

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held September 18, 2014, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks:

Kurt Hennige called the meeting to order and introduced himself as the new club President. Kurt has been a member of KFN for 30 years and has served on the executive for the past 10 years. Recently, in addition to organizing field trips he has managed several club surveys including Sort Eared Owl and Purple Martin population studies. He introduced 2 new members of the executive:

Polly Aiken who, in addition to organizing the annual dinner, manages KFN's Facebook and Flickr pages.

Mark Read who is taking over responsibility for Education. Mark also assumed responsibility for reporting Kingston Area bird sightings a year ago. He gave a short account of his background as a warden in Sherwood Forest in the UK, studying Gibbons in Thailand and working as a Head Teacher and Education Coordinator in Egypt and Nepal before moving to Kingston. He has enjoyed his membership with KFN and looks forward to being responsible for our Education program.

Kurt thanked Jean Hopkins for providing refreshments before the meeting.

Sign-up lists for volunteers and refreshments were circulated.

Acceptance of Minutes of General Meeting for April 17, 2014

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

Motion

Moved by Anne Robertson, seconded by Larry McCurdy that the minutes be accepted.

Carried

Lost Bay Land Purchase

John Urquhart, Conservation and Science Manager for Ontario Nature, spoke about a proposed KFN donation to the Lost Bay Nature Reserve. The reserve is located in the Frontenac Arch and contains 24 species at risk or 11% of total species at risk in Ontario. KFN contributed \$2,000 to Ontario Nature in May 2009 and \$5,000 in November 2011 for purchase of separate parcels of land connected to the Lost Bay Reserve. A new parcel, which connects the others, is now available for purchase for a total cost of \$250,000 of which \$133,000 has been pledged.

Treasurer, Larry McCurdy, explained that the Habitat Preservation Fund currently holds \$20,000. The KFN executive recommends to the membership a new donation of \$10,000 toward this purchase.

Motion:

Moved by Larry McCurdy, seconded by Paul MacKenzie that KFN donate \$10,000 to Ontario Nature toward purchase of Lost Bay property.

Carried

Members Observations

Erwin Batalla reported on bird rarities reported in the Kingston Area this year. Since a Thick Billed Murre was seen in November, 2013, rare species listed include a Willow Ptarmigan, Kentucky Warbler, Worm Eating Warbler, Willet, White Ibis, Dickcissel, Lark Bunting and possible Mississippi Kite.

Presentation

Erwin Batalla introduced speaker Toby Thorne who gave an interesting talk on his research on Bat Migration Across the Great Lakes.

Mr. Thorne was thanked by Kurt Hennige and presented with a copy of "Birds of the Kingston Region".

The meeting ended at 9:20 pm. There were 69 members in attendance.