

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club
October 13, 2016**

James City County Library, Cosby Rm., 7770 Croaker Rd., Norge, VA

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

Board Members Absent: Geoff Giles, Ann Carpenter

Chair Attendees: Jeanette Navia, Lee Schuster

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Cheryl Jacobson standing in for President Geoff Giles. A quorum was noted.

Secretary's Report –Cathy Millar: The minutes of the April 11, 2016 meeting were accepted as written and approved unanimously by the Board.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter: Ann was unable to attend and had submitted a one page report from SunTrust Bank of the club's accounts as of 10/12/2016. The current balance in the checking account is \$10,851.67. The current balance from the three CD's totals \$7,975.69. A full report will be made at the next meeting.

VP of Programs-Cheryl Jacobson:

- **Wednesday, October 19:** Bill Williams will deliver a lecture on hummingbirds. This year's recipients of the Nature Camp Scholarships will give short summaries about their experiences.
- **Wednesday, November 16:** Kendall Thomas from Busch Gardens will do a program celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty. She will probably be also bringing a variety of hawks and owls. This program has been approved by Dan Cristol.
- **Wednesday, January 18, 2017:** Bob Schamerhorn is delivering a presentation on raptors.
- **Wednesday, February 15:** Dr. Lesley Bulluck, Assistant Professor at VCU's Dept. of Biology and Board member of VSO, will speak on her long term nest box study of Prothonotary warblers. This will be a joint meeting with the Master Naturalists.

Co-Vice President of *The Flyer*: Judy reported that the deadline for submission of articles for the November newsletter is October 28. She plans to include a reminder for the upcoming November book sale and Project Feeder Watch and a slate of the officers for election.

Field Trips: Jim Corliss, Field Trip Coordinator, was absent but had sent an email of his current plans.

- **Saturday, October 15:** Virginia's Eastern Shore led by Bill Williams. Stops include Island 1 of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge, Kiptopeke State Park and the Oyster landfill.
- **November (date to be determined):** Trip to Grandview Beach is being considered.
- **Sunday, December 18:** Annual Christmas Bird Count
- **January (date to be determined):** Trip to Sandy Bottom led by Andy Hawkins is under consideration.

Old and New Business

- **Nature Camp Scholarships:** Judy proposed that in view of the club's healthy bank account that the club offers 3 scholarships. This year the student scholarship application process has been streamlined by the four participating organizations: WBC, Historic Rivers Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists, Native Plant Society and Williamsburg Garden Club. They have merged the applications from all 4 organizations into one application process to reduce duplication of effort and simplify the process for students and teachers and hopefully reach students who've never attended Nature Camp. The cost of each scholarship has risen from \$795 to \$800. The window for application is October 3-31. The selection date is November 7th.
The motion was made that the WBC offer 3 Nature Camp scholarships. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- **Nominating Committee: Shirley Devan, Judy Jones and Cheryl Jacobson:**
 - Position of President: Geoff Giles is stepping down after 3 years of service. Judy reported that Bill Williams has agreed to be president for 1 year. Bill was our first president of the WBC and 2017 is the 40th anniversary of the club's founding so it is quite appropriate that he should be president for the 40th year as well.
Cheryl Jacobson indicated that she would be interested in being president the following year.
A discussion was held about an appropriate way to express our gratitude to Geoff Giles for his service to the club at the November meeting.
 - Position of Membership Chairperson: Jeanette is stepping down but is continuing as Webmaster. Cheryl reported that Lisa Nickel has agreed to fill the position of Membership Chairperson. The Board discussed simplifying the duties of the position by making the nametags the responsibility of the members rather than that of the chairperson who previously has distributed and collected them at each meeting. It will be suggested that members keep their nametag with their parking pass in their vehicles. Paper tags will be on hand at each meeting for those who've forgotten to bring their pass.

- Position of Field Trip Chairperson: Jim Corliss is resigning to concentrate his energy on the club's bird counts. The position from now on will be divided into 2 separate duties to be fulfilled by 2 individuals. One person will be in charge of coordinating club field trips and another will organize the bimonthly bird walks at New Quarter Park.
Jan Lockwood volunteered to coordinate the New Quarter Park bird walks. There are about 6-8 people who are experienced in leading the walks that she can call upon.
Shirley Devan volunteered to coordinate the club's field trips. Cheryl suggested Pleasure House Point as a future field trip.
 - Jeanette Navia and Jan Lockwood expressed willingness to step down from their posts of Member-at-Large to make way for fresh blood if Bill can recruit replacements. If not, they will continue.
- **40th Anniversary of WBC Celebrations:** It was proposed that a committee be established that is independent of the Board to plan the activities. There was a general consensus that Bill William's input be sought before further planning. It was noted that the first WBC meeting was held in September 1977.
 - **Recruitment of New Members:** A general discussion ensued about how to attract new active members. It was noted that a large portion of our membership does not attend meetings, bird walks or field trips.
Cheryl suggested a campaign to get 40 new members during the year of the club's 40th anniversary. She proposed that the membership be encouraged to bring new local visitors with them to the meetings and that buttons reading '40 for 40' or '40 in 40' be given to those who participate.
 - Shirley Devan offered to post upcoming club field trips and activities in the Virginia Gazette and Daily Press. Judy Jones noted that a 10 day lead-in is required to get postings printed in time. Since she has experience submitting info to the newspapers for another organization, Judy offered to help Shirley.
 - **An Official Board of Directors:** Ann Carpenter had emailed her concern that although our club's by-laws note the elected officials as an Executive Board and that our by-laws are on file with the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs which clearly state financial decisions are made by 'elected officials', that this is not noted on our web site. It was agreed that what currently reads as "Officers" on our web site will be changed to "Executive Board".
 - **Bird Counts:** Jim Corliss reported via email that he is still searching for a venue for the Christmas Count Compilation meeting. The room at Freedom Park that was used for the Spring Count is not available.

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
October 14, 2016