

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board**

### **Williamsburg Bird Club**

**June 3, 2019**

Williamsburg Pottery-Au Bon Pain, 6692 D Richmond Rd., Williamsburg, VA

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

**Board Members Absent:** Melinda Cousins

**Chair Attendees:** Jeanette Navia, Catherine Flanagan, Rose Ryan, Nancy Barnhart, Geoff Giles

**Chair Attendees Absent:** George Martin, Jim Corliss, Lee Schuster, Deane Gordon

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Jacobson at 1:00pm. A quorum of the Executive Board was present.

**Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar:** Cathy expressed her appreciation to everyone who submitted their reports prior to this meeting by email so she could copy and paste them into the minutes. This has been very helpful as she's leaving on vacation in 36 hours. The January minutes were shared shortly after that meeting. Resulting corrections and additions were highlighted in yellow and the updated version had been shared with the board the week prior this meeting. Ann moved that the minutes be approved as written, seconded by Gary and unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter:** Ann submitted a spreadsheet of the club's assets, income and expenses for this year up to May 29<sup>th</sup>. It shows a current deficit of the club's total income is down \$1,525. Our assets are still amply sufficient to cover this deficit.

Ann reported that Melinda Cousins had donated from the Backyard Birder \$400. That money was divided as follows: \$35 patron (dues), \$122 - Nature Camp, \$122 Grants, and \$121 CDR seed and was registered on the spread sheet under those cells. Ann asked and it was agreed that she should document future donations from Backyard Birder in a separate cell. It was also decided that Ann would write a report in the September Flyer recognizing the ongoing support and contribution from both Backyard Birder and Wild Birds Unlimited. After a lot of debate it was decided not to include a monetary amount. Recognizing that Melinda requested that \$35 be allotted to patron dues, a hard copy of the Flyer will be sent for display at the store.

Regarding Nature Camp, she reported that under INCOME the Millin donation is separated from the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships since eventually, the Millins will not need to make a separate donation to the club. The funds for that scholarship will come entirely from the Endowment fund. But under expenses, since I wrote all of the checks to Nature Camp, I include all four scholarships award together.

Ann moved \$500 from the Money Market to the checkbook earlier this spring as our checkbook was getting very low. We have had a few more dues checks received since then.

From an expenses standpoint, we are only 5 months into the year but have disbursed the bulk of our expenses. Outstanding expenses will be the Sept to Dec Flyers, Speaker honoraria, CDR seed, and food for the Christmas count.

Cathy Millar moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and was seconded by Shirley Devan.

**CVWO Mugs:** Cheryl requested \$50 dollars to purchase four mugs for raffle items for the November WBC meeting when Brian Taber will be presenting an overview of the CVWO on its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There were no objections.

**Jeanette Navia – Membership Chairperson:** Jeanette reported that we have a total of 127 members paid through 2019 or beyond, 12 Life members, 10 Comp memberships, and 60 members paid through 2018 but not yet renewed.

**Jeanette Navia – Webmistress:** Jeanette reported concern about our club's website security. Currently it is fine but she reported a horrific experience of her personal websites being hacked and infected by nasty malware that would continually attack the site even once it was cleaned up. The security company wanted \$30 a month per website which she found was the average charge of other security companies. From her own experience and that of others, she does not recommend SiteLock. In response, Cathy Flanagan gathered info from the person who manages the Virginia Native Plant Society website who said they use Jetpack Security which charges only \$40 per year. Shirley Devan has requested recommendations from Lisa Reagan who manages the CVWO's web site as well as others professionally. Jeanette shared a sheet detailing all she does on the WBC website and GoogleGroups. She enquired if we should change what we do on the website and how often. Jeanette suggested that a subcommittee be formed to examine these issues and esp. security. Cathy Flanagan and Shirley Devan volunteered to join Jeanette. Shirley said she thought Lisa Reagan would be willing to help. There was concern that our website will not be protected until the subcommittee's report at our August Board Meeting. Judy proposed that we purchase one year with JetPack for \$40 to cover the club over the next 3 months.

Jeanette said that she has told her husband where she keeps the password to the web site in case we need it and she's not available.

Jeanette was acknowledged by all present for her vigilance and hard work.

**Bird Counts/Bird Walks – Jim Corliss:** Jim was not present but submitted the following report.

1. The Spring Bird Count was held on April 28, 2019. We had 88 people participate between field teams and feeder watchers. A total of 144 species were observed.
2. Considering what date to select for the Christmas Bird Count. The official count window starts on Saturday, December 14, which means that we could hold our count earlier than usual on Sunday the 15th. I'm interested to hear if people think it would be better to conduct the count early, or wait until Sunday the 22nd.
3. The next bird walk is Saturday June 8 at Powhatan Creek Trail with Jim Corliss as the leader.

