

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board

Williamsburg Bird Club

April 3, 2017

Bill Williams's home, 154 Lakewood Drive, Williamsburg, VA

Board Member Attendees: Bill Williams, Cheryl Jacobson, Judy Jones, Ann Carpenter, Cathy Millar, Gary Carpenter,

Board Members Absent: Deane Gordon, Geoff Giles

Chair Attendees: Shirley Devan, Jim Corliss, Jan Lockwood, Bill Williams, Jeanette Navia, Tom McCary

Chair Attendees Absent: Lisa Nickel, Lee Schuster, Ruth Gordon

The meeting was called to order on the deck by President Bill Williams at 1 pm.

Secretary's Report –Cathy Millar: Corrections had been made upon emailing the minutes in February after the last board meeting. The corrected minutes were emailed prior to this meeting and were approved as written by consensus.

Bill enquired if the current system of the secretary sending the minutes taken at the WBC membership meetings only to him for approval before sending them on to be added to the club's digital files was agreeable with the rest of the board. There was no objection raised.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter: Ann distributed a WBC Assets Spread Sheet which showed \$6,143 in checking account, \$7,986 in CD's, \$5,000 in Money Market and yielding a grand total of \$19,130 as of March 31, 2017. She reported that dues are still down slightly from last year. Designated donations to the research grants are down even more whereas donations to nature camp scholarships are up. Donations to CDDR feeder project is about the same. In summary, She reported that the bottom line is that we are down slightly in dues and donations received compared to what we ended with last year. The only donation from the club still to be made is to CVWO which is on a May – May schedule and will send \$200 at that time. She has dispersed designated monies for Nature Camp and for W&M Grants. Current balance of income versus expenditure is \$651. However, she expects that we may again have a negative balance as we did last year of about \$1000. We are able to continue to make the awards that we do because of our money in various accounts including the \$5,000 plus in donations made in Ruth Beck's name. Cheryl noted that the membership needs to be reminded of dues.

Ann reviewed info regarding the article she is writing for The Flyer about the club's history in giving W&M Research Grants. She noted that the original recommendation was that funds were supposed to come from money other than dues which was noted as an amendment to the proposal at that time. The money for grants was coming from the sale of bird seed. Bill told us that the seed sale had provided a predictable stream of income and was the reason for establishing the grants as a means of thanking the college for hosting us. Currently we fund the grants with money from the Ruth Beck Memorial, Wild Birds Unlimited donation and specified membership donations. We have a balance of \$4700 from those sources as of 2015. Ann felt that as such we are operating in the spirit of the amendment. Ann asked if we should formally designate the money from Wild Birds Unlimited for the W&M research grants. A

motion was made that we do so. The motion was seconded and approved by all. We currently give \$2760 per year in grants and we average about \$1100 annually from WBU.

Bill enquired if the interest from our CD's and MM is designated to go to the general fund. Ann confirmed that the interest of 50 cents and \$1.30 does go to the general fund.

CVWO Representative: Bill noted that the CVWO has asked that the 2 local bird clubs each have a representative on the CVWO board. Andy Hawkins is the rep for Hampton Roads Bird Club. Matt Anthony has been our club's rep for 2016 but we now need someone else to assume that position. Bill asked for recommendations. Shirley suggested Nancy Barnhart and Jan Lockwood. Judy suggested Cindy Baker. Bill will contact Nancy Barnhart as our first choice.

Progress Reports on Preparation for our Club's 40th Anniversary:

