

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board

Williamsburg Bird Club

May 22, 2017

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

Board Member Attendees: Bill Williams, Cheryl Jacobson, Judy Jones, Cathy Millar, Deane Gordon

Board Members Absent: Ann Carpenter, Gary Carpenter, Geoff Giles

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

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

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

Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar: Corrections in the Treasurer's Report had been made earlier by Ann Carpenter when the minutes were first emailed for review in April. The revised minutes were approved by the Board as written with one minor change.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter: In Ann's absence, Cathy Millar distributed copies of the current spreadsheet Ann had made showing up-to-date income, expenses and assets. In an accompanying email, Ann reported that once we receive the July donation from Wild Birds Unlimited, our income should be close to that of last year.

Shirley enquired what '*Mat. For Training and Presen*' amounting to \$327.05 in the 2017 Expenses referred to. No one knew and we will seek an explanation when Ann returns from her trip. (Ann later clarified the category being '*Material for Training and Presentation*' under which she had logged expenses for the new rack cards because there wasn't room to add another category.)

It was noted that a donation approved by the Board on April 29th via email was made to the William & Mary Quarterback Club in memory of Bill Williams's brother, Phil Williams. Bill and his family are very touched and grateful.

The Treasurer's Report was approved by consensus.

CVWO Representative: Bill announced that our top choice, Nancy Barnhart, has agreed to serve as our club's Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory liaison. This was met with unanimous approval by the Board. Judy enquired whether this put Nancy on our Board. Bill said no but agreed that she be on the list of WBC Executive Board members under the title of CVWO Liaison.

Membership Chairperson: Bill acknowledged the email Jeanette had sent us that Lisa Nickel has resigned from this post and that Jeanette Navia has offered to resume the duties of membership chairperson again. Bill expressed concern about burn-out and asked that we think of someone who might help Jeanette this calendar year and then assume the position next year.

Progress Reports

- **Newsletter Archive:** Jim Corliss reported that he is currently in the middle of digitizing 1989. Judy brought up that Cheryl had suggested that she attach the June 1987 newsletter to our current June/July newsletter. Cheryl was esp. interested in having the reader's attention brought to the new column, *Species of the Month*, which was started in the 1987 issue. Judy expressed an interest in also attaching an August newsletter of another year to this year's August issue.

Jim reported that he should have all the newsletters digitized sometime this summer.
- **Field Trips:** Shirley Devan said she was considering the theme, *Birding Like It's 1977*, for our autumn field trips. She noted the following field trips taken in the autumn of 1977: September was to Kiptopeke and Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge where few bird species had been noted in the hot and dry conditions; October was to Craney Island; November was to Hog Island. Reflecting these field trips, a tentative plan for this autumn's field trips was made as follows:

Saturday, Sept. 16: Kiptopeke and Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge.

Saturday, October 21: As there are already plans to visit Craney Island in August, Grandview Beach is under consideration. Bill commented that the field trip to Craney Island will most likely need to be a weekday such as Friday, August 11th or Friday, Sept 1st. Shirley agreed to contact US Army Corps of Engineers representative, Shannon Reinheimer, to arrange it.

Sunday, November 19: Hog Island. Sunday was chosen to avoid hunting season.
- **Student Art:** Deane Gordon reported that he had collected 55 pieces of student art work. Most are from elementary students with some from middle schools. He is expecting a few more as he has given several schools extensions until the end of this month. Last week he had asked at our club meeting for help mounting the pictures and distributing them to the local bird stores and libraries and being responsible for them until they are collected for our September meeting but had had no results. Plans are to do the mounting at his house the first week of June. Judy Jones (and granddaughter) and Jan volunteered. Deane said \$98.40 would cover the cost of 1/8 inch foam board cut to size for mounting the art work and requested a total of \$150 to cover other involved expenses. It was acknowledged that we'd also need about 5 signs featuring our club logo and about this exhibit being a part of our club's 40th anniversary. Shirley volunteered to organize having the signage done at Staples as soon as she gets the info to be put on them from Deane. Judy recommended having the new club rack cards available at each exhibit. Cheryl recommended budgeting \$200 to cover expenses which was unanimously agreed to by the Board.

Deane said he anticipated having 10 – 12 pieces of art at each of 5 exhibits to be set up at Tabb Library, Yorktown Library, Norge Library and the 2 local bird stores, Wild Birds Unlimited and Backyard Birder. He suggested that he, Ruth, Judy and Jan switch the exhibits every month during the summer. Because of the age difference/capabilities of the students, this will not be a contest. Cheryl suggested scanning some of the artwork for our newsletter. Dean suggested using a design for notecards. Judy said she'd love to have a T-shirt with one of the 40th designs

on it and would look up on-line what would be entailed. Bill stressed that we check with parents first and always get the student's name on the artwork.

- **List of Awards/Recognition:** Bill said that the completed list of awards and recognitions and accompanying pictures needed to be incorporated in a fall newsletter and that with Jeanette's assistance also put them on a linked page for the club's website. Judy agreed that upon receiving the list, she'd put it in an upcoming newsletter. Judy said she also plans to put in the newsletter a picture that she took of the 3 recipients of Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship and wants to also have the photo put in the Daily Press and Virginia Gazette. She will contact Lee Schuster about having it submitted. The parent's permission was part of the scholarship application. Bill enquired about how successful we are in getting info/photos posted in the newspaper and who our liaison person is. Shirley said there is no guarantee about whether what we send gets published and that we don't have a liaison.

