

DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club
Conference Room, Human Services Bldg.
5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg, VA
Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Board Member Attendees: Fred Blystone, Shirley Devan, Alice Kopinitz, Jeanette Navia, Joe Piotrowski, Charles Rend

Chair Attendees: John Fennell, Jeanette Navia

Board Members Absent: Chuck Litterst, Bob Long

Member Attendees: Sara Lewis

The meeting was called to order at 7:00. Shirley welcomed member, Sara Lewis.

1. Secretary's Report: The minutes from 2002 -2005 are now in the Secretary's archive. Copies of the January 14, 2010 board meeting will be sent to all board members and committee chairs.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Submitted a list of members who made contributions above the annual dues to the Bird Club. The list is attached. The list contains 32 members with donations totaling \$1,245. Shirley will write a thank you to each one.

Attached is an itemized list of miscellaneous expenses for 2009.

3. Committee Reports:

a. Programs: Joe reported our speaker for May will be a grad student. A new year of programs begins in September. Joe asked for any input concerning programs. Suggestions: Travelogues are well received. Bob Ake is doing a "Big Bird Year" and he might be available in 2011.

b. Newsletter: Fred enjoys doing the newsletter and welcomes input of articles and pictures particularly of field trips.

c. Field Trips: Welcome to the board, Susan. She has the following field trips scheduled:

May 15	Greenspring	led by Bill Williams
August 21	Craney Island	led by Ruth Beck
September 18	Kiptopeke	led by Brian Tabor
October 16	Chippokes St. Park	led by Hugh Beard
November 20	Little Creek Reservoir	led by Lee Schuster

Susan welcomes input and suggestions.

d. Membership: Jeanette reported 143 members and distributed copies of the roster to the board.

e. Records and Bird Counts: Bill is finalizing the data from the Spring Bird Count. He reminds us to keep the date December 19 for the 2010 Christmas Bird Count.

- f. Refreshments: Barb reports the refreshment sign-ups are complete through 2010.
- g. Library Liaison: Discussion about adding the year donated and the web site information to the bookplate of books donated by the club. Jeanette will check with the library about this.
- h. Historian: Position Open
- i. Adopt-a-Highway: John plans another pickup for late October/early November.
- j. Nature Camp Scholarships: 2010 Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships were awarded to Emily Simpers and Elena Sanders. Information is attached.

Old Business

1. New Quarter Park offered to provide refreshments for a Club meeting. NQP signed up to bring refreshments for a fall meeting.
2. Upcoming Community Outreach opportunities
 - a. February 20 – Outdoor Expo, James City Co Community Center. 9 am – 1 pm. 35 vendors, 500 visitors. \$50 for booth. Jeanette Navia and Mary Anne Fennel staffed our booth.
 - b. March 28 – Cabin Fever Sunday at NQP. 10 am – 1 pm. Jan Lockwood and Bob and Cynthia Long staffed the WBC exhibit.
3. Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) – what can they do for us and what can we do for them. See Item #2 under New Business.
4. Williamsburg Bird Club hats and other merchandise are available for a donation to the club.

New Business

1. Board agreed to present a certificate of recognition/appreciation to Carrot Tree, New Quarter Park, and Wild Birds Unlimited for their generous contributions to the efforts and mission of the WBC, etc. Shirley will prepare the documents and presentations will be opportunities for publicity.
2. Consider adopting an Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) – Western Shore Marshes IBA in cooperation with Hampton Roads Bird Club.
 - a. The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is an international bird conservation program being implemented on every continent, with 48 states participating in the United States. The aim of the program is to identify a network of sites that are essential for sustaining naturally occurring populations of bird species, and to protect or manage these sites for the long-term conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. For a site to be recognized as an IBA it must meet criteria based on bird concentrations, threatened species, or species assemblages representative of priority habitats.

- b. The Virginia IBA Program was initiated in 2002 and has been making great progress toward greater protection of our state's vulnerable bird species. IBA identification in Virginia has produced 20 IBAs (as of November 2009) that represent our state's very best bird habitat.
 - c. Local community members can play a vital role in furthering the goals of the IBA program. Through the Adopt an IBA initiative, a local group (such as an Audubon chapter, bird club, school group, etc.) adopts an IBA and participates as a group to further conservation, monitoring, or advocacy efforts on the site. Involvement can include organizing a monitoring effort, clean-up day, education program, or habitat improvement project or advocating for the IBA in the political arena. Adopting an IBA can help in the conservation of the site by raising awareness about the importance of the site and building a local group of constituents that care about it.
 - d. Please note that it may be possible to receive a Virginia Society of Ornithology Conservation Grant to help support IBA Adoption efforts.
 - e. Western Shore Marshes IBA is described in attachment.
 - f. Hampton Roads Bird Club is considering the request to jointly adopt this IBA with us. Their new Board begins July 1 and will take up this issue after July 1.
 - g. Shirley will discuss this program with the Master Naturalists Chapters in the area.
3. Consider request from CDR (Child Development Resources) to provide nest box assembly and bird food for their yard. We have received a request from Child Development Resources to provide items/supplies for their feeder stations enjoyed by staff and children throughout the year. Any or all of the things on this list would be welcome.
- a. New cone-shaped baffles for the two existing feeder stations at the two big windows. At WBU, product no. 4005 cost \$21.99. At the very least, the baffles would make the existing stations functional. They are very low so that kids can see them; the existing baffles have rusted and squirrels are climbing into the feeders.
 - b. One bag of safflower seeds a month or every other month. The squirrels, grackles, etc. love the cheap food and a volunteer used to bring Safflower seed from time to time. The staff loved this because it attracted colorful songbirds. \$125-\$250 per year.
 - c. A small/short thistle feeder, thistle seed, and Feeder Fresh. About \$40
 - d. A new feeder station to place outside the fence to the playground. George

Copping reports that a pole system would run about \$70 and a squirrel proof feeder from \$45-\$85. The parents of the kids are being taught to garden in this area, so kids and parents would enjoy the feeder station.

- e. One bag of regular food and a suet cake per month or every other month. \$125-\$250.
 - f. Chuck Rend's moved to allocate \$500 to Child Development Resources to purchase new equipment, refurbish existing equipment and purchase seed through 2010. Sara Lewis will oversee the purchases. Fred Blystone seconded the motion, which was approved.
4. Consider funding for hors d'oeuvres for participants in Christmas Bird Count (December each year) and Spring Bird Count (May each year). Joe Piotrowski moved that the club supports at the \$100 level for each bird count tally meeting at the Carrot Tree. Jeanette Navia seconded. The motion was passed.
 5. Review schedule for production of Bird Club photo album for fall. Joe reported that he needs to do further research concerning cost. The board suggested 50 copies at a size of 8-1/2 x 11
 6. Consider a "List serve" for Bird Club to facilitate easier communication with Bird Club members for Board members. This was squeezed into a few seconds. Jeanette reported that this function is available with our website. The board will discuss this item further at a later meeting.

Addendum received by email from Shirley Devan

The Ornithology Research Grants for 2010 will go to the following recipients:

Sarah Lemelin - "The Effects of Mercury on Reproductive Success and Adrenocortical Function"

Catherine Lewis - "The sublethal effects of mercury on the songbird immune system: An experimental study."

Amanda Bessler - "The Effect of Mercury on Zebra Finch (*Poephila guttata*) Spatial Memory"

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm by the president, Shirley Devan.

Respectfully Submitted
Alice Kopinitz, Secretary
Williamsburg Bird Club