

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club
Conference Room, Human Services Bldg.
January 6, 2009**

Member Attendees: Joanne Andrews, Fred Blystone, Shirley Devan, Mary Anne Fennell, Charles Litterst, Bob Long, Joe Piotrowski, Chuck Rend

Chair Attendees: John Fennell, Jeanette Navia, Bill Williams

Absent: All board members present

1. Secretaries Report: Minutes from the October meeting were approved as presented.
2. Treasurers Report:
 - a. Chuck entered into the record the 2008 financial report.
 - b. Ornithology grants: After discussion, it was moved seconded and passed that the draft budget be accepted as presented with the club awarding 3 ornithology grants for 2009.
 - c. Donations: It was moved, seconded and passed that donations remain at the same level [\$625] as last year and be awarded to the same 4 organizations. At Bill Williams' suggestion, it was moved, seconded and passed that we designate that the Bird Club's donation to the Center for Conservation Biology be applied to "The Mitchell A. Byrd Research Professorship of Conservation Biology".
3. Committee Reports:
 - a. Programs: Joe will contact the 3 grad students who received grants to schedule their presentations to the club. There are several other programs already scheduled.
 - b. Newsletter: Fred is going to begin archiving newsletters on the web site, starting with 2008 issues and continuing to add additional older months as new months' editions are published. We will also continue to encourage members to receive electronic versions as there is a large saving to the club with this form.
 - c. Field Trips: Tom entered into the record the current schedule of field trips. There will be 8 monthly field trips and the Jan. field trip will be to CBBT Tunnel Islands.
 - d. Records and Bird Counts: Bill reported that a record 53 participants were involved in the Christmas Bird Count. The Spring Bird Count will be April 29 and the 2009 Christmas Bird Count will be Dec. 20.
 - e. Membership: Jeanette presented the new member roster for 2009. She also presented the results of the member survey. There were 13 responses and many helpful suggestions. The most frequent suggestion was for a "New Birders Course" to help novices identify birds. Bill Williams and Shirley volunteered to look into such a project, modeled on Bill's current Christopher Wren course.
 - f. Refreshments: Barb Streb will continue to coordinate this program

- g. Library: no report
 - h. Historian: Cynthia Long will continue to chair this committee.
 - i. Adopt-A-Highway: John reported that the WBC sign is up on Croaker Rd. He will pass a signup sheet around at the Jan. meeting for the next pickup crew on Feb. 7.
4. Old Business: Nature Camp Scholarship: Charles Rend reported that, to date, we have not received any applications. The deadline is Jan. 15th. We will wait until Jan. 17th passes and then decide what action to take if no applications are received.
5. New Business:
- a. “Bird of Williamsburg”: Bill requested that the WBC consider publishing an update of the book “Birds of Williamsburg” which was last updated 1998. He is currently working and this update. Shirley indicated that the club will support this project.
 - b. Neighborhood Newsletters: members were reminded to submit publicity about the WBC activities to their neighborhood newsletters.

The meeting was adjourned by the president.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary Anne Fennell, Secretary
Williamsburg Bird Club