

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held January 15, 2015, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Kurt Hennige welcomed everyone to the January meeting. He thanked Karen Millson??? for treats served prior to the meeting. A warm welcome was extended to 6 new members who joined KFN this evening.

Acceptance of Minutes of General Meeting for December 18, 2014

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

Motion

Moved by Erwin Batalla, seconded by John Poland that the minutes be accepted.

Carried

New Business

The executive has agreed to donate \$500 to APAI (Association to Protect Amherst Island) for legal expenses resulting from their opposition to the construction of 33 wind turbines on Amherst Island. John Harrison, a representative of APAI, accepted the donation and gave a brief talk about the Green Energy Act, a history of the Amherst Island wind turbine project and why APAI is opposed to its construction. In addition to negative effects on health and island culture, he explained that turbines will destroy wetlands, important habitat for resident and migratory birds and the endangered Blandings Turtle.

In October, 2014 APAI developed a legal strategy to fight the wind power development with an estimated cost of \$175,000. John thanked the executive for it's contribution and appealed to individual club members for additional help.

Members Observations

- Erwin Batalla announced that the Peregrine Falcon, which is usually seen on Princess Towers, is also regularly seen at Botteral Hall at Queens.
- Barry Robertson observed a Bald Eagle chasing ducks off the ice in front of his home on Lakeshore Drive
- Janet Elliott saw a Great Blue Heron at the Depot Lake Reserve on Sunday.

Featured Speaker

Anne Robertson introduced speakers Frederick Schueler and Aleta Karstad from Bishops Mills.

Mr. Schueler gave an interesting talk about the winter activities of Mud Puppies at Bishops Mills. He and Aleta offer Friday night demonstrations to the public and described these as the longest running winter nature event in Ontario. KFN Junior and Teen Naturalists have had regular field trips to these demonstrations

Mr. Schueler and Ms. Karstad were thanked by Alexandra Simmonds.

Further New Business

Chris Grooms expressed concern that Wind Turbine Projects are being built all along the north shore of the Great Lakes. Research conducted at the Lennox and Addington Power Generating Station over many years has demonstrated that millions of birds migrate across the eastern end of Lake Ontario. These birds are at risk from the cumulative effect of a wall of wind towers. Amherst Island is an IBA (Important Bird Area) and considered a gem by Birders from all over North America. The club should, in his opinion, be more financially supportive of APAI 's efforts to stop the wind development than the limited \$500 donated by the executive.

Motion

*Moved by Chris Grooms, seconded by Larry McCurdy that:
KFN top up the KFN's donation to APAI from \$500 to \$5,000.*

Discussion

Treasurer, Larry McCurdy stated that the club can afford this donation using funds in the Habitat Preservation Fund. Kurt asked that the decision be delayed until the executive has had an opportunity to discuss the donation and the membership is informed of a notice of Motion via the Newsletter.

Motion

*Moved by Erwin Batalla, seconded by Paul MacKenzie that:
The motion that KFN top up the executive donation to APAI from \$500 to \$5,000
be tabled until the February general meeting.*

Carried

Following the vote, a show of hands indicated strong support for the motion.

Announcements

Kurt reminded members of the January 20 Ramble to Butternut Creek and the January 25 Field Trip from Kingston Mills to Newboro.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. There were approximately 44 members in attendance.