

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board  
Williamsburg Bird Club  
August 26, 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

**Board Members Absent:** Melinda Cousins, Bill Williams

**Chair Attendees:** Jeanette Navia, Catherine Flanagan, Nancy Barnhart, Geoff Giles, Lee Schuster

**Chair Attendees Absent:** George Martin, Jim Corliss, Rose Ryan

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

**Treasurer's Report - Ann Carpenter:** Ann submitted a spreadsheet of the club's assets, income and expenses for this year up to August 19<sup>th</sup>. She noted that based on the discussion of donations from the Bird Stores at the previous meeting, she has moved the donation from Back Yard Birders to a standalone cell. The donation is now assigned as follows: \$35 –patron membership, \$365 unspecified donation.

ASSETS:

Check Book: \$1,496.95

Money Market: \$4,503.22 – note –interest earned is not much higher than the checkbook interest because the value is less than \$5,000. She didn't get any email feedback on whether or not we should buy another CD. At Ann's recommendation, it was decided that we not consider buying any more CD's until we have finished hosting the annual VSO meeting.

CD's (three): \$8,189.22. One CD which is worth about \$2700 is available for cash or renewal in February 2020.

TOTAL ASSETS: \$14,189.47

2019 INFORMATION:

2019 income: \$10,373 (Note: Dues still lag behind 2018 by \$405)

2019 expenses: \$10,841

Deficit to date of income to expenses: -\$468

Additional income expected from the Memorial Fund for Bob Long. These funds can be moved into the Money Market.

Additional expenses: Flowers for Memorial Service for Bob Long (Cheryl will ask Bill Williams for an invoice), Sept-Dec Flyer, Speaker Honoraria for Chance Hines and John Swaddle. Ann enquired if we were giving Brian Taber an Honoraria who will be speaking in November as President of CVWO. He is also a WBC club member and our policy reads that speakers who are WBC members do not receive one. September and October expenses: Bird Seed for CDR; food for Christmas Bird Count, postage and membership expenses. She estimates about \$1000 more in expenses.

Judy Jones moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and was seconded by Nancy Barnhart and unanimously approved.

**Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar:** There were no questions or comments about the minutes as sent to the Board by email prior the meeting. Gary Carpenter moved that the minutes be accepted as written; seconded by Nancy Barnhart and unanimously approved.

**Membership Chairperson – Jeanette Navia:** Jeanette had shared via email prior to the meeting an Excel spreadsheet of the latest membership. It showed a total of 213 members. She reported that there have

been four (or five) new memberships since the last board meeting. The "or five" is the addition of Daphne Goodrich. Donnie Goodrich had been an individual member. The Goodriches are now family members.

According to her records, there are still 43 members who have not paid this year and she is sure that many of them would want to continue their membership. Jeanette had sent out a reminder email and a few had replied with checks. A discussion ensued addressing this important issue. Cheryl said she will send an email to the membership saying that we have a lot of outstanding dues that still require payment. She will also bring the issue up at our Sept membership meeting. It was thought that any further nagging this late in the year would confuse some folks into thinking they'd already paid for 2020 as well. It was decided that starting next year we will be much more vigilant about unpaid dues during the first few months and determine appropriate follow-up including reminders Jan, Feb, April and June plus the possibility of sending individuals of concern reminders via US mail. It was also noted that our Constitution says 'Membership is automatically terminated if annual dues remain unpaid by April 1 of each year'.

Discussion ensued whether we should make payment more convenient by offering PayPal. It was noted that there is a fee of about \$1 for every \$25. Shirley will explore with Lisa Reagan the feasibility of payment online and report back at our next meeting.

**Webmistress – Jeanette Navia:** After discussion with Cathy Flanagan, Shirley Devan and Cheryl Jacobson, Jeanette reported that she'd purchased JetPack Premium to help keep the site safe from hackers, and to daily back-up the site which will enable the site to be restored in case of a successful hacking.

Jeanette noted that she liked Cheryl's suggestion (prior to this meeting) that we put more pictures of birds, esp. local ones, taken by members on the website. She has requested photos in the past with uneven results. She also is not looking forward to having to reject photos that are of poor quality or redundant. But she agreed that our website would benefit from more photos and will probably carve out time to do so this winter.

**Live Well Expo:** We've been invited to have a display on November 1<sup>st</sup> at the JCC Rec Center. We decided not to participate since the focus this year is on immunizations and the audience attracted to the event would not be a natural fit.