He asked for a recommendation from the Board whether to conduct the Christmas Bird Count on December 15<sup>th</sup> or the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 15<sup>th</sup> was recommended to avoid losing folks who would be starting holiday travel.

**Records – Bill Williams:** Bill submitted the following report.

All of the WBC's bird records plus a regularly updated summary table, each digitally maintained since 2000, were corrupted this past February. The good news is that those records have been recovered. All are being carefully scrutinized for errors that might have occurred during the recovery, reorganized and, most importantly, more safely backed up and stored.

Preliminary work has begun to update the Birds of Virginia's Colonial Historic Triangle published by the WBC in 2012. The goal is to have the revised edition completed in early 2020 (data through at least 31 Dec 2019) with hard copies available for the May 2020 VSO Annual Meeting here in Williamsburg.

It is strongly recommended that this revised edition be made available on-line via the WBC website **at/after** a date to be determined by the WBC BOD **AND** that the WBC BOD establish a mechanism for updating the on-line version on a “regular” basis to reflect new species and changes in early and late dates. This will be reintroduced at a later date for consideration by the Board.

No later than 1 January 2020 the WBC will need to transition a club member to the position of Records Committee Chairman and/or create a Records Committee team. Bill explained that on a daily basis he maintains a running record on such things as new /unusual species and new high counts. His data base is a continuation of that compiled by Bill Sheehan and stretches back for 40 years and even to the 1930's. It's a daunting position to fill and Cheryl noted that we need to figure how to go to the membership to recruit someone.

#### **Guatemala 2019**

In April 2019 the WBC donated 2 pairs of binoculars, an appropriate Peterson Guide to birds in the region and 3 dozen dental supply sets (toothpaste, floss, and toothbrushes) to the Community Cloud Forest Conservation in Guatemala. Bill had brought the two gently used binoculars and bird guide and dental supplies donated from his dentist to CCF in our club's name. Bill will write an article about the experience for an autumn edition of *The Flyer*.

**Programs –Vice President –Judy Jones:** Judy submitted a report on the following programs:

- **September 18:** Chance Hines and Migrating Birds and their Diets
- **October 16:** Nature Camp and John Swaddle on Update on his Noise Research
- **November 20:** Brian Taber and CVWO 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Overview
- **December:** No Program
- **January 2020:** Bob Schamerhorn and Birds of Alaska
- **February 2020:** Possible joint program with Historic Rivers Master Naturalists

**2020 VSO Annual Meeting Update:** Rexanne Bruno submitted the following update by email.

Cheryl and Judy met with Shawn Dash, president of the Hampton Roads Bird Club, on May 22 about his club working with our club on the annual meeting. He will try to join us the next time our annual meeting committee meets on June 19. According to Cheryl's email following that meeting, “Shawn has gotten a commitment from his Board to work on the 2020 Meeting as they expressed they already are working on Field Trips. While Judy and I were driving to the meeting we brainstormed some of the tasks where we would need volunteers. We shared some of those with Shawn as we wanted to be sure that there is an understanding that we need many volunteers for many tasks. Judy and I also realized that we really aren't sure how many volunteers we do need and for what purposes. It would be very helpful to us to be able to clarify that issue. In the meantime, Shawn will send out an email to his folks asking them to save the dates for the 2020 Meeting and to alert them to the fact that he will be calling for volunteers.”

Fort Magruder has agreed to give us a gift certificate for one night's lodging to use as a raffle prize at the meeting.

Fort Magruder had not finished developing their new menus by May 1. So according to our contract with them, this means prices on the old Banquet menu are guaranteed for us. So we'll make selections for Friday night's cocktail hour and Saturday's banquet, etc. from the Banquet menu they shared with us when we signed the contract. That will save us money as they thought the prices would increase by at least 5% on the new menu.

At our June 19 committee meeting, we'll start working on the budget for the annual meeting. Think about what expenses your committee may have so we can include them in the budget. We'll be making tentative decisions on the menu items to serve Friday and Saturday so they are factored into the budget. Based on our initial budget, we can estimate registration and banquet fees for attendees.

If anyone still has any of my old handouts or email attachments of my first attempt at a budget, please send a copy to me as my laptop was stolen last month so I don't have any of those early documents.

Also, if you attended the VSO Annual meeting in Mountain Lake last month, bring your notes on things you observed that we should also do and things we might want to do differently as we'll try to discuss these things, too as time allows.

