

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

Opening Remarks

Kurt welcomed everybody to the meeting. Thanks was extended to Betsy Beckwith for providing this evening's refreshments.

Acceptance of Minutes of General Meeting for February 19, 2015

Acting Recording Secretary, Erwin Batalla, referred members to the minutes of the September meeting, which are posted on the KFN website. There were no corrections.

Motion

Moved by Gaye Beckwith, seconded by Jackie Bartnik that the minutes be accepted.

Carried

New Business

Amherst Island Wind Project: Environmental Review Tribunal

Kurt reminded the meeting that APAI is appealing the decision to approve the wind turbine project on Amherst Island. As a land owner on the island, the KFN was invited to seek status at the tribunal. The Executive chose to seek presenter status and to focus on the serious and irreversible damage to bobolinks from the project. Erwin indicated that we were granted presenter status at the preliminary hearing today. Our presentation to the tribunal is scheduled for December 8.

IBA Waterfowl Survey

Mike Burrell indicated that he is looking for volunteers to survey waterfowl on Amherst and Wolfe Island. These two islands are Important Bird Areas and this data will serve to strengthen their status. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

Members Observation

- Jackie Bartnik reported that a Red-tailed hawk nearly hit her car at the intersection of Gore Rd and Hwy 15.
- Erwin Batalla reported that 3 Bald Eagles were harassing large number of ducks in the inner harbor today.
- Ken Robinson reported that a Hermit Thrush was found near the townhouses at Elevator Bay today.
- Mark Read found 113 Tundra Swans on Button Bay this week.
- Steve Manders also saw a Bald eagle on Eagle Lake this past week.
- Anne Robertson observed a DeKay Snake near Otter Lake.
- Mike Burrell found a Hudsonian Godwit and 240 Brants at the Martin Edwards Reserve today.

-Steve Manders noted many snakes on the K & P trail between Murton Rd and Orser Rd. It was agreed that they were likely DeKay Snakes but Red-bellied Snakes have also been seen.

-Kurt Hennige reminded the members that Lesley Rudy will lead a walk with him along the inner harbor. This walk is open to the public. More telescopes would be useful.

-Mark Read indicated that the Kingston Christmas Bird Count will take place on Sunday December 20.

Featured Speaker

Jackie Bartnik introduced speaker Christine Grossutti, Graduate student in human geography, who gave an interesting talk on “The History of the Biosphere Reserves” focusing on the interaction between the Social Sciences and Natural History.

She was thanked by Erwin Batalla who presented her with a copy of “Birds of the Kingston Region”.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. There were approximately 35 members in attendance.