**Historian – Rose Ryan:** Rose Ryan was not present. Shirley Devan reported that she has seven scrapbooks leading up to 2009 to give Rose. Cheryl has repeatedly tried to contact Tom McCary to obtain the collections since 2009 with no results. Cheryl will ask Rose to write to Tom via snail mail.

**Ford's Colony Bird Club Requests:** Cheryl reported that she'd sent them a list of seven speakers from our club who have or will be speaking at their monthly meetings. There was some concern about continuing next year as most of the likely topics will have already been covered.

**Committee Chairperson List in Newsletter:** Cheryl reported that George Martin has been organizing field trips independently without need of help. Deane Gordon had volunteered to assist but as he is not needed, he's requested that his name be removed from the newsletter and email list of officers.

**Weather Cancellation Policy:** Cheryl reported that George Martin had proposed that we have a weather cancellation policy to facilitate cancelling field trips. He suggested that the members be notified via the WBC website and Google Group list site. It was decided to do so for field trips and membership meetings

with Cheryl putting the notification on our list serve and Jeanette on the website. It was decided not to do so for local bird walks especially since the walks are advertised publicly.

**Publication of Bill William's Historic Triangle Annotated Checklist book:** Cheryl reported that Ann Carpenter had had Rexanne Bruno ask how much money needed to be set aside for publication and how that might affect the budget of the VSO annual meeting next May. Ann reported that the initial publication cost was \$3,343.05 for 250 copies in 2012. Two hundred thirty-three were sold at \$20 each and the rest were given away. Earnings over cost was \$1,226.95. It took 3 years to recoup the cost of printing. Bill continues to work on the book and has proposed that one option is to wait until after the May 2020 VSO meeting to commit finances toward publication. Initially the plan had been to have the book ready for the VSO meeting but the Board agreed to reconsider the issue after May 2020.

**CVWO Cups:** Cheryl reported that she'd gotten three CVWO cups at \$51 for upcoming raffles at membership meetings. Nancy is donating 6 CVWO tote bags. Ann suggested offering our club notecards for raffles. Cheryl said she's found that both bird stores are feeling stressed by the number of clubs requesting donation of items for raffles. Cheryl has been trying to provide 3 door prizes for each meeting. There was some discussion as to whether raffles are necessary. Judy suggested that our club's income would be better spent by starting 2020 with no raffles. It was decided that in the future we use only donated items and that money not be spent on future door prizes. Also, that people be encouraged to donate items.

**Request from New Quarter Park for bird seed:** Cheryl reported that she'd been approached by the park supervisor, Michael Wilcox, with a request that our club sponsor the seed for their feeders. Previously, a park employee who no longer works there had bought all the seeds. Michael does not have enough money in this year's budget for seeds. There was a lot of concern expressed about setting a precedence and getting requests from other parks we visit. It was unanimously agreed that we choose not to get involved.

Later in this meeting, this decision was amended when it was thought that we should make some offer in view of the fact that we were asking to have an employee assigned to our club's bird walk for 2 hours once a month. We decided on responding to this as a one-time request expecting that bird seed will be added to next year's budget. It was noted that this is being done because of a long-time special relationship with New Quarter Park. Judy Jones made a motion that we donate \$400 for the purchase of bird seed beginning immediately to honor our special relationship. Gary seconded it and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Update List of Rehabilitation Sources:** Cheryl reported that there's been a lot of requests for info about licensed wildlife rehabilitators. Jan Lockwood compiled a list about five years ago which is now out dated. Catherine Flanagan volunteered to update it. Cheryl will notify Jan. The completed list will be posted on our website.

**The Jackson M. Abbott Conservation Award:** This award is presented at the annual VSO meeting. Special consideration is usually given if the host club nominates a person or organization. Potential nominees will be considered at the VSO September committee meeting. Judy Jones proposed that we nominate CVWO on this year of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was further proposed that if CVWO is the chosen recipient that CVWO founder Bill Williams and current President, Brian Taber, accept the award for CVWO. The entire Board enthusiastically supported this proposal.

**Bird Walk Concerns:** Cheryl reported that Jim Corliss is finding it increasingly difficult to fill out the bird walk schedule and is feeling guilty about asking the same folks all the time. His time is also filled by a demanding job as well as his responsibilities chairing the Christmas and Spring Bird Count. Cheryl shared a proposal that might help. Sara Lewis, a bird club member and NQP volunteer, has volunteered to be the point person for future WBC sponsored monthly New Quarter Park Bird Walks and said she would send out email notifications to the membership, go on every walk, take attendance, take the group photo and learn how to submit the bird list to eBird. Sara also reported that the park supervisor, Michael Wilcox, has hired a new employee who is also a very good birder. Sara would like to ask Michael to assign this person to the WBC monthly bird walk to help identify birds. Jim is thrilled with the idea and that having the New Quarter Park lifted off his shoulders would make a big difference. Cheryl will meet with Michael and Sara to see if this arrangement is agreeable. We were asked to think of other alternatives if Michael doesn't agree. Seeking this commitment from NQP made the Board revisit the idea of sponsoring bird seed for their feeders. An amendment was made to our earlier decision.

