

Minutes
Williamsburg Bird Club Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 7, 2008; 7:00 p.m.
Human Services Building, Conference Room

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Shirley Devan, President
Fred Blystone, VP Newsletter
Chuck Rend, Treasurer
Sara Lewis, Member-at-Large
Bob Long, Past President
Jeanette Navia, Chair, Membership Committee

Absent:

Alex Minarik, VP Programs
Mary Anne Fennell
Joanne Andrews, Member at Large

Secretary's Report – Shirley Devan distributed copies of the minutes from the September 8, 2008 meeting. The minutes were approved. Shirley indicated she would take notes for tonight's meeting.

Treasurer's Report -- Chuck Rend reported that the assets for the Club as of September 30 were \$9520. Chuck reported that on September 17, he turned all the Club's mutual funds to cash. He then purchased two Certificates of Deposit for \$2500 each at SunTrust Bank. One will mature in 6 months. One will mature in 13 months. The interest rate on the 13 month CD is 4%.

Committee Reports

Programs -- Alex Minarik was not present to report.

Newsletter -- Fred Blystone reported that he received very few reports of bird sightings for the October newsletter. Only Joe and Grace Doyle submitted reports.

Field Trips -- Tom Armour sent a message that the field trip in November will be along the Colonial Parkway and the York River looking for wintering ducks.

Membership -- Jeanette Navia reported that she had received 11 survey replies. Jeanette distributed a preliminary compilation of responses and encouraged Board members to fill out their surveys and turn them in. Shirley indicated that she will put a gentle reminder in her email blast this week encouraging members to submit

surveys.

Records and Bird Counts -- Bill Williams was not present.

Refreshments -- Barb Streb was not present but sent a note saying that Bob and Cynthia Long will provide refreshments at the October 15 meeting.

Library Liaison -- Lee Schuster was not present.

Historian -- Cynthia Long was not present

Adopt-a-Highway -- John Fennell was not present

Old Business

1. Consideration of modification to Application for Nature Camp Scholarship in 2009. Chuck recommended that we modify the Bird Club's Nature Camp Application to add the following paragraph after the first paragraph:

"The purpose of the Williamsburg Bird Club is to promote birding and the study of wild birds (ornithology). This scholarship is intended to support a student who will choose ornithology as his or her area of concentration (i.e. "major") while attending Nature Camp. You would study ornithology three days a week and other subjects the rest of the time."

Chuck also recommended that we add the question near the bottom of page 1

"Do you intend to major in ornithology at Nature Camp if you win this scholarship? Yes No"

The Board discussed this suggestion. Shirley suggested that the answer to the question be "blinded" before distribution to reviewers. Once the top 5 are determined, then the "blind" will be removed from these applications and the reviewers will choose the top two applicants who indicated they intended to major in ornithology.

Sara made a motion that we accept Chuck's modifications. Shirley seconded. The Board voted to approve the modifications to the Nature Camp application.

2. Status of Membership Survey distributed with October newsletter. See note above under "Membership."
3. Status of Survey of members who did not renew for 2008. Shirley will draft a

letter to those 14 people who did not renew in 2008 to send with a hard copy of the December newsletter. This letter will invite them to rejoin and provide membership application and an opportunity to share any reasons they choose not to renew.

Sara asked the board to consider in the future the partnering of the Bird Club with another membership organization for the mutual benefit each group. Several organizations were mentioned. Shirley asked the Board members to consider this and think of organizations that would be suitable partners.

4. Status of bird club information to send to local neighborhood/community associations for inclusion in newsletters.

Shirley distributed a draft announcement, edited by Sara Lewis, which would be appropriate to send to members who live in neighborhoods/developments around town. The announcement is attached to these minutes.

Shirley will send an electronic version to the Board members.

New Business

1. Nominating committee. Shirley reported that the Nominating Committee is Alex Minarik, Jeanette Navia, and David Lee. The nominating committee will be announced at the October meeting and the available positions on the Board will also be announced: Vice President – Programs and Member-at-Large.
2. Bobwhite Habitat Restoration Project at New Quarter Park. Shirley and Bob reported that York County plowed the field today (October 7) and that Cynthia and Shirley have tentatively planned a work day for October 25 after the 4th Saturday Bird Walk. More details will be released to all 3 sponsoring organizations in the next two weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Text for distribution to local neighborhood associations for their newsletters/web sites

Interested in learning more about the birds in your backyard? Join the Williamsburg Bird Club. For over 30 years, the members of the Club have shared the joy of wild birds and birding with their Williamsburg neighbors. Beginners are always welcome!

The Club sponsors 8 meetings per year where the topics range from members' overseas travel adventures to graduate student research findings. Refreshments are served after each meeting.

Members lead Bird Walks twice a month at New Quarter Park (near Queens Lake neighborhood). Join us 2nd (8 am) and 4th (7 am) Saturdays for a leisurely two hour walk to Queens Creek and around several wooded trails in the Park. The Park has binoculars and field guides to loan out for the walks.

The Club also conducts a monthly Field Trip (3rd Saturdays) to a local birding hotspot like Greensprings Trail and Kiptopeke State Park where participants can observe and learn more about local birds and their unique habitats. Club members participate in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count as well as a similar Spring Count in May each year. Extra eyes and ears are always welcome.

The Club also has a Speaker's Bureau and is always willing to present programs about birds and birding to local organizations.

You can learn about upcoming events and download a membership form from the Bird Club's web site: <http://williamsburgbirdclub.org>. Click on "Become a member" in the right panel. Membership for families is \$25 and includes 11 newsletters per year.

Questions? Contact Bird Club President Shirley Devan, sedevan52@cox.net or call 757-813-1322.