

Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington
DRAFT

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting
held April 10, 2019 at Ongwanada Resource Centre

Present: 43 members (includes life members and board members) + 9 others for a total of 52.

The meeting was called to order at ~6:45 p.m., chaired by Vicki Schmolka. Vicki welcomed everyone, and made introductions. She introduced herself, and the Board members present.

Statement of Quorum: over 15% of members were present, therefore quorum requirements were met.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

Moved by: Jackie Bartnik

Seconded by: Mary Alice Snetsinger

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2017 AGM

Motion:

Moved by: Chris Cannon

Seconded by: Anne Robertson

That the minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington, held on April 25, 2018, be adopted as circulated.

Motion Carried.

3. President's Report 2018

The President's report started with remembrance of a number of members who passed this year: Diane Arthur, Jane Bayley, Janet Covington, Hugh Evans, and Malcom Griffin.

Vicki then reported on the accomplishments of the Land Conservancy in 2018.

Highlights include:

- Successful completion of the Natural Heritage Plan (NHP) and We Need Nature pamphlet funded by the Ontario Trillium Grant
- Identification and outreach to American landowners in the northern region focus of the NHP funded by Ontario Land Trust Alliance
- LC-KFLA is now a grantee of the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (AFCLT)

- A number of joint efforts for land management and securing of land, including with: Queen's University engineering students (bridge options for DCNR), Fleming College students (volunteer manual), Kingston Field Naturalists to secure land on Amherst Island

The Land Conservancy to date has secured 220 hectares (544 acres) in 8 properties, preserving a variety of habitats and species, including 18 species at risk.

4. Treasurer's Report & Auditor's Statement

Roger Healey gave the Treasurer's Report. Membership was 131 at year end in 2018, in comparison to 117 in 2017.

Roger reviewed the Land Conservancy's bank account, which had a total balance of \$120,186.80 across the general operating, land acquisition, stewardship, and miscellaneous accounts. He outlined what the general operating and stewardship accounts included. The general operating account covers the day-to-day costs of running the Land Conservancy, and includes membership fees and donations. The Land Conservancy needs an estimated annual minimum of \$4000 to cover the general costs of managing the Land Conservancy. The stewardship account includes interest from the Natural Areas Protection Fund (endowed with the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area), and is also built through directed member donations. Taxes have been much reduced through MFTIP and CLTIP programs to less than \$500/year for all properties.

Auditor's Statement

Roger read the Auditor's Statement for 2018 below, and displayed this statement for all members. The auditor, Joanne Gunning (not in attendance at the meeting) found the books to be correct and reported no deficiencies.

I have reviewed the bank statements together with the supporting documents of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington for the period January 01, 2018 to December 31, 2018. I find that the above statements accurately reflect the financial transactions for that period and the financial position of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington for the year ended December 31, 2018.

original signed by

Joanne Gunning

April 10, 2018

Motion:

Moved by: Barry Robertson

Seconded by: Paul MacKenzie

That the members of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington accept the report of the auditor for 2018.

Motion Carried.

Roger noted that the Land Conservancy will need a new auditor for 2019, as Joanne is moving out of Kingston.

5. Land Acquisition Committee Report

Paul Mackenzie, Chair of the Land Acquisition Committee, gave a brief report on the Land Acquisition Committee. Paul outlined the 6 properties currently owned by the Land Conservancy, two Conservation Easements that the Land Conservancy monitors, and properties under consideration. Paul detailed what occurs during the monitoring of properties and the number of the inquiries the committee dealt with this year (12 inquiries, 6 site visits of potential new properties and two easements under consideration). The Land Conservancy has put together a new detailed monitoring guide for volunteers. Land Conservancy properties and easements currently help to protect at least 18 species at risk.