**Club Dues:** Judy Jones requested that the Board consider raising the regular individual membership dues from \$15 to \$20. Last time dues were reviewed was in 2005. The increase would also cover the cost of PayPal should we decide to use it. Our bylaws state that they may be 'amended by majority vote of members voting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been furnished to members at least one week prior to the voting meeting'. After further discussion that supported an increase in dues, Judy moved that we present to our membership an amendment to our bylaws which states that individual dues be will be raised to \$20. Student and other levels of membership will remain unchanged. Nancy Barnhart seconded it and the motion was passed unanimously. Cheryl will make an announcement at the September membership meeting and in the October newsletter after which it will be voted on by the membership at the November meeting.

**Field Trips – George Martin:** George was absent but had sent the following report

- Saturday, September 21, Jason Strickland will lead a bird walk at Newport News Park. The field trip will start early – be at the park at 7 AM! Interested birders should meet Jason at the parking lot near the ranger station.
- Saturday, October 19, we'll head to the Eastern Shore for a day of birding. Matt Anthony will lead us at several sites, including the Eastern Shore NWR, Kiptopeke State Park, and the Northumberland landfill. My plan is to have the trip be similar to what the Club did last October – if you liked that trip, this one should be good as well. Those interested in carpooling should meet at the Colony Square Shopping Center at 7:15 AM for a 7:30 AM departure.

**Bird Counts/Bird Walks – Jim Corliss:** Jim was absent but submitted the following report on upcoming bird walks:

- Saturday, September 14 at 8:00 am at Lake Matoaka; leader to be announced.
- Saturday, September 28 at 8:00 am at New Quarter Park; leader Scott Hemler
- Saturday, October 12 at 8:00 am at Greensprings Trail; leader to be announced.
- Saturday, October 26 at 8:00 am at New Quarter Park; leader Jim Corliss
- Saturday, November 7 at 8:00 am at Powhatan Creek Trail; leader Jan Lockwood
- Saturday, November 23 at 8:00 am at New Quarter Park; leader Jan Lockwood
- Saturday, December 14 at 8:00 am at Chickahominy Park; leader to be announced
- Saturday, December 28 at 8:00 am at New Quarter Park; leader Jim Corliss.

**Programs – Judy Jones:** Judy reported on the following:

- 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 25th Anniversary Overview
- December: No Program
- January 2020: Bob Schamerhorn and Birds of Alaska
- February 2020: Possible joint program with Historic Rivers Master Naturalists

Judy added that she received a note from Dan Cristol that he has reserved room 101 in Andrews Hall through December. It will be hard to get to the building because of construction. We may have to use the W&M parking deck at 24 Ukrop Way. *(The day after this meeting, Dan reported that he was able to secure a parking pass for club members but that this will be the last free one that W&M will grant. There will be a phone App based system in place after this year with new meters set at \$1 or \$2 per hour.)*

Judy announced that she will no longer be chairperson of programs after January. Dean Shostak is very interested in being the next programs chairperson.

**CDR Seed Donations – Member-at-Large Gary Carpenter:** Gary reported that to date in 2019, the Club has spent \$351 on CDR seed, suet and equipment. That is approximately 60% of the budgeted amount set aside for the project. With their current supply of seed Gary believes we have more than sufficient funding for supplying the CDR with seed for the remainder of the year.

Gary also reported that he and Ann installed a new pole and shepherd crook system for the feeders at the CDR. The pole system was generously donated by the Backyard Birder (Melinda Cousins). He was pleased to report that a couple of the Center's staff came out and thanked them profusely and related that the children are fascinated with bird watching. They even told them that the feeders are one of the best "tears stoppers" they have. They bring sad kids to the window, point out the feeding birds and the kids become instantly fascinated and the tears stop! It was rewarding to hear.

**The Flyer – Melinda Cousins:** Melinda was not present but had sent in a report that for future months past September, input will be sent to Lucinda Baker who is taking over newsletter responsibilities till the New Year. She added that she has appreciated serving the Williamsburg Bird Club as the newsletter lady and VP over the past nearly two years.

