

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club
Thursday, October 30, 2013**

Conference Room, Human Services Building, 5249 Old Towne Road, Williamsburg

Board Member Attendees: Fred Blystone, Ann Carpenter, Shirley Devan, Cathy Millar, Jeanette Navia, Joe Piotrowsky

Board Members Absent: Geoff Giles

Chair Attendees: John Fennell, Jeanette Navia

Chair Attendees Absent: Geoff Giles, Lee Schuster, Barb Streb, Bill Williams

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President, Shirley Devan

Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar

Minutes of September 12, 2013 Board Meeting were reviewed. After a spelling correction, Shirley moved for approval and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report- Ann Carpenter

Ann distributed a current spread sheet.

- Checkbook: \$5,399 (includes some 2014 memberships)
- CD's: \$5,431
- Total Assets: \$10,830
- Total Income: \$9,417 (The increase is mostly due to book sales. Bill William's book has now brought in \$427 over the cost of production)
- Expenses: \$6,919 (Ann estimates that there won't be much more than \$5-600 in further expenses for the rest of the year)
- Balance: \$2,498 (Ann estimates that by the end of the year we will have an income of approx. \$2000 over expenses.)

Ann summarized that income is down a little from last year but not significantly. Income and expenses remain pretty much the same from year to year.

After asking if there were any questions or comments on the report, Shirley moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved. The report was unanimously approved.

President's Report –Shirley Devan

Shirley noted that there aren't many left of Bill William's book, *The Birds of Virginia's Colonial Triangle*, and Ann asked if we are planning to reprint it. Shirley said this is a decision we will have to address but not tonight.

Shirley reported that we need to decide how many Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships and Ornithology Research Grants to sponsor in 2014. She proposed that if our financial status in 2014 resembles that of 2013, that we should be able to offer the same number again. Ann reported that the current cost of Nature Camp is \$775. The cost might increase by a little next year. The Board unanimously decided to again sponsor two Nature Camp Scholarships and 3 Grants in 2014.

Nominating Committee: Shirley Devan, Jeanette Navia, Bill Williams

Shirley reported the following slate:

- President: Geoff Giles
- Vice-President (Programs): Cheryl Jacobson
- Vice-President (*The Flyer*): Fred Blystone and Shirley Devan & 'able assistant'
Fred will be responsible for the odd numbered months and Shirley and able assistant will be responsible for the even numbered months for a total of 10 newsletters. Shirley has discussed the position with 'able assistant' who has indicated being willing to learn but has not given confirmation yet. The plan is that the unnamed person will be available to take over in 2015 after learning the process in 2014.
- Treasurer: Ann Carpenter
- Secretary: Cathy Millar
- Member-at-Large: Geoff Giles leaves this position open if elected president. Bylaws indicate the Board can appoint someone. Joe Piotrowski volunteered to accept position if it becomes open in January.
- Member-at-Large: Jeanette Navia

Shirley Devan will present the above slate for a vote at the November 20 Club meeting and ask for nominations from the floor.

Shirley reported that Jim Corliss has agreed to be Field Trip coordinator for 2014.

Cathy asked about the position of Historian. Shirley said the position was not as relevant since 2006 -7 when Cynthia Long organized material for the Club anniversary event. Shirley asked if it would be agreeable to feed relevant newspaper articles, etc. to Cathy to be stored in the Secretary Notebook. Cathy agreed. *The Flyer* and minutes from the Club Meetings and Board Meetings are already being stored digitally.

Committee Reports:

- **Newsletter – Fred Blystone:**

Fred noted that he will be sending out the first membership renewals in December and suggested that along with the past areas for donations to the Nature Camp Scholarships and Research Grants that the CDR Feeder Project be added. The idea was welcomed and Shirley added that she will encourage people to donate to these 3 programs in her December President's Column in *The Flyer*. Fred requested that there be info about the CDR Feeder Project in an article in an upcoming newsletter. Shirley said she

would arrange for info re quotes about how the kids enjoy it, etc. for an article in the December newsletter.

