

# **Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held September 17, 2015, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.**

## **1. Opening Remarks**

Kurt welcomed everybody to the September meeting. Liz and Mike Evans were thanked for providing refreshments this evening.

## **2. Acceptance of Minutes of General Meeting for February 19, 2015**

Recording Secretary, Janis Grant, referred members to the minutes of the April AGM, which are posted on the KFN website. A printed copy was also provided at the membership table prior to the meeting. There were no corrections.

### ***Motion***

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

### ***Carried***

Forms were circulated for a) members who wish to volunteer for assignments and b) members who wish to provide refreshments at General Meetings. Kurt thanked those who volunteered.

## **3. Update on Amherst Island Wind Electric Project**

The Wind Electric turbine project for Amherst Island was approved by the Ontario government approximately 5 weeks ago. KFN has decided not to appeal the decision but will support APAI (Association to Protect Amherst Island) with its appeal. A KFN committee, consisting of Executive members, Kurt Hennige, Erwin Batalla, Mike Burrell and Chris Hargreaves have met with APAI. In addition to KFN; Nature Canada, Ontario Nature and the American Bird Conservancy are working with APAI to appeal the Amherst Island Wind Electric project. Thirty other organizations have also expressed their concern to the Ontario government.

APAI will require the services of one or more expert witnesses once it has been determined which species will be most representative of those at risk on the island. KFN will ask for suggestions for witnesses once the decision has been made.

Chris Hargreaves gave an account of the appeal process undergone by the Ostrander Point wind turbine project. It has been convoluted and very expensive. \$310,000 has been spent on this case to date.

## **4. Member's Observations**

-A member had a Snapping Turtle who is missing a leg return to her pond this summer. It has apparently returned annually for the past 5 years.

-Erwin Batalla saw between 20 and 30 Turkey Vultures fly south over Kingston today. This, he believes, is the beginning of their migration.

-Ken Robinson with the North Leeds Birders saw a number of warblers at Big Sandy Bay, Wolfe island on September 16 including Wilson's Warbler, Magnolia, Common Yellowthroat, Black Throated Blue, Chestnut Sided, American Redstart and a Yellow Throated Vireo.

-Bruce Elliott saw a flock of migrating Common Mergansers while canoeing and was able to approach close enough for some good photos.

-Janis Grant saw a flock of 17 Common Mergansers with young the last week of July on Main Duck Island. This may indicate they are breeding there.

- Jackie Bartnik has been observing Osprey platforms along the 401. All have been occupied this summer and the nestlings have fledged successfully.

-KFN had a field trip to Prince Edward Point on Sunday, Sept 13. It was a rainy, windy day with very few birds. Surprisingly both Presqu'isle Point and Toronto Islands had good warbler fall outs on the same day.

### **Featured Speaker**

Erica Barkley introduced speaker Jeff Bowman from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. He is a Research Scientist with the Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section of OMNRF and Adjunct Professor in the Environmental and Life Sciences Graduate Program at Trent University.

Dr. Bowman gave a very interesting talk on Ontario's two species of Flying Squirrels and the effects of climate change.

He was thanked by Erwin Batalla.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. There were 51 people in attendance.