**CDR Seed Donations – Member-at-Large Gary Carpenter:** Gary reported that to date in 2019 the Club has spent \$213 on bird seed and suet for the CDR. On January 19 of this year the Board voted a \$600 budget for this project. 42% of the year is completed (through the end of May) and we have spent 35.5% of the budgeted amount. We are well within the budget allowance for the CDR project. Gary also reported that the CDR feeders will need some maintenance requiring rope and two steel stakes to stabilize their central feeder stand (a double). He commented that the CDR staff frequently tells him how much the children enjoy watching the feeders. To show our members what their donations to CDR buy, he will write an article for *The Flyer* and include a photo of what the children see.

**Field Trips – George Martin and Deane Gordan:** George wrote the following report for the general membership about the May 18<sup>th</sup> field trip.

The Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas project was started four years ago, with the goal of canvassing areas across the Commonwealth for breeding birds. The Williamsburg Bird Club agreed to survey 18 priority blocks for the Atlas in Region 11, which extends from Newport News west to the eastern suburbs of Richmond and south to the North Carolina border. Four of those priority blocks had not yet been surveyed.

On Saturday, May 18, the Club decided to use the normal field trip day to "bust those blocks". Eleven club members split into four teams to conduct the initial surveys for the four open blocks. And the results were quite impressive. On the priority blocks, 18 species were confirmed as breeders. Confirmation was based on an observed activity, such as adult birds sitting on a nest, adults carrying food, observing newly fledged hatchlings, etc. Similar observations were used to classify species as either "probable" breeders or, less definitively, "possible" breeders. The teams identified 15 species as "probable" breeders, and 33 species as "possible" breeders.

And there were a few interesting identifications. Two teams heard northern bobwhites calling. Two teams saw groups of Mississippi kites. A red-headed woodpecker was observed carrying food ("confirmed"! ). Eleven warbler species were identified; two categorized as "probable" breeders. In total, the teams identified 78 species.

Many thanks to the team captains for organizing their teams for last Saturday's surveys. The team captains for each block, and the team members, are:

Cheryl Jacobson, Emporia SE, with Geoff Giles, Cathy Millar, and Judy Jones

Rexanne Bruno, Purdy SE, with George Martin

Nancy Barnhart, Cherry Hill SE, with Shirley Devan and Jan Lockwood

Bill Williams, Sebrell SE, with Tory Gussman

**VABB2:** Cheryl noted that of the 18 blocks assigned to our club, we have good data entered into 17 of them. The remaining block was signed up by someone from HRC who has spent only 15 minutes on it (20 hours are needed to be considered completed). Cheryl is checking on his further intentions. We are planning to return to the four blocks on the North Carolina border next year. We'll probably complete only 50% of the requested time considering the distance.

**Library Liaison- Lee Schuster:** Lee submitted the following report:  
Listed below are the books purchased by the club this year.

- *Birds by the Shore* by Jennifer Ackerman
- *Bringing Back the Birds* by the American Bird Conservancy
- *The Joy of Bird Feeding* by Jim Carpenter
- *The Laws Guide to Drawing Birds* by John Muir Laws
- *National Geographic Complete Birds of North America* by Jonathan Alderfer
- *National Wildlife Federation* by David Mizejewski
- *Neighborhood Hawks* by John Lane
- *The Splendor of Birds* by Catherine Herbert Howell
- *Birding New England: A Field Guide to the birds* by Randi Minetor\*
- *Birds of Paradox: The life of Terns* by Peter Trull
- *The Wall of Birds* by Jane Kim

**Refreshments – Cathy Flanagan:** Cathy submitted the following report:

Kathy Klausner and I will be bringing snacks to the September meeting and the sign- up sheet will go around for the following meetings.

She asked for recommendations regarding not using plastic and minimizing left-overs. Drinks will no longer be provided and the membership will be reminded at the September meeting to simply the snacks.

**Liaison to CVWO – Nancy Barnhart:** Nancy submitted the following report:

1. 25th Anniversary Logo items are available from Cafe Press ([cafepress.com](http://cafepress.com)). Search CVWO. Tee shirts, tote bags, mugs, etc. 25th Anniversary Logo by Megan Massa, W & M grad.
2. 25th Anniversary book soon to be available; *Riding the Wind: A Birder's Ups and Downs*, by Brian Taber: a celebration of birds, birding and conservation. Illustrations by award-winning artist Julie Zickefoose, cover by CVWO Hawkwatcher Anna Stunkel.
3. 25th Anniversary events in planning stage. More to come.....
4. 23rd year of College Creek Hawkwatch ending 5/31/19.

**Next Meeting:** August 26<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Site to be determined. The table arrangement and music being played over the sound system made it difficult for some to hear. Rearranging the tables and asking for sound to be turned down is an option. Coleman Nursery on Ironbound Road is another option.

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 2:22 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Cathy Millar, Secretary,  
Williamsburg Bird Club  
June 3, 2019

