

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club
Thursday, January 9, 2014**

Multi-purpose Room, Human Service Building, 5249 Old Towne Road, Williamsburg

Board Member Attendees: Fred Blystone, Ann Carpenter, Shirley Devan, Geoff Giles, Cheryl Jacobson, Cathy Millar, Jeanette Navia

Board Members Absent: None

Chair Attendees: Jim Corliss, Jeanette Navia

Chair Attendees Absent: Lee Shuster, Bill Williams

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by newly elected President, Geoff Giles, who opened the meeting with a welcome to all and a thank you to the out-going president, Shirley Devan.

Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar: Minutes of the October 30, 2013 Board Meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections or additions. Ann made the motion that the minutes be accepted and Jeanette seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter: Ann distributed a chart presenting a summary of the financial status of the WBC as of December 31 and comparing 2013 with the 2 previous calendar years. Thanks to the sales of Bill William's books and the Chesapeake Bay birding boat trip, the club has about \$2,000 more than last year. The club's first Book Fair in November brought in about \$75-\$80.

Ann next distributed a current spread sheet itemizing assets, income and expenses for 2013.

- Checkbook: \$5,002
- CD's: \$5,435
- Total Assets: \$10,437
- Total Income: \$9,688
- Expenses: \$7,379
- Balance: \$2,309

Ann summarized that we did not get as much income this year but the expenses were also less. Dues and the donation from Wild Birds Unlimited and other donations were down but we did not have the expense of publishing a book like last year and publishing The Flyer cost less due to most copies being distributed via email.

Addressing our surplus income, Geoff asked for suggestions of which groups we might select for further donations. The current organizations are the Williamsburg Regional Library, Williamsburg Land Conservancy, Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, Center for Conservation Biology, Virginia Society of Ornithology, Grants for W&M graduate students, Nature Camp Scholarship and the Child Development Resources Feeder Project.

There will be an increase of donation to NCS this year as the cost of Nature Camp has gone from \$775 per student to \$815 this year. The Club sponsors 2 students.

Shirley suggested we increase our contribution to the CBC as they have been so cooperative speaking at our meetings as well as conducting important research. The Board agreed to a donation of \$200 (previously \$100).

Geoff asked about the research grants of which there are three at \$500 each. Shirley proposed increasing each grant by \$100. Ann reminded the group that any donation of \$600 or more requires us sending them a 1099 for tax purposes. Accordingly, the Board agreed to the increase of each grant to \$599. Geoff will send Dan Cristol a note about the increase in size of the grants so he can get the word out to the graduate students. A committee at W&M reviews proposals submitted by graduate students and selects 3 worthy projects. We are then notified of the grant recipients to which we send the money. Child Development Resources has been designated by the Board to receive \$600 (\$50 per month) for bird seed for the Feeder Project.

The above changes to the budget were unanimously approved by the Board.

The financial summary and spread sheet were added to the minutes.

President's Report – Geoff Giles:

Geoff reported that the year 2014 looks good especially with so many strong members (named Bill Williams, Ruth Beck, Mitchell Byrd and Dan Cristol as examples) for our club to draw on.

Fred noted that the last president's report had said that we should address whether Bill William's book, *The Birds of Virginia's Colonial Triangle*, should be reprinted. It was Fred's opinion that future publications should be updated with the most current data and that usually a span of 5 years is given between such publications. Shirley noted that there are about 2 dozen books left. Bill Williams was not present for comment. Geoff asked that the minutes reflect that a consensus had been reached by the Board that the project be given more time before we consider a new printing.

Nominating Committee

Geoff reported that we need a new Refreshments Chairperson as Barb Streb who has admirably served many years arranging for a bountiful feeder station at the end of each Club Meeting is stepping down. The open office was announced in The Flyer and a description of the position will be announced at the January Club Meeting. If no one steps forward, Geoff has someone in mind to approach.

Geoff also noted that we have an opening for Member-at-Large. At the last meeting Joe Piotrowsky had volunteered to serve if the need arose. Shirley and Geoff agreed that it would be good to invite a new person. Geoff said he would like to nominate Jan Lockwood and will call her to see if she is interested. Geoff asked if there were any other nominations for Member-at-Large. Ann recommended Dean Gordon as a potential candidate and Geoff agreed to check with him if Jan refuses.