Discussion of collection of awards and photos lead to what our club should do with our collection of old records. Our club historian, Tom McCary, said that most of the old records are at the home of our former club historian Cynthia Long. Some may also be at Geoff Giles's home. Cathy Millar has the all of the club's past minutes as well as articles from the newspaper pertaining to the bird club since she became secretary. And since he, Tom, became historian, he's been collecting Dan Cristol's bird columns and responses in the Last Word. Tom noted that all these separate collections need to be consolidated and brought together in one place. Bill said he intends to talk to Cynthia about this. Cheryl wanted it noted that we need to be respectful of the fact that Cynthia is emotionally invested in the collection of books she's been protecting. Bill remarked that there is a long history of stellar folks including his mom who've looked after our club's historical collection. He enquired do we continue passing these treasurers from person to person knowing what the risks might be or find another way of saving them. He noted the VSO has a working agreement with the Alderman Library at UVA to professionally archive their material. Because we are a chapter of VSO we may also be able have our collections archived there. As far as Bill knows the archived materials at UVA are not digitized but are catalogued. We could have the collection labeled as *'Williamsburg Bird Club Historical Archive 1977- 2010'* and then add to it. Bill reported that Center of Conservation Biology had a program called Avian Heritage where they wanted to digitize everything and then store it. Bill suggested that we revisit this issue later once we pull everything together and see if our club is ok with the idea of having our materials archived at UVA. Cheryl expressed concern about having them stored at such a long distance from us and not more readily available to club members. She said that Matt Anthony had once volunteered to research for Geoff Giles the possibility of having our material archived at CCB. Bill said the person responsible for Avian Heritage is no longer there and doesn't know the status of that project. Shirley asked if Swem Library could be an option. Jan noted that it would be valuable to have the collection safe from fire, floods, etc. by storing them in one of these places. In the meantime, Bill will talk to Cynthia and we will revisit this issue later.

Anniversary Meeting: Bill reported that the steering committee didn't meet as planned but will meet at some point. Bill and Arlene Williams are chairing it.

He confirmed that Dr. Mitchell Byrd will be our speaker. Mitchell will not be using any audiovisual media. His presentation is expected to be 40 – 45 minutes long.

Thanks to Jeanette, the Williamsburg Library has been secured for the event.

Discussion about a celebratory picnic to be held after the meeting ensued. Jan volunteered to check on availability for having the picnic at New Quarter Park. York River State Park was a second choice. It came out that Jan Lockwood had been recognized as York County Volunteer of the Year and Bill asked that it be reported in our newsletter. (After the meeting but on the same day, Jan reported reserving Shelter #1 at New Quarter Park for Saturday, Sept. 30th.)

At the end of the meeting, Bill showed us the PowerPoint presentation that had been shown in 2007 and 2012. It was only about 3 minutes long and featured photos of birds and club participants. It was agreed to include it at our meeting. Some photos may be added or changed to update the presentation. Judy brought up that she would like there to be recognition of the 3 folks, Bill Williams, Brian Taber and Fred Blystone, who have been members of the bird club for 40 years. It was suggested that Mitchell Byrd be added to the group even though he joined a little later. Judy would like to post a photo of the four in the newspaper.

Jan noted that it is important that we recognize W&M's hospitality and support at the meeting. Shirley said we would need to make sure Dan Cristol attends. The idea of presenting him with a plaque was discussed. There was concern about what he would do with it. Perhaps the new building will have a place to post awards like the old biology building did. The issue was left unresolved.

Child Development Resources Feeder Program: Gary Carpenter was absent but had emailed a progress report. He'd purchased one new feeder, new seed and suet cakes. He'd also reset one of the feeder stands, repaired one feeder and filled four feeders and two suet holders. One of the staff, Amy, is filling the feeders. Gary will check back on the operation when he returns from out-of-town.

Other:

Speaker's Bureau: Bill reported that within the last week someone contacted the bird club via our bird club's website enquiring about having a speaker for a local garden club. The person had not identified garden club. Shirley volunteered to respond and find out what club it is and what they are interested in. Bill noted a need to have an official list of potential speakers that we can draw from for these requests. Among our club members who've already given presentations in the community are Bill Williams, Shirley Devan, Cheryl Jacobson, Jan Lockwood, Geoff Giles, Nancy Barnhart and Jeanne Millin. Bill volunteered to assemble a list of people who've consented to being contacted for giving talks in the community.

Bird Club Logo Pin: Shirley brought up that there is no longer any Red-headed Woodpecker pins and had no idea who the vendor was that we got them from. She noted that the original vendor would still have the art work which would reduce the cost of ordering more. Shirley said she would ask Ann Carpenter to look in her treasurer's records to see who the vendor was for the pins and the patches and see if she can order more.

Next Meeting: To be determined. Shirley noted that it may be necessary for only the steering committee for the anniversary meeting to meet before our September meeting.

Bill adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
May 25, 2017