**Liaison to CVWO – Nancy Barnhart:** Nancy reported on the following:

- CVWO: Kiptopeke Challenge will be Saturday, September 28. ALL are welcome to form a team for this fun fund-raiser. Categories include 3-hr, 24-hr, Special Venue, and Youth. For details visit the CVWO website [yawildliferesearch.org](http://yawildliferesearch.org) or contact Dave Youker, [youkerd@aol.com](mailto:youkerd@aol.com).
- Sunday, September 29 at Kiptopeke State Park a hawk workshop will be conducted by Brian Taber from 10:00-noon. Free, refreshments. Learn how to identify raptors in the air.
- Riding the Wind, A Birder's Ups and Downs, by Brian Taber, is available for \$20.00 locally or \$25.00 to be shipped in the US. Available at Wild Birds Unlimited, Backyard Birder, on the CVWO website, or contact Nancy Barnhart, [barnhartnt@gmail.com](mailto:barnhartnt@gmail.com) who will arrange to get a copy of the book to you.
- Anna Stunkel is returning for a 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year as the CVWO hawkwatcher at Kiptopeke State Park (as is Monarch biologist, Michael Ferrara for a 2nd year). The Hawkwatch is conducted from Sept 1 - Nov 30.

**Library Liaison – Lee Schuster:** Lee reported that at Waller Mill Elementary School every week in the spring, she and others take the students of 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Roger Searles, on a bird walk and that they submit their findings on the Cornell site and have started reporting on the Breeding Bird Atlas. Last May, the students gave a presentation on their project to the York County Board of Education. Lee would like to share the presentation with the bird club. Our club had donated money to Mr. Searles when he started this program which was used to purchase bird seed and establish a bluebird trail on the school campus that now has seven boxes. Twenty-two bluebirds were fledged this year! Shirley suggested that Mr. Searles and a couple of the students be asked to come to one of our meetings. Cheryl will ask for contact info and pass that on to Dean Shostack to consider for a future program. Lee will write an article for a 2020 issue of *The Flyer*.

**Refreshments – Catherine Flanagan:** Catherine reported that to eliminate single use plastic, the liquid refreshment will be water furnished by the water cooler on wheels that Cheryl purchased and folks will bring their own cups. Cheryl is donating compostable cups for those who don't bring a cup and when used will end up in Cheryl's compost bin. The membership will be reminded in future newsletters and meetings to bring your own cup (BYOC). Catherine's goal is to keep treats simple. She and Kathy Klausner will be bringing cookies for the September meeting.

**Next Meeting:** October 28 at Williamsburg Pottery Au Bon Pain.

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Cathy Millar, Secretary,  
Williamsburg Bird Club  
August 27, 2019

**Follow-up Reports via Email:**

**Cheryl Jacobson reported the following on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>:**

**Past Due Member Dues:** Jeanette provided me with a list of members who have not paid their dues. I did an email to them with a soft reminder.

**Morrison Flowers:** I emailed Bill and he responded that Morrison Flowers donated the flowers for Bob Long and they did not want to be reimbursed.

**Door Prizes:** Kevin from Wild Birds indicated he was sorry and that they would be glad to donate a door prize for the next four meetings.

**Bird Walks at NQP:** I met with Michael Wilcox to discuss Sara's offer to be the bird walk leader at NQP because of the difficulty in obtaining bird walk leaders and her desire to have another park staff person assist. I stressed that we are still committed to this being a joint effort. Michael has met with his supervisor one time but no decision was made. At this point, Sara has a part time job offer to organize Road Scholars in Williamsburg. I talked with her today and she said she has indicated to Michael that she would like to be paid for what she does at NQP. She has requested that this be put on hold for two weeks while she considers these commitments. I was hoping that by this time I would have a good plan

to present to Jim to help him out but it looks like any planning is on hold for several weeks. I don't know but perhaps Sara's change of plans and desire to be paid may make any bird walk changes unlikely.

**2020 Meeting:** At the Planning Committee Meeting I was asked to contact Shawn Dash to update him and to clarify how Hampton Roads want to be involved in the actual leadership of the 2020 meeting. The Committee thought that perhaps Hampton Roads would sponsor the Paper Sessions but, of course, this would require a discussion with them. I called Shawn twice and left messages and then emailed him twice. He responded that he was leaving town and I should contact Pete Peterman and he provided Pete's email as there was to be a Meeting that evening. I got a response from Pete that he is in Oregon birding and he will contact me after he returns. FYI for those not on the 2020 Planning Committee, Shawn has not attended the last two meetings but he has been provided the minutes of our Planning Committee Meetings.