

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club
Thursday, September 12, 2013**

Multi-purpose Room, Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Road, Williamsburg

Board Member Attendees: Fred Blystone, Shirley Devan, Geoff Giles, Cathy Millar, Jeanette Navia

Board Members Absent: Ann Carpenter, Joe Piotrowski

Chair Attendees: Geoff Giles, Jeanette Navia, Bill Williams

Chair Attendees Absent: John Fennell, Lee Schuster, Barb Streb

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President, Shirley Devan.

Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar

Minutes of June 17, 2013 Board Meeting were reviewed. Geoff moved for approval. Fred seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter

Ann was absent but had emailed an updated Spreadsheet of Income and Expenses of the Bird Club as of September 10, 2013 to the Board and Chair members prior the meeting. Shirley Devan reviewed aloud the salient points.

- Check book: \$5,231
- CD's: \$5,429
- Total Income: \$9,140
- Total Expenses: \$6,701
- Balance: \$2,424

Shirley reported that since we met in June, the income from the sales of Bill William's book has now exceeded the cost of production. Spreadsheet shows a profit of \$167. There are 30 books left and the question now for consideration is whether to order a reprint.

In summary, Shirley declared the Club's finances in good shape.

Shirley proceeded to present that Ann Carpenter had brought to her attention the Virginia Solicitation of Contributions Law and that together they had reviewed it carefully to see where our club fits in. Shirley had with her a copy of the Virginia Solicitations of Contributions Law as well as a copy of Rules Governing the Solicitation of Contributions and What Every Virginia Charity and Non Profit Entity Should

Know about Solicitation of Contribution Laws and she reviewed the highlights of each. This law especially applies to groups who spend a lot of money fund raising. As that is not our case and being a civic organization the law has no great implication for our club. Shirley read the description of a civic organization which in brief is a local service club of 10 or more persons not organized for profit but operated exclusively for educational or charitable purposes and net earnings being devoted exclusively to charitable, educational, recreational or social welfare purposes. All criteria that our club definitely meets.

We will need to claim our letter of exemption from the VDACS by sending a check of \$10 made payable to the Treasurer of Virginia with a completed application form and required documents. This is a one-time expense and not time sensitive.

President's Report – Shirley Devan

Shirley brought a bag of a variety of used bird books given her by the local Wild Birds Unlimited shop who had received them as a donation from a customer. This stimulated a discussion about holding a book swap as a fund raiser for the club based on one recently held by the Hampton Roads Bird Club. Shirley said she would submit a write-up for our October newsletter asking members to bring in books they wanted to contribute at the November meeting. Contributions of \$1 for soft cover and \$2 for hard cover were suggested. Left overs would be donated to the Williamsburg Regional Library. As a point of interest, Jeanette said the library also accepts back issues of magazines like Living Bird and Audubon.

Committee Reports

- Newsletter: Fred reported that 65 members receive the newsletter via direct mail and 86 electronically.

Since the last meeting, Fred Blystone had tendered his resignation to Shirley Devan as Newsletter Editor for 2014. He stated that the struggle to solicit all the info each month took the fun out of it and limited his ability to get away. He also said he didn't see publishing monthly newsletters as important as when it started just over 35 years ago due to all the other methods of now communicating data. The group revisited the idea of publishing every 2 months (6 issues of The Flyer per year). Fred said such a newsletter could be expanded to 10 pages. Concern was expressed about members who do not have email addresses receiving timely announcements/reminders of upcoming field trips, bird walks, etc. as about 5 years ago such reminders were included in the newsletters. Jeanette and Fred determined that there were fewer than 10 members who don't have email and could be taken care of separately. Shirley volunteered to send them a monthly postcard. Fred estimated that going to 6 publications would save about \$300 per year so the cost of postcards and mailing would not be a financial issue.

Bill Williams voiced his opinion that The Flyer is an important legacy document and stressed the value of the newsletter as a means of reporting member's sightings, reporting changes in taxonomy, sharing trip accounts which are very popular with the membership, etc.

Jeanette asked whether her book reviews should still be continued and the group were quick to respond on how well they are written and enjoyed and definitely should remain a feature.

Shirley said in summary that we needed to consider how we can tweak the contents of the newsletter but still maintain the records.

Fred volunteered that even if he weren't newsletter editor, he would continue to send out email reminders of upcoming field trips, birding walks, etc. to the membership.

Shirley asked Fred if he would consider staying on as editor if 6 newsletters were published per year. He said that he would but asked that the position be open to election on the next slate of officers in 2014 in case there is a member who would really like to do it. Bill suggested that he might want to take on an apprentice to learn the ropes and fill in when Fred wants to go on a trip.

- Programs: Joe Piotrowski not present but has scheduled Fletcher Smith at W&M's Center for Conservation Biology to speak about the CCB's Whimbrel study at the October meeting and Mike Wilson, also of W&M's Center for Conservation Biology to report on the CCB's Nightjar study at the November meeting.
- Field Trips: Geoff Giles reported on plans for a field trip to Hog Island on September 21st. Requires more preparation than most field trips due to having to pass thru security due to proximity of Surry Nuclear Power Plant. Refuge manager has been notified.
October 19: Grandview Beach with Dave Youker as leader.
November 16: Shirley Plantation
December: Christmas Bird Count on Dec 15
January 18: Chesapeake Bay Boat Trip
- Membership: Jeanette Navia reported 4 new members and a couple of renewals. She resigned her position as Member-At-Large but will continue her role as Membership Chair and Club web mistress.
- Adopt-a-Highway: John Fennel not present but Shirley commented that he got no help at all last time. We might need to consider if the club should continue participating in the program. We will confer with John when he returns to Williamsburg in October.
- Records and Bird Counts: Bill Williams said the Christmas Bird Count will be December 15 and that he would really like to aim for over 100 participants. Including more bird feeder watchers might help accomplish the goal. Also stressed that participants need to sign up in a timely manner.
- Refreshments: Barb Streb not present but she has everything lined up for the autumn meetings.
- Library Liaison: Lee Schuster not present but she had submitted a list compiled on September 11, 2013 of WBC book purchases for Williamsburg Regional Library, 2013, as following:
 1. Fidget's Folly by Stacey Patterson (children's book)
 2. Return of the Osprey by David Gessner
 3. Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Eastern Region
 4. Penguins: The Birds that Wanted to be Fish- DVD
 5. Peterson Reference Guide to Molt in North American Birds
 6. How Fast can a Falcon Dive by Carol Butler and Peter Caparinolo
 7. Avian Architecture by Peter Goodfellow
 8. Nature: Extraordinary Birds-DVD

9. The Wisdom of Birds by Tim Birkhead

10. Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle by Thor Hanson

- Historian: Open

New Business:

The slate of officers for 2014 was discussed. The positions to be filled will be President, Member-at-Large and Vice President – Editor of The Flyer. The rest of the officers agreed to continue. Shirley will notify members in the October issue of The Flyer and membership meeting. Voting will take place at the November membership meeting.

Shirley adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
September 16, 2013