

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club
February 11, 2015**

Multi-purpose Room, Human Services Building, 5249 Old Town Road, Williamsburg

Board Member Attendees: Geoff Giles, Shirley Devan, Judy Jones, Cathy Millar, Jeanette Navia, Jan Lockwood.

Board Members Absent: Cheryl Jacobson, Ann Carpenter

Chair Attendees: Jan Lockwood, Lee Schuster, Jeanette Navia

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

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Geoff Giles with the main purpose of discussing and authorizing the expenditure of unexpected additional funds made available to our bird club this year. Consequently there were only brief updates given by committee chairpersons before moving onto new business. Geoff noted that we had enough board members to make a quorum. Background information on the source of the additional funds was given by Shirley. She reported that a new member, Lois Shevlin, has donated \$200 along with a 5:1 matching grant from her former employer Robert Wood Johnson Foundation which will yield a total of \$1200. Ann Carpenter has submitted the paperwork to the Foundation. No one knows yet when the money will be available. Geoff will send Lois a thank you note along with a WBC hat. It was noted that Geoff will also send a thank you to Jeanne and Mike Millin for their \$200 donation.

Programs-Cheryl Jacobson: Cheryl was absent but Geoff had spoken to her and it was noted that there were no significant changes and all programs were on track.

Field Trips- Jan Lockwood: Jan distributed an updated Calendar of Events.

She reported that the "CBBT Islands by Car" field trip led by Dan Cristol has been approved for all 32 applicants and confirmation numbers have been received.

She had spoken to George Harris about the fieldtrip to Beaver Dam and reported that there has not been a great variety of ducks due to frozen water conditions and recommended that the trip be delayed until spring.

"Netting and Banding Marsh Sparrows" on Eastern Shore by Fletcher Smith has been rescheduled due to foul weather to Sunday, March 22nd.

Regarding field trip to Curle's Neck, Geoff reported that Ellison Orcutt hasn't been able to get permission from the owner yet but is working on scheduling it preferably for the 1st or 2nd weekend of March.

"Eastern Shore Birding Blitz" with Dan Cristol on March 28 and "Red-cockaded Woodpeckers" at Piney Grove with Mike Wilson are on schedule.

A field trip to Dutch Gap is on hold while frozen water conditions limit the number of ducks to be seen.

Newsletter-Judy Jones and Shirley Devan: Geoff and the Board congratulated Judy Jones on the great job she did on her first publication of The Flyer. Judy said she will be sending out a reminder on the 16th to the membership to get information to her by the 26th. Her goal is to get the assembled materials to Shirley by the 28th so that The Flyer will be out by the 1st of the month in order that all planned activities for March will be well documented and advertised.

Library Liaison- Lee Schuster: Lee reported on the status of ornithology books at the WRL which the club supports by an annual donation of \$200. Shirley enquired about the acquisition of newer books like the new Sibley's, The Crossley Guide and a guide on warblers with a cd. Geoff suggested stocking a number of introductory birding books for young people. Lee offered that the used and abused books from the library could be donated to the WBC for use by members making presentations at schools. Judy wondered whether one of the library's Grab Bags could be made into a collection of 10 bird books available for folks to check out who were teaching a class or had a nature club. Jeanette pointed out that the Grab Bags are currently for book clubs. The WRL does have backpacks with a bird book and cheap binoculars that can be checked out for use in a specific park. Geoff questioned whether we wanted to provide books for young birders only through the library or use resources from our club to put together a collection and manage it ourselves. Judy proposed the idea of the club creating a collection of 10 bird guides and 2 sets of binoculars to be managed by the bird club and used by members who are making public presentations. Judy commented that when teaching students how to use a bird guide it is best to have 10 of the same guides to distribute at a presentation. Methods of acquiring books were discussed. Deciding on designating money for this project will be discussed in New Business.

