

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kingston Field Naturalists April 15, 2021 on Zoom

## 1. Social Time

A half hour of socialization took place prior to commencement of the Annual General Meeting. Members enjoyed a choice of conversing with each other or attending a Breakout Room presentation hosted by Mark Read titled “A Brief Overview of the Breeding Bird Atlas”. Interested members can obtain more information at <https://www.birdsontario.org/> on the “Breeding Bird Atlas” home page.

## 2. Member’s Observations

Members used the CHAT function of ZOOM to record their observations during the meeting.

- Erwin has heard Chorus, Leopard and Wood Frogs and asked if anybody has heard others.
- Kevin Bleeks saw a Eurasian Wigeon on Lake Ontario near the Invista Plant on March 23.
- Ken Edwards has not seen a Waterthrush yet.
- Anthony Kaduck reported Spring Peepers are active in the evening at Lemoine Point. He heard them but no Woodcocks yet.
- Lesley Rudy has also heard Chorus Frogs and Leopard Frogs in many places.
- Steve Manders has observed a herd of cows follow a porcupine very closely out of curiosity.

## Annual General Meeting

President Ken Edwards opened the Annual General Meeting at 7:31 pm.

### 1. *Approval of Agenda*

*Moved by Carolyn Bonta, seconded by Richard Lott that the proposed agenda be accepted.*

*Carried*

### 2. *Review of the Minutes of the General Meeting of March 18, 2021.*

*Moved by Gary Hillaby, seconded by Larry McCurdy that the minutes be accepted.*

*Carried.*

### 3. **Rideau Waterway Land Trust Presentation on Warren Property Purchase.**

Ken Edwards introduced Peter Hannah who spoke on behalf of the Rideau Waterway Land Trust Board. He referred members to an information package

posted on the internet about the Warren property and gave the good news that sufficient funds have been raised to purchase the property. Mr. Hannah talked about contributions made by owner Don Warren who was active in preserving historic attributes of the Rideau Canal which eventually led to its designation as a World Heritage Site. The land will be named “Warren Nature Reserve”. Mr. Hannah was thanked by Ken Edwards.

#### **4. President’s Review of 2020-21**

- a) Membership is up over last year by 151 new members but fluctuates. We now have 629 voting members. Many do not live in the KFN area but join to access our properties.
- b) Field Trips and Rambles have been unpredictable this year because of Covid. It has been difficult to recruit trip leaders, many of whom have retired. We are lucky to have new volunteers but they have been discouraged as trips are scheduled and then cancelled. We hope to get back to a regular schedule soon. Members are urged to watch the website for updates.
- c) Juniors/Teens. Limited activities for our youth programs have all been outdoors this year due to Covid restrictions.
- d) Nature Reserves. Volunteers have cleaned up and rerouted some trails, surveyed and mapped the Helen Quilliam Sanctuary this year. Cattle will soon move to the Martin Edwards Reserve. The Sylvester/Gallagher property will be cleared of garbage and fenced in 2021-22.
- e) Publications. The Bluebill and Newsletter are published regularly and your website is kept up to date. Articles and photos are particularly welcome for the Blue Bill and Facebook page.
- f) Education Outreach. Education was all on-line including videos about blue-green algae.
- g) Conservation. Many concerns are being raised by the Conservation Committee about Ontario government initiatives to develop protected wetlands, green belts and forests.

#### **5. Treasurer’s Report and Budget for 2021-22.**

Treasurer, Larry McCurdy, presented the financial report for 2020-21 which is available on the KFN website. It will be audited shortly by 2 members and published in the August Blue Bill. This year has been highly unusual with increased new members (possibly because it is possible to pay through Paypal) and decreased expenses e.g. no room rentals, no awards given etc. Income is \$8,000 above budget. The Balance Sheet shows a very healthy financial situation.

The budget for 2021-22, which has been recommended by the executive, was presented and is available on the website.

***Motion:***

*Moved by Larry McCurdy, seconded by David McMurray that the proposed budget, recommended by the executive, be approved.*

***Carried Unanimously***

**6. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of the Executive Committee for 2021-22.**

Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Anthony Kaduck, presented the proposed new executive committee. Most members of the executive have remained in their present positions but this year there are 3 vacancies. Rose-Marie Burke will return to the position of Recording Secretary and Gary Hillaby will become Field Trips Coordinator. Unfortunately, we are still seeking a person to take over the Treasurer's duties from Larry McCurdy who will stay on for another year. Further nominations were called three times from the floor. There were no further changes.

**The proposed new executive was acclaimed.**

Ken thanked retiring executive members Janis Grant and Carolyn Bonta for their services. Kevin Bleeks, as an auditor, commended Larry McCurdy for being a highly organized Treasurer.

**7. Presentations by Shirley French and Janet Elliott.**

John Donihee introduced speaker Shirley French who presented an interesting 10 minute video titled *Curiosity, Play and Experience of Wildlife in Marshy Habitats*. The photos were taken with a web cam.

John thanked Shirley and introduced Janet Elliott who gave a fascinating talk and video on Cecropia Moths. She was thanked by John Donihee.

**8. The meeting ended at 8:50 pm. There were 68 devices logged on Zoom.**