

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists, March 15, 2018, Queen's University, 7:30 p.m.

1. Opening Remarks

President Alexandra Simmons welcomed members to the March meeting and noted the evening's full agenda. She thanked Betsy Beckwith for providing refreshments.

2. Minutes of General Meeting held February 15, 2018

The President asked if there were errors or omissions in the previous minutes. There were none. She asked those who have concerns about the minutes to contact Recording Secretary Janis Grant. Janis thanked Janet Elliott for preparing the February minutes during her absence. No vote to accept the minutes was held.

3. Member's Observations

-Chris Grooms has recorded a Bobcat near Harrowsmith with his trail camera. He baited it with road kill. The video may be viewed on UTube.

-Jackie Bartnik reported a coyote at her property on St. Mark Road which, she says, is taking care of her garden's rabbit problem.

-Lynn Bell has seen a pair of Ravens starting to nest on the bell tower at the east end of Marysville.

4. Property Acquisition, Amherst Island

Paul Mackenzie, representing the ad hoc committee (Larry McCurdy,

Erwin Batalla, Kurt Hennige , Dale Dilamarter and Paul Mackenzie) for the donation of the Sylvester Property on Amherst Island to Kingston Field Naturalists, reviewed his presentation given at the February General Meeting (please see February Meeting minutes for details). The closing date for sale of the property is prior to May 4, 2018.

Discussion centered on whether severed properties could be sold to relieve annual property taxes of \$2,000 and on whether KFN could be forced to erect wind turbines on the property. Members were assured that the taxes are affordable at this time although severance could be considered in future, if necessary. Wind turbines cannot be forced on unwilling property owners.

Motion 1

Moved by Kurt Hennige, seconded by Larry McCurdy that the Kingston Field Naturalists enter into an Agreement to Purchase the Sylvester Property on Amherst Island, the cost of which will be covered by a donation from the Sylvester family.

Carried unanimously

Discussion prior to Motion 2 concerned work that KFN must undertake following purchase. Paul noted that Kurt Hennige will take responsibility for preparing a management plan. Signage is required and possibly some fencing. The property immediately to the west of the Sylvester Property is a sheep farm, which has a contract to accommodate 2 wind turbines. A buffer strip must be placed on the sheep farm between the turbines and the Sylvester Property.

Motion 2

Moved by Erwin Batalla, seconded by Jacqueline Bartnik that upon purchasing the Sylvester Property on Amherst Island, it would become a Nature Reserve covered by the by-laws of the Kingston Field Naturalists, for the purpose of protecting and conserving the habitat and natural values of the property in perpetuity.

Carried Unanimously

Following the vote, Chris Grooms asked that members applaud the Executive and the ad hoc committee for their work in acquiring the Sylvester Property.

5. MNRF Youth Stewardship Ranger Program

President Simmons introduced Justin White from MNRF who is leading an initiative to provide training to 16 & 17 year olds who will work outdoors on stewardship programs. Interested members were asked to meet with Justin following the meeting.

6. Nominating Committee

The committee, chaired by Kurt Hennige with members Carolyn Bonta and Janis Grant will present a slate of officers to the April AGM. Please provide the names of members interested in being on the executive to the committee.

7. Upcoming Events

-Upcoming Field Trips and Rambles are listed in the Newsletter.
-Dr. Vett Lloyd, Queens Department of Biology, will offer a public lecture entitled *The Trouble with Tick Tourism* on April 5 at noon, Room 21, School of Medicine Building.

8. Featured Presentation

Chris Hargreaves introduced speaker, Helene Gaulin, who gave an interesting presentation on the history of the Migratory Birds Convention, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The Convention was ratified by Canada and the US in 1916. In 1917 Canada adopted its Migratory Birds Convention Act, which implements the Convention on Canadian territory. The US followed with their Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.

Ms Gaulin was thanked by Anthony Kaduck who presented her with a copy of *Birds of the Kingston Area*.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. There were 70 members in attendance.