourage pigeons.

Elaine Davies –there is a family of foxes at Alwington Place with 7 cubs. The runt of the litter is a dark colour. There have been a pair of Kestrels on the lake shore at Alwington Place.

John Poland – and another member saw a Mourning Cloak butterfly last week.

Larry McCurdy- had a Painted Lady Butterfly in his garden

Presentation(s)

It was decided not to have a guest speaker at the AGM this year because the business meeting usually lasts too long. In place of a speaker, 3 members of the executive gave short slide shows of events which took place during the past year.

Gaye Beckwith gave a presentation of a trip he and his wife, Betsy took to Europe to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

Janet Elliott showed pictures she has taken on many KFN Rambles over the year and gave an interesting presentation on light reflection in photography

Chris Grooms showed photos he took, using a trip wire, of scavengers attracted to road kill he had planted on his property. He then took us to Digges Island at the mouth of Hudson's Bay where he gave an account of research being done on the dispersal of guano and marine contaminants in this sensitive Arctic habitat.

The speakers were thanked by Rose-Marie Burke. She gave a special thanks to Gaye Beckwith for his good work and willingness to take over the Presidency when it became vacant in the fall. She also thanked Chris Grooms for his many years of service to KFN as a past president, steadfast member of the executive and the leader on countless club projects.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00. There were 58 members in attendance.

Minutes prepared by Janis Grant
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Attachments

KFN INCOME STATEMENT 2013 - 2014

	<u>BUDGE T</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	
Membership Fees	12,500	12,826	
GST Rebate	700	1,664	
			14,490
Donations General	2,000	2,766	
Donations Hab Pres	2,000	13,027	
Book Auction	500	682	
			16,475
Interest Income	1,000	4,055	

Grazing - Amherst	2,500	2,000	
			6,055
Other Income	100	258	
Sales	500	628	
May Dinner	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,010</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	24,800	40,916	

KFN EXPENSE STATEMENT 2013 - 2014

	<u>BUDGET</u>		<u>ACTUAL</u>	
Administration	775		895	
Junior Naturalist Program	1,200		1,466	
Blue Bill	2,500		990	
Field Trips	300		0	
Insurance	1,900		1,891	
Membership Expenses	5,200		4,653	
Memberships-other groups	500		445	
Publicity	1,000		604	
Rent Rooms	1,400		949	
Speakers	750	15,525	761	12,654
Nature Reserve Expenses	1,500		4,143	
Property Tax	1,200		965	5,108
Awards	700		352	
Bioblitz	750		135	
Conservation Committee	900		480	
Donations Out	1,000		2,100	3,067
Inventory Purchase	400		311	
Union Gas Grant Expenses	525		0	
May Dinner	<u>3,000</u>		<u>2,983</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	25,500		24,123	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-700		16,793	

2014-2015 Nominations

Honorary President	Ron Weir
Immediate Past President	Gaye Beckwith
President	Kurt Hennige
Vice President	Alexandra Simmons
Recording Secretary	Janis Grant
Membership Secretary	John Critchley
Treasurer	Larry McCurdy
Junior Naturalists	Anne Robertson
Editor of the Blue Bill	James Barber
Bird Records	Ron Weir
Conservation	Chris Hargreaves
Education	Mark Read
Field Trips	Gaye Beckwith
Nature Reserves	Erwin Batalla
Publicity	vacant

Members-at-Large

Member-at-Large	Janet Elliott
Member-at-Large	Mike Burrell
Member-at-Large	Ken Robinson
Member-at-Large	Rose-Marie Burke
Member-at-Large	Polly Aiken

In addition to the above nominations the following appointments have been agreed

Bird Sightings / OntBirds	Mark Read
Archives / Book Auction	Peter McIntyre
Ontario Nature Representative	Ken Robinson
Newsletter	Janet Elliott
Web Site	Mike Burrell
Facebook	Polly Aiken