- **Record of William & Mary Grant Scholarships:** Ann Carpenter has successfully gathered a record of our club's history in awarding the grants. Bill enquired when the next new applications for grants will be due. Ann reported that we contact Dan Cristol at the beginning of each calendar year. The students don't usually need the money until the summer.
- **Record of Nature Camp Scholarships:** Ann Carpenter has a list of all the students who've received scholarships since we started 10 years ago. The list will be posted on the club's website.
- **Archiving Newsletters:** We all agreed that Jim Corliss has done an outstanding job! He's trying to get 10 years of newsletters digitized per month. The originals of poorer quality can take up to ½ hour to scan to get clear results. He's currently on 1985. He has 30 years still to do. He thinks the project might be finished by June. The group decided that it would be neat to send as an attachment the month's newsletter from 40 years ago with our current monthly emails of The Flyer. Judy agreed to send out the May 1978 newsletter as an attachment with the May 2017 Flyer and call attention to it in the newsletter.
- **Record of Field Trips:** Deane Gordon was absent. Shirley Devan reported that they are behind in tabulating the field trips but working on it.
- **Record of Programs:** Cheryl Jacobson has collected a list of programs and is creating categories for them and would like to eventually thank people from the organizations who have presented several times in a future newsletter.
- **Student Art Contest:** Deane Gordon was absent but Bill reported that the project is progressing nicely.
- **Record of Awards/Recognitions:** Bill noted that there are 2 that he's aware of to date. He would like the photo that Judy has on file of Geoff Giles holding the Life Learning Award given to our club by the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa on W&M campus to be put on our website. Shirley has a picture of the 2006 York County Outstanding Volunteer Award that will also be posted on our website.
- **Rack Cards:** Shirley Devan had 1000 of the beautiful new rack cards advertising our club printed. She bundled them into packs of 25 each and distributed a pack to each board member with instructions to distribute them where the public will find them.

- **Clothes, Hats, Patches and Pins with WBC logo:** Shirley Devan pointed out that we have a supply of club patches for \$5 each. There was a discussion about ordering enamel pins featuring the bird club logo and 40 years. Agreed that we will need to get more info. We no longer have a supply of hats and there is an interest for more. Judy volunteered to order 6 green and 6 blue hats from the local business, Logo for You. She'll try to have them ready for the April meeting.

Child Development Resources Feeder Program : Gary Carpenter gave a progress report. He'd gotten in touch with Debbie Woodward to see what was needed. He was referred to Amanda Wood who's not returned his repeated enquiries. The group advised him to try contacting Adrienne Frank.

Speakers Honorarium: Bill introduced the topic of revising how much we pay our speakers. We currently pay \$75. Cheryl suggested paying \$100 for a local speaker and \$150 for an out-of-towner. Speakers who are bird club members don't get an honorarium. It was also decided that a W&M student speaking on a subject for which the club has given a grant should not be paid whereas if speaking on an unrelated topic, that student would be eligible for the local honorarium. These changes in honorarium rates were put into a motion and approved by all. A discussion ensued of defining local versus out-of-town. Bill suggested taking Richmond to the west and Norfolk to the southeast and drawing a circle and anything inside that circle is local. Bill stated that it is often standard practice to offer an honorarium to the speaker or, at the speaker's choice, a contribution to whatever the speaker's cause may be. Ann asked Cheryl, as chairperson of programs, to send her an email before each meeting with a recommendation of how much the honorarium should be.

Report on the 40th Anniversary Meeting on September 20, 2017:

- **Speaker:** Bill Williams states that he's pretty sure Mitchell Byrd will agree to be the guest speaker.
- **Facility for Anniversary Meeting:** We are expecting about 100- 150 people. Mitchell Byrd as our key note speaker could attract even more. We expect that the space will be need to be booked for 6 pm to 10 pm to provide enough time for setting up and breaking down. Jeanette has explored the size and cost of meeting rooms at The Legacy, Stryker Building (largest room has capacity 91), Community Building (capacity 150 with tables, 300 without, but costly), JCCL Kitzinger Room (capacity 113), Hellenic Center (costly because must include catering) and Williamsburg Library Auditorium (capacity 268). The Legacy was preferred and Jeanette will check on availability and book it. (At the time of writing these minutes, Jeanette discovered that The Legacy was not available for that date. The board agreed via email to book the Williamsburg Library and Schell Room. The auditorium, stage and lobby rent for \$45 per hour (\$50 an hour after 9pm) and the Schell Room for \$45 for three hours).
- **Committee for Festivities at the Anniversary Meeting:** Bill reported that they have not met yet. The committee to date is composed of Ron and Sylvia Giese, Bob and Cynthia Long and Virginia Boyle with Arlene and Bill Williams as co-chair. A call for further volunteers will be placed in our newsletter. Bill has a video featuring the history of the club that was made for the 30th and 35th anniversary celebration that needs to be updated. Shirley Devan volunteered to help with that.