Committee Reports:

- **Newsletter – Fred Blystone and Shirley Devan:**

Shirley complimented Fred on the January newsletter and said she is preparing for her first newsletter in February. She will be actively soliciting Board members and Club members for input.

Jeannette remarked that it is a bit of a strain to produce a book review for every newsletter. Fred suggested perhaps writing 5 a year instead of 10. The situation was recognized and will be determined in the future.

Fred said we continue to send fewer newsletters by US mail...currently 62... and thinks that there won't be many more that will convert to email. Fred said it costs \$54 to print 80 copies.

- **Programs – Cheryl Jacobson:**

January: Barbara Houston will give a presentation on local birding hotspots.

February: Libby Mojica will speak about the health of the Osprey and the Chesapeake Bay.

March: Fletcher Smith will talk about his research on the Saw-whet Owl.

April: The W&M grad students who received last year's grants will report on their research projects.

May: Bill Williams will give a presentation on the identification of warblers.

- **Field Trips – Jim Corliss:**

January: Chesapeake Bay Boat trip

February 1: A tour from 9a.m. -12p.m. of the 4 islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel co- led by Jim and Geoff. Groups are limited to 15 people and he has arranged for the police escort of one group. The cost is \$10 per person and he has the necessary forms to be filled out. He asked the group for recommendations of how to fairly invite participants for such limited availability. He'd been considering a 'first-come-first-serve' and sending out an email before the meeting and to have the forms available at that meeting. It was noted that it was unfair to people (9) who don't have email. Those who were thought to be interested will be notified by phone by Geoff. If there is an overwhelming response a second group might be considered.

February 15: Dutch Gap

March: Jim asked for recommendations. It was suggested that he might get some ideas from Barbara Houston's presentation. Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and possibly Mackay Island were also suggested.

- **Membership – Jeanette Navia:**

She reported that there are currently 158 active member addresses. There are 10 lifetime memberships. 64 have renewed to date.

She brought up for discussion the New Membership Packets that she prepares for each new member. She described all the material included in each packet and pointed out that all of it except for the welcoming letter is already on the WBC web site. Each packet costs \$1.50 to mail (rates going up soon) and Jeanette has been providing the paper, ink and time at no added cost to the club. Fred suggested sending it all electronically in the future. Geoff said he preferred the paper version and Cheryl added that when she had first moved here, she had really appreciated receiving the packet. The discussion ended with a general preference for the continuation of the

paper version of the packet with Shirley suggesting that the Club reimburse Jeanette for an ink cartridge and a couple of reams of paper.

Jeanette also wanted to discuss if we wanted to continue with the name tags. She noted that a number of members take off their name tag before the social event at the end of the meeting where it would be most useful. Group consensus was that the tags are important. It was recommended that people could put the tags in themselves which elicited comments on the resulting problems that would cause. So, for now, Jeanette will continue to collect the name tags at the end of the meeting. Shirley had a recommendation that she will send her that might help.

- **Records and Bird Counts – Bill Williams**: Bill was not present. Geoff noted the great success of the 2013 Christmas Bird Count.
- **Refreshments**: Need for new chairperson has already been discussed and Geoff will approach the candidate. Geoff asked if anyone had ever invoiced the cups and plates. Ann responded that there was only one such invoice for the WBC birthday party. She'd approached Barb Streb about submitting an invoice but Barb always provided at her own expense. This might be an issue for the new chairperson to consider.
- **Library Liaison – Lee Schuster**: Lee was not present. Geoff asked Jeanette if there were any library issues to which the response was "no".

New Business:

Geoff enquired about Nature Camp applicants and if the same people would be reviewing the applications. Jeanette reported the applications are coming in and Shirley reported that she needed two more people for the reviewing committee and will be recruiting them. The deadline for the applications is January 15. The decision is given to the students by the first of February.

Last item Geoff wanted to bring up was the consensus that Andrews Hall is preferable to the membership over Millington Hall. Shirley reported that Dan Cristol said that Andrews is preferable because the AV equipment there is more secure. Shirley noted that Cheryl will need to remind Dan via email on the Monday before each Wednesday club meeting that he will be needed to get the equipment ready.

There was no further new business.

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
January 10, 2014