

MINUTES
Williamsburg Bird Club Board Meeting
September 8, 2008; 7:20 p.m.
Meeting Room C, Williamsburg Library

Present: Shirley Devan, Sara Lewis, Chuck Rend, Tom Armour, Bob Long, Fred Blystone, Alex Minarik, Jeanette Navia

Absent: Joanne Andrews, Mary Anne Fennell

The meeting began at 7:20 p.m.

Secretary's Report – Mary Anne Fennell was not present. Shirley Devan distributed minutes of the March 10, 2008 meeting. After a short review, the Board approved the minutes.

Shirley Devan took minutes/notes of the current meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Chuck Rend reported assets of \$10,084.

Committee Reports

Programs -- Alex Minarik reported that the speaker for September will be Mikaila Howie, a recipient of one of the William Sheehan and Ruth Beck Ornithology Research Grants. The October speaker will be Caitlyn Kight. The November speaker is still to be determined.

Newsletter -- Fred Blystone reported that 47 members receive the newsletter electronically.

Field Trips -- Tom Armour reported that the October field trip will be in the local area and that he will find a leader.

Membership -- Jeanette Navia distributed an updated membership listing and reported 3 new members since our last meeting. The Board discussed getting Club information out to local neighborhoods to include in their monthly newsletters. A somewhat generic note would include information about meeting dates and times, bird walks and field trips, and membership information. Shirley Devan will draft a short paragraph and circulate for review.

Records and Bird Counts -- Bill Williams reported via email in advance of the meeting: “The Williamsburg CBC is scheduled for Sunday, 21 Dec 2008. We need to have a leader for the Skimino section. I am hoping to secure leadership for the Jamestown section (Dan Cristol I hope), and I will see how Ruth feels, as time draws near, about the College Woods section. Middle Plantation and Jamestown sections need to be redrawn, but this is not critical at the moment. I will be talking to Hugh Beard about that to get his recommendations. His territory (Middle Plantation) is huge and has excellent habitats that simply do not get full attention. As

always, the count will be only as successful as the coverage, or lack thereof, allows. The more folks we can get out the better!!”

Refreshments -- Barb Streb reported via email in advance of the meeting: “We have had kind volunteers to bring refreshments for the rest of the year.”

Library Liaison -- Lee Schuster reported via email in advance of the meeting: “Listed below are the books the club purchased for the library:

1. Audubon Pocket Backyard Birdwatch
2. Backyard Birds of Virginia: how to Identify and attract the top 25 birds
3. Best-Ever Backyard birding Tips: Hundreds of Easy Ways to Attract the birds You love to Watch
4. Birder’s Conservation Handbook: 100 North American Birds at Risk
5. Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson
6. Jerry Baker’s Backyard Birdscaping Bonanza: 1,046 Quick and easy ways to make your yard and Garden absolutely irresistible to birds
7. Return of the Eagle: How America saved its National symbol
8. Sea and Coast Birds: Of North America
9. Smithsonian Field Guide to Birds of North America
10. Stalking the Ghost Bird: The Elusive Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Louisiana
11. A Supremely Bad Idea: Three Mad Birders and Their Quest to See it all
12. Winged Wonders: A Celebration of Birds in Human History

Historian -- Cynthia Long was not present. Bob Long expressed concern about a storage location for the Club’s archives and the fact that members do not have access to the records from the past 30 years.

Adopt-a-Highway -- John Fennell was not present to report.

Old Business

1. *List of books purchased by Library with WBC donations.* Lee Schuster has provided a list (see above). The Club will try to set up a “photo opportunity” with Lee and library staff – Cela Schmidt, Jeanette Navia and others and try to get the photo in the Library newsletter as well as the Virginia Gazette.
2. *Survey of members who do not renew as to their reason for not doing so.* This has not been completed since the March meeting. Tom Armour will check with Ms. Rockwell re her lapse in membership. Fred Blystone will send Shirley Devan the other names for possible phone calls.
3. *Survey all members to see what the club is doing right and what new things they would like the club to do.* This has not been completed since the March meeting. Shirley Devan will draft a survey and get feedback from the board. The survey will ask for ideas about programs, activities, field trips, and speakers. The survey will also ask if members attend

meetings. If not, why? Also, the survey will ask for alternative meeting locations other than Millington Hall.

New Business

1. *2009 selection process for recipient of Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship.* Chuck Rend reviewed the process used in February 2008 and recommended that we select the runner up in the 2008 selection as the recipient for the 2009 scholarship. After discussion about timing and the considerable work involved by many people, the consensus was to repeat the same selection process for the 2009 recipient – solicit essays from youth in James City County, York County, and Williamsburg. The essays should be postmarked by January 15, 2009. The selection committee will make a decision by February 1, 2009. Jeanette Navia and Alex Minarik agreed to be on the selection committee. Chuck Rend agreed to receive the applications in the mail and “blind” the applications, make copies, and distribute copies to the review committee. It was agreed that the review committee should be four people. Shirley will ask Mary Anne Fennell if she wants to serve again on the committee. Shirley will ask another member to serve to round out the committee to four people.
2. Sara Lewis proposed that the Club sponsor two Nature Camp Scholarships in 2009. After discussion, the board voted unanimously to support two scholarships in 2009.
3. *Nominating Committee for selecting slate for 2009 Board members.* Shirley Devan reviewed the schedule for nominating members for the Board for 2009: The election must take place at the November membership meeting. The Nominating committee must be announced at the October membership meeting if positions on the Board need to be filled.

Shirley Devan indicated that she would serve another year as President; Chuck Rend indicated he would serve another year as Treasurer; Fred Blystone indicated he would serve another year as Vice President – Newsletter Editor.

Alex Minarik indicated she would like to step down as Vice President – Programs and Sara Lewis indicated she would like to step down as Member-at-Large.

Shirley will contact Mary Anne Fennell to see if she wants to continue as Secretary and Joanne Andrews if she wants to continue as Member-at-Large.

The Board is responsible for naming a Nominating Committee. The Board suggested several people to serve on the nominating committee. Shirley Devan will contact several members to see if they are willing to be on the nominating committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 in the Library parking lot.

Minutes prepared by Shirley Devan, President.