

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club
Thursday, January 15, 2015

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

Board Member Attendees: Geoff Giles, Cheryl Jacobson, Shirley Devan, Judy Jones, Ann Carpenter, Cathy Millar, Jeanette Navia, Jan Lockwood

Board Members Absent: None

Chair Attendees: Jan Lockwood, Jeanette Navia

Chair Attendees Absent: Bill Williams, Lee Schuster, Ruth Gordon, Tom McCary

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Geoff Giles and an agenda was distributed.

Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar: The minutes of the September 11, 2014 meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections or additions. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Board.

Treasurer's Report –Ann Carpenter: Ann distributed a spread sheet presenting a final summary of the financial status of WBC as of December 31st and comparing 2014 with the previous year.

There is \$7,112 in the check book and \$5,449 in CD's yielding total assets of \$12,561.

The total income for 2014 was \$9,825 which was about \$150 more than 2013. Ann noted that the club made a profit of \$1,147 on Bill Williams's book, *The Birds of Virginia's Colonial Triangle*. There are now fewer than 10 books left.

Expenses for 2014 were \$7,766 leaving a balance of \$2,059.

Ann stated that the Board needed to vote on whether to make the same donations to the Williamsburg Regional Library, Williamsburg Land Conservancy, Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, and Center for Conservation Biology. Current donations were reviewed. Judy suggested that an equal donation of \$200 be made to all groups. Ann confirmed that currently we have the money available to do so. Judy moved that donations be increased to \$200 which was seconded by Cheryl and Shirley. The motion was carried unanimously.

Shirley asked if we were going to continue to fund 3 research grants and 2 nature camp scholarships. It was determined that funds are available for support at previously agreed levels.

Geoff reported that about 40 people have already signed up for the upcoming CBBT boat field trip which already covers the expense of the boat. He expects that the club will probably make about \$200.

President's Report: Geoff said that he had nothing to discuss at the moment and would like to move on to the committee reports.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter – Shirley Devan and Judy Jones: Judy was welcomed to the newsletter committee. She reported that she had sent out requests for articles, photographs and information asking that they be sent back by the 26th allowing time for photographs and information from the Chesapeake boat trip to be included. The goal is to have the newsletter out on February 1st.

Programs – Cheryl Jacobson: Cheryl reported on the following programs.

- January 21: Fletcher Smith will present his research on the winter saltmarsh sparrows on the Eastern Shore.
- February 18: Pearl Beamer from the nonprofit organization, Sacred Friends, will speak about their 25 years of rehabilitating birds and animals and will bring some animals with her.
- March 18: Fletcher Smith will speak about his research on red knots.
- April 15: W&M students who have received grants from our club will present their research.
- May 20: Not determined. Shirley suggested looking into what the W&M conservation biologist Matthias Leu might be willing to present.

Field Trips – Jan Lockwood: Jan reported on the upcoming Bird Club field trips:

- January 24: Fletcher Smith will lead an excursion to band winter saltmarsh sparrows on the Eastern Shore. 7 people have already been identified to help flush the sparrows from the marsh.
- January 25: Bill Williams will be the leader of the Chesapeake Bay Boat Trip.
- February 7: A trip to Craney Island with Bill Williams and Ruth Beck as co-leaders.
- February 21: Island hopping on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel with Dan Cristol as leader. Determined that a sign- up sheet and forms for security clearance be made available at upcoming meeting. 15 people at \$10 each are allowed per group. Money to be collected at sign-up. Information will also be made available in the February newsletter.
- ? February (date to be decided) Rescheduled trip to Dutch Gap
- March 28: Eastern Shore /Chincoteague “Blitz” lead by Dan Cristol.
- ? March (date to be decided): Trip to Curles Neck. Hog Island also a possibility.

Jan had followed up on a previous suggestion that the club take a behind-the-scenes tour of the ornithological collection at the Smithsonian. She was told that the museum does not have the availability of staff to provide such services for the general public. There is the possibility of arranging a trip via the Virginia Living museum at about \$60 per person if there is interest. Shirley voiced concern that the increased need for leaders for more winter field trips impinges on coverage for scheduled walks at New Quarter Park. Jan and Geoff are working to expand the roster of field trip leaders to cover the NQP walks as well as for additional requests such as a walk for the public and another for Boy Scouts during “A Walk in the Forest” at New Kent Forestry Center on March 21.

Refreshments - Jan Lockwood (present) and Ruth Gordon (absent): Jan reported that the January and February meetings are covered but that there is still need for volunteers to sign up for March, April and May. A request will be put in the next newsletter and club meeting.

Membership- Jeanette Navia: Jeannette reported that 84 members have renewed for 2015 with another 73 having paid up only through 2014. It was decided to put a reminder in the February newsletter and to also have a stack of renewal forms at the upcoming meeting. Jeanette reported that George Copping of Wild Birds Unlimited had asked her for a list of the club membership against which he could check customers claiming to be members. The WBC receives a 5% rebate on the amount that Club members spend. It was agreed that we do not have permission to share the list with anyone. Ann offered to cross check receipts from WBU against the membership list to determine if there is a significant problem. Geoff told Jeanette that should George ask again, she should tell George to call him.

Records and Bird Counts – Bill Williams: Bill was not present. Geoff noted the great success of the 2014 Christmas Bird Count.

Library Liaison – Lee Schuster: Lee was not present.

Geoff presented the idea of contributing books to the public schools. Cheryl offered to investigate the possibility at James River Elementary and perhaps Berkley Middle School. Judy suggested that subscriptions to children's nature magazines would be popular. Cheryl offered to check on-line for availability of these magazines. Further consideration and financing will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

New Business:

- James City County Parks and Recreation asked if our club wanted to have an exhibit at Destination Recreation Expo on February 21. This is the same date as our CBBT island field trip. Jeannette expressed interest in manning our booth if someone else would also help. Geoff will ask for a volunteer at our next membership meeting.
- Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center has invited us to bird their property in Toano. Geoff has agreed to visit to check the possibilities.
- It was noted that there are few hats and other items left bearing the club logo and did we want to order more. Shirley responded that unless taking specific orders, there's always items left over that are difficult to sell. It was decided that members be informed that the local business, A Logo For You, has our club logo on file should anyone wish to order a shirt, etc.

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
January 17, 2015