- **Programs – Joe Piotrowski:**

November: Mike Wilson will report on the W&M's Center for Conservation Biology study of Nightjars. Joe said he was open for suggestions for further speakers. Shirley suggested Barbara Houston as she had given a good illustrated program at the Colonial Nature Photography Club about good places to see and photograph birds. Joe will contact her.

- **Field Trips –Geoff Giles:**

Geoff absent but Shirley reported that the November field trip planned for Saturday, November 16 at Shirley Plantation was also the first day of the hunting season, so the trip was postponed to Sunday 17. Shirley will be leading the car pool. Tom McCary has made arrangements. Charge: \$5 per person. No field trip in December because the Christmas Bird Count is on December 15. Geoff has been arranging for the Chesapeake Bay Boat Trip on January 18.

- **Membership – Jeanette Navia:**

Jeanette reported 2 new members since the last meeting. Shirley commented that when Geoff Giles becomes president, Jeanette may want to revisit what and how much she mails to new members. Currently when members join the mailing list, Jeanette sends them an email that sort of welcomes them and she also sends via postal mail a package with parking permit, etc. Jeanette would like to develop a more formal type of email welcoming them to the WBC and thanking them for their donation. It was recommended that an electronic folder be developed that contains a parking permit, recent newsletter, etc. that could be attached to the welcoming email. Shirley concluded that at the beginning of the new year, Jeanette suggest to Geoff a redesigning of the process.

- **Adopt-a- Highway – John Fennell:**

John reported a lack of interest in highway cleanup even despite Fred having sent out an announcement to remind club members of a cleanup date. He speculated that it might be due to the fact that when the 2 mile stretch of Croaker Rd in JCC was adopted in 2008, there was at that time only 1 field trip per month. Now there are birding events 3 weekends of every month vying for members' time. The cleanup is done twice a year, spring and fall, and during the last 3 years, John has done it by himself half of the time. The Board accepted John's discontinuing the program. John will inform the Highway Dept. and will also do one last fall cleanup. Shirley suggested that John pick a date for the last cleanup and make an announcement at the November Club meeting for volunteers to help. Shirley will write a note about the discontinued program for the December newsletter. Shirley thanked John for his work over the last several years.

- **Records and Bird Counts – Bill Williams:**

Bill absent but Shirley reported that arrangements for the December 15 Bird Count are progressing including reservations at the Carrot Tree for tallying the results at the end of the day. There was some concern that as participation grows, the Carrot Tree may not be big enough in the future.

- **Refreshments- Barb Streb:**

Barb absent but Shirley reported that she will continue as refreshment coordinator for 2014 and will circulate a sign-up sheet at the January Club meeting.

Library Liason- Lee Schuster:

Lee absent but Shirley reported that she thinks Lee will continue as library liaison in 2014. Fred reported that the list of books that WBC donated will be in the upcoming newsletter. Jeanette said that they had been unable to get one of the books and would send Fred an updated list with the substitution included.

New Business:

Ann enquired about the timeline for the Nature Camp Scholarships. Shirley said she would check into the exact nature of that and email a copy to the Board members. However we are on time as applications are sent out in November and the decisions are made by the end of January. Last year the 5 reviewers were Mary Anne Fennell, Geoff Giles, Alex Minarik, Jeanette Navia and Lee Schuster. Shirley will check if they will be willing to do it again this year. Shirley will 'blind' (remove all personal information except for the grade, age and school) on the applications.

Shirley will send the picture of the 2013 winners to the Gazette along with the announcement inviting applicants for the 2014 scholarships.

Joe enquired if the meetings for the rest of the year will be held in Andrews Auditorium instead of Millington Hall. Shirley said she'd told Dan Cristol that Andrews was more convenient when he'd enquired whether there was a preference. The AV system does need to be unlocked by a special code in Andrews. Dan said he was willing to be available to do that.

Shirley adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Cathy Millar, secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
November 1, 2013