

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists held September 15, 2016, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.

1. Opening Remarks

Alexandra welcomed everyone to the September meeting and thanked Mike and Liz Evans for providing food and beverages prior to the meeting. A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers to bring treats to meetings from October 2016 to September 2017. Four new KFN members were introduced and welcomed.

2. Acceptance of Minutes of General Meeting for April 21, 2016

The minutes are posted on the KFN website. Janis asked for any corrections or additions. There were none.

Motion

Moved by Larry McCurdy, seconded by Janet Elliott that the minutes be accepted.

Carried

3. Members Observations

- Alexandra Simmons congratulated Lynn Bell as the overall winner of the CRCA photo contest for his picture of a Hawk Moth on a thistle. Another KFN member, Barry Hanna won in the winter scene category of the contest.
- Lynn Bell has observed 2 nesting sites for Peregrine Falcons in Kingston, the usual one on Princess Towers and a new site in City Park.
- Mike Evans has a female Red Bellied Woodpecker in a tree at his home pecking apples.
- Ken Robinson was birding with the North Leeds Birders at Presqu'île on Wednesday. A Peregrine Falcon was seen from the boardwalk and a Short Billed Dowitcher on the beach among other shore birds. Jim Thompson, an NLB member, had 2 Red Headed Woodpeckers at his home near Gananoque for 3 weeks in late August and early September.
- Kurt Hennige is aware of a 3rd pair of nesting Peregrine Falcons at Charleston Lake on land recently bought by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC).
- Nancy Spencer observed a Whip-poor-will at Presqu'île the end of August.
- Carol Seymour saw a small colony of Azur Bluet Damselflies on the K&P Trail between Sydenham and McIvor Roads.
- Gaye Beckwith observed a full grown beaver at a tiny backyard pond on his property September 11. It remained there for a day.
- Carol Seymour observed 3 Harvester Butterflies on the Rideau Trail near Bath Road.
- Alexandra Simmons mentioned that the CRCA is rationalizing trails 2 & 4 at Lemoine Point at the north end near the marina. Further information is available on the CRCA website.

4. Amherst Island Wind Turbine Environmental Review Tribunal

Alexandra reviewed the results of the Tribunal. KFN provided expert witness Bill Evans who addressed the effect of proposed wind turbines on migratory birds. Kurt

Hennige, Erwin Batalla and Chris Hargreaves gathered and provided information on possible effects to endangered Bobolinks. The decision was released August 3. The appeal was dismissed.

Despite this disappointment, APAI (Association to Protect Amherst Island) is proceeding with 3 new appeals including a judicial review, a direct appeal to the provincial Environment Minister and an appeal to the federal Minister of the Environment on the cumulative effect to migratory birds of multiple wind projects on Lake Ontario.

5. Field Trips

Members are asked to check the Newsletter for upcoming field trips. KFN encourages members to attend and to suggest new Field Trip locations.

6. OFO Annual Convention

It has been 14 years since the Ontario Field Ornithologists have met in Kingston. This year their convention takes place at the Ambassador Hotel September 23-25 with field trips to local birding hot spots over the 3 days. Mike Burrell is organizing the event and has called on KFN members to be group leaders.

7. NCC Property Cleanup

NCC has acquired a new property near the village of Battersea on Milburn Creek. There will be a work party there to clean the property between 10 – 2 pm, Friday, September 30. This property is on both Canadian Shield and limestone and features characteristics of both.

8. NCC Local Land Acquisition Presentation

Mark Stabb, NCC Program Director for Central Ontario, made a short presentation regarding efforts to raise funds toward the purchase of the Powell East Property, which is adjacent to NCC's Scheck Nature Reserve near Newburg. This acquisition will expand to 223 acres conservation land containing rare alvar grassland habitat important to several species at risk, including the Eastern Loggerhead Shrike and Eastern Whip-poor-will. KFN assisted with previous land purchases in the area. Alexandra explained that the KFN executive had discussed the purchase. Treasurer, Larry McCurdy explained that there are sufficient funds available within the Habitat Preservation Fund to assist with the purchase.

Motion:

*Moved by Larry McCurdy, seconded by Erwin Batalla that:
Kingston Field Naturalists donate \$5,000 from the Habitat Preservation Fund to the NCC to assist with the purchase of the 223 acre Powell Property adjacent to the Scheck Nature Reserve.*

During discussion, Mike Evans requested that the vote be delayed until the membership had been advised. This was agreed and Larry McCurdy proposed the following:

Notice of Motion:

That KFN donate \$5,000 from the Habitat Preservation Fund for the purchase of the Powell Property.

This notice will be posted in the October Newsletter for member's consideration. The item is *tabled* until the general meeting to be held October 20. Alexandra thanked Mark for attending the meeting.

9. Featured Speakers

Chris Hargreaves introduced 3 speakers; Catherine Dale, Amanda Tracey and Sarah Wallace who gave an integrated talk entitled:

The Truth About Stories: Adventures from the Field

Members who have stories to share are encouraged to post them on their blog, *Dispatches from the Field* (www.dispatchesfromthefield1.wordpress.com).

The speakers were thanked by Alexandra Simmons.

The meeting ended at 9:15 pm. There were 56 members in attendance.