Paul outlined the unique features of two new Land Conservancy properties: donation of 13 acres near Verona (Mast/Van Dongen) and fundraising campaign for 200 acres on a portion of Depot Creek (Bruce Millen's land). The fundraising goal and breakdown of money was outlined. Rod and Judith Fraser are co-chairs of the fundraising campaign, and contributed a lead donation of \$25,000; with a total of \$113,442 to date raised toward the purchase of the Millen property.

6. Approval of reports

The President's, Treasurer's and Land Acquisition reports were approved as a group.

Motion:

Moved by: Barry Robertson

Seconded by: Don Rogers

That the members of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington accept the President, Treasurer and Land Acquisition reports for 2018.

7. Election of board members

Elections were held for five Board positions, with six Board members finishing their two-year term in 2020. A proposed slate of candidates was presented for two-year terms and nominations were sought at the meeting. There were none.

The Nominating Committee's list of four people who are willing to serve a two-year term on the Board: John Donihee, Kate Laird, Paul Mackenzie, and Larry McCurdy.

Motion:

Moved by: Jackie Bartnik

Seconded by: Bruce Elliott

The list of proposed candidates is approved.

Motion Carried.

Motion:

Moved by: Dave MacMurray

Seconded by: Janice Grant

That the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominations Committee be accepted, there being no other nominations, as directors of the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington.

Motion Carried.

Members were encouraged to become more involved by working on a committee.

8. Passport to Nature

Members were given information about and a copy of the Passport to Nature which combines over 30 free outdoor events from Spring 2019 to Winter 2020 organized by the Land Conservancy in collaboration with other local conservation organizations. Start-up funds were provided by The Gosling Foundation and advertisements from local businesses. A main goal of Passport to Nature is to get people outside and in nature.

9. Adjournment of AGM portion of the meeting

Motion:

Moved by: Barry Robertson

Seconded by: Bruce Elliot

Approval to adjourn the AGM.

Motion Carried.

10. Guest speaker: Amelia Cox, Biology Department, Queen's University

Long-term study of an avian aerial insectivore points to climate change as a driver of decline

After a break for snacks, conversation, and an opportunity to look at several displays of information, the meeting was reconvened.

Amelia outlined results from her study on the potential causes of population declines in tree swallows at the Queen's University Biological station (QUBs).

Monitoring of the population of tree swallows at QUBs began in 1975 and has carried out since then, providing a wealth of detailed demographic data. Tree swallow populations at QUBs initially increased, with more boxes and immigrants from surrounding areas. Starting in 1991 the population began to decline.

The overwinter survivability of all age classes and fledging success have the most potential to influence the overall population dynamics. The overwinter survival of older females has not changed through time, although variable. While 1-year old female

survival is lower, and also variable, it has not declined over time. Whereas, juvenile survival had a similar pattern to overall population dynamics; increasing when overall population increased and experienced an abrupt decline coincident with the population decline in 1991, and then continued to further decline at a slower rate overtime. Fledging success, the final important parameter, also changed through time. It was high and stable while the population was growing, but when the population was declining began to drop as well. Data indicated that nestlings were fledging at a lower body mass. To explore whether weather conditions were influencing nestling body mass and subsequently fledging success and juvenile survival, nestlings were repeatedly measured throughout their development in 2017. Data indicated that nestlings were considerably more likely to be light for their age if it had rained in the previous 3 days.

The aerial insects parents rely on to provision their nestlings are unavailable when it is raining, super windy, or cold which could cause short term food shortages. Fledging success is higher when weather is more favourable. Most juvenile mortality occurs in the first month while the juveniles are learning to fly and forage for themselves and are particularly vulnerable to predators.

One of the main conclusions from Amelia's research was the low fledging success and juvenile survival were the most likely causes behind the overall population decline in the QUBs tree swallow population. It is hypothesized that these changes were probably driven by increasing rainfall on the breeding grounds and corresponding short-term food shortages during nestling development.

Numerous questions were asked immediately after Amelia's talk, indicating a wide interest in the topic and presentation.

The meeting adjourned at ~8:30 p.m.