New Business:

- Geoff noted that Shirley has already proposed using a portion of the new funds to add an additional grant of \$599 to the three we have made available this year to the W&M Biology Dept. Geoff had already spoken about this to Dan Cristol who at this time did not know if there would be a 4th worthy recipient. After some discussion, Shirley made a motion that the WBC offer 4 grants this year if they have 4 worthy participants. Jeanette seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Geoff introduced looking into making funding available to the birding program at Waller Mill Elementary School in which Lee Schuster is involved. Lee described how a 5th grade teacher, Roger Searles, has incorporated Cornell's curriculum, Bird Sleuth, in his class. The curriculum covers many SOL objectives. He has also helped develop a nature trail around the school and put up bird houses and feeders from grants and donations that he has received. Lee leads weekly bird walks with his students. The teacher already has about 12 pairs of binoculars and field guides for the students. Lee brings one of her binoculars for a student with eyeglasses to use. Lee read statements from the students that evinced their enthusiasm for the project. She takes about 12 students at a time on bird walks and said she would welcome help from anyone. There are many bluebirds in the area and Lee asked if our club might help support him with a

donation for buying blue bird houses or seeds. Discussion followed about how George Copping of Wild Birds Unlimited might help with the expense of bluebird boxes and might be able to offer used feeders. Jan suggested that her Master Naturalist Bluebird Monitoring Program might also be in a position to offer sources that might help.

Jeanette checked to see whether WBC had enough funds including the recent donation to support more programs. Geoff reported that the club made a profit of \$1,147 from Bill William's book. The Chesapeake Bay Boat trip yielded a profit of a little more than \$400. Shirley reported over \$7000 in our checkbook. Consensus was reached that the funds are available.

Shirley suggested that we make \$300 of funding available for specific needs of Waller Mill Elementary School Birding Program. Judy wanted to make an addendum that if we get enough support for the bird houses that not all of the \$300 is needed, that a pair of binoculars be purchased that is compatible for students wearing eye glasses. Jan enquired if the teacher has funding for bird seed. Geoff proposed that the money be made available to the Waller Mill Birding Program and it would be up to them how it is spent.

Shirley moved that \$300 of funding be made to support the Waller Mill Bird Program that Lee is assisting. Judy seconded it. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Geoff returned to the idea of WBC funding a collection of books and binoculars to be used by the membership in public presentations to young birders as discussed above. Discussion followed regarding how much it would cost and what books would be appropriate. Geoff proposed the Golden Field Guide of Birds of NA for young students. Judy proposed that the books and binoculars be kept in backpacks or sealable canvas bags with each one containing 10 field guides and 2 binoculars that can be borrowed as a unit to facilitate managing the collection. She proposed that we have 2 bags: one with 10 Golden Field Guides for younger students and a second containing 10 Sibley Field Guide to Eastern Birds for older students. After further discussion it was decided that a third bag could be made available containing a variety of donated bird books. Jeanette pointed out how useful that third bag would be for a speaker to take along with the bag of age appropriate books.

Judy volunteered to be the repository for the books. Geoff said that he would announce this project at the next club meeting and request donations of backpacks, used books and binoculars that will be collected by Judy. Geoff asked that funding be proposed for Judy to use at her discretion to start this project.

Shirley noted that there are a lot of members that still have not renewed this year. Geoff agreed to make an announcement at the next meeting reminding folks that their dues go towards supporting worthy projects like this one and to encourage them to pay at the end of the meeting.

Jeanette made the motion that \$300 be made available to Judy Jones for discretionary funding to acquire the age-specific books to set up this program. Jan seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. Judy will work with Jeanette in finding the best deal for purchasing these books.

Judy will report this new program in the next Flyer. She asked Lee to send her a picture and a couple of paragraphs about the Waller Mill Birding Program to also be in the next newsletter. A

request for donations of books, binoculars and bags will also be posted in the Flyer as well as announced at the next meeting.

- Shirley introduced whether it would be a good idea for the WBC to have a Facebook site. Geoff said he was impressed by Hampton Roads Bird Club Facebook site that was only about birds without any pictures of people. Shirley said it was a good way to promote events, meetings, field trips, projects etc. She noted that just about all the other bird clubs have one. Shirley asked Cathy if she would consider setting it up and managing it. Cathy expressed a lot of reluctance and Jeanette said she would check with her Nature Photography Club to see what the difference is between setting up a personal and group site. Shirley and Jeanette agreed to work on it together.

Geoff adjourned the meeting at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
February 12, 2015