Bill has written a narration for it which Tom McCary narrates. Cheryl stressed that we make a point of our great thankfulness to W&M for donating the space, speaker contributions and Dan Cristol's setting up the a/v equipment and getting us parking passes. Judy suggested having Deane bring some of the art work and invite some of the kids and their families.

- **40th Anniversary Picnic:** Shirley proposed having a picnic in September as we did for the 35th at New Quarter Park. Proposal was greeted with enthusiasm and is under consideration.

Chairperson of Field Trips – Shirley Devan: Shirley reported on future field trips:

- **Saturday, May 20:** James River Park led by Nancy Barnhart
Shirley has no current definite plans other than Kiptopeke and Eastern Shore for Sept or Oct field trip. Grandview Beach is also under consideration as well as replicating the field trips taken in the autumn of 1977.
- Cheryl enquired about a field trip to Craney Island. Bill has agreed to look into a trip to Craney around the 3rd week of August.

VP and Chairperson of Programs- Cheryl Jacobson: Cheryl reported on future speakers:

- **October:** Shirley is working with Inge Curtis to put together a PowerPoint presentation on her birding trip to Cuba.
- **November:** Dr. Watts
- **December:** Christmas Bird Count

New Quarter Park Bird Walks:

Bill expressed concern that Jan Lockwood has been doing all the arranging for 2 bird walks a month for the whole year at New Quarter Park which includes making sure the leader has a key for opening the park. Jim noted that in the past there was a field trip chair and a co-chair. Bill suggested that we change the title of the appointed office of Field Trip Chairperson. Shirley proposed that we have 2 Co-chairpersons for the Field Trip Committee. Jan's new title will be Co-Field Trip Coordinator. This was approved. Jan reported that NQP has a new superintendent who is working on a new master program that will include more sporting events. Judy asked if it would be more convenient to change the location of the bird walks where a key was not needed, etc. It was noted that we've had an informal agreement with NQP dating back to when the park began to help publicize it. York River was the club's adopted park before NQP. It was also suggested that perhaps we could cut back to one walk per month. Other sites were discussed like Freedom Park and Upper County Park. Bill said that for the moment, he would like to stay at NQP until Molly Nealer retires in July. The predictability of a site was deemed very important. It was also thought that we should discuss this issue with Sara Lewis and not plan on changing our bird walk site until the autumn or beginning of 2018. Recommendations for new sites will be considered at another meeting.

Chairperson of Bird Counts- Jim Corliss: Jim is sending out the packets this week to the Spring Bird Count sector leaders and will send a reminder via email to the general membership. Sara has reserved

for free the same room as was used for the Christmas Bird Count, the Griffin-Yeates Center at Child Development Center on 1490 Government Rd.

Other:

- **Earth Day Monarch Butterfly Festival at W&M:** Jeanette Navia enquired about specifics for our representing the bird club at the festival. Bill said he'd been told that more planning info will be forthcoming. It will be held at the Sadler Center. Jeanette, Ann and Gary, Cheryl, Jan, Cathy and Bill are participating. Since all were present, a sign-up sheet for 10:30 to 1 pm and 1 to 3:30 pm was passed around. We'll need info re parking.
- **Political Action:** Gary Carpenter enquired that in view of the current Trump administration's cutting funding for environmental issues such as the Chesapeake Bay cleanup, whether it was appropriate for our club to send a letter to our representatives expressing our concerns. Bill said anytime a club is a 501 (c) organization, care has to be taken to not be involved in what can be considered lobbying to influence legislation. He said that in the past rather than the club taking a stance, the members were encouraged to reach out as individuals. It was decided that an article be put in the newsletter worded to the effect that if members have concerns about these issues, that they please contact their representatives. Contact links would be included. Gary volunteered to prepare this for the next newsletter.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 22nd at 1 pm at Bill Williams's home.

Bill adjourned the meeting at 3 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Cathy Millar, Secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
April 6, 2017

