

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board  
Williamsburg Bird Club  
October 28, 2019**

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

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

**Board Members Absent:** Cindy Baker, Judy Jones

**Chair Attendees:** Catherine Flanagan, Nancy Barnhart, George Martin, Lee Schuster, Bill Williams

**Chair Attendees Absent:** Jeanette Navia, 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.

**Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar:** There were no corrections or additions to the minutes as sent to the Board by email prior to the meeting and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter:** Ann submitted the latest spreadsheet of the club's assets, income and expenses for this year up to October 21, 2019.

**ASSETS:**

Check Book: \$1,545.41

Money Market: \$5,000.12– note –I moved money from the donations to the Bob Long Memorial fund and a little more to bring the money market back up to \$5,000 thus accruing a little more interest.

CD's (three): \$8,195.14.

TOTAL ASSETS: \$ 14,750.67

**2019 INFORMATION:**

2019 income to date: \$ 11,034.30 (Note: Now dues lag behind 2018 by only \$155). This reflects Cheryl having written a friendly email to members who'd yet to pay the 2019 dues. Shirley enquired about income

2019 expenses: \$ 11,793.70 (this includes the \$400 for seed for New Quarter Park)

Deficit to date of income versus expenses: -\$759.40

The spreadsheet shows the 2019 versus 2018 expenses to date for some of the expenditure categories.

Additional known expense categories: Nov & Dec Flyer (estimate \$180), Bird Seed for CDR (?); food for Christmas Bird Count (estimate \$135), postage and membership expenses (?).

Unknown expenses (?)

Shirley Devan enquired about the expense of \$116 for WBC hats with there being nothing noted under income for hats. Ann reported that the \$116 was what the bird club had paid for the six extra hats that no one had yet purchased. It was clarified that Judy Jones who is in charge of ordering more hats is holding the money received for the additional hats on order until they come in. Cheryl noted that Judy expects that the club will make a profit of about \$200.

Bill Williams moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as written; seconded by Gary Carpenter and unanimously approved.

**Bird Counts/Bird Walks -Jim Corliss:** Jim was absent but requested that Cheryl remind everyone that December 15<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Christmas Bird Count. He will be sending an email to the membership

regarding organizing folks for the count in about a week. The December 14<sup>th</sup> WBC walk is being cancelled. Jeanette has this cancellation noted on our website. Scott Hemler will be leading all the New Quarter Park walks in 2020.

**Upgrade for WBC Exhibit:** Shirley Devan proposed that for probably less than \$100, our exhibit (currently a folding one) can be upgraded and ready for the 2020 VSO Annual Meeting. She is recommending a table top panel that rolls up from a case that is much more portable. Shirley already has an account with VistaPrint from having created the new CVWO banners displayed at Hawkwatch and gets frequent promo/discount deals. Orders arrive in about 2 weeks. Shirley offered to get price estimates and do some mock-ups to bring to the next Board Meeting. Bill moved that Shirley do so; was seconded by Ann; and unanimously approved.

**Field Trips – George Martin:** George reported that on Saturday, October 19, fifteen Club members traveled to the Eastern Shore to bird several sites there. The first stop was the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Scenic Overlook, where the group viewed willets, sanderlings, three gull species, and brown pelicans, among others. We then met Matt Anthony at the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR Visitors Center. Matt led us through the refuge, to Magotha Road for a possible Sedge Wren (seen later that afternoon by a few members on a return trip!), and finally to Kiptopeke State Park. In total, the group identified 53 species during the trip (plus the Sedge Wren and a few others seen apart from the main field trip). Again, the weather cooperated – the Club is 2 for 2 this fall!

- Saturday, November 16: The Club will head to Grandview Nature Preserve in Hampton for the possible first glimpse of winter-resident ocean birds. The group will meet leader, Dave Youker, at 7 a.m. Participants who wish to carpool should meet at the Colony Square Shopping Center on Jamestown Road by 6:00 AM, for a 6:10 AM departure. No advance signup is necessary.
- Sunday, JANUARY 19, 2020 - The Williamsburg Bird Club is sponsoring a boat trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands. Geoff Giles has chartered a large, comfortable boat for this eye-level look at bay ducks, sea ducks, shorebirds, raptors, and more! The last few years, this trip has given the group some views of and photo ops of Humpbacked Whales and Harbor Seals. Birding and photo opportunities should be very good from the boat. The boat will likely go as far as Fisherman Island near the Eastern Shore, and then out to the capes near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay if the birds are there. The CBBT area tends to have smoother water than ocean trips with many of the same exciting views of birds. It will be possible to do some birding from the warm, dry cabin, but the best views and photo opportunities will be from outside on deck. Clothing that protects against wind and dampness is highly recommended. The boat has ample heated cabin space with seating and tables. It's equipped with rest rooms. The group should be at the boat, the Bay Princess, by 8:30 AM for a 9 AM sailing. Those who wish to carpool should gather at the Colony Square Shopping Center on Jamestown Road, and leave from there no later than 7:30 AM. The dock at Lynnhaven Inlet is at 3311 Shore Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. The captain plans to return the boat to the dock at 1 PM. There is a good seafood restaurant at the dock, for those who would like to have lunch after the trip. The cost for the trip is \$30 per person. Your space is reserved when the Club receives your check. The Club will give members the first opportunity to reserve spaces, and we'll start accepting checks in December. George Martin will advise in a separate email to Club members when and where to send your checks.

George added that he will first issue the invitation to the membership around the 1<sup>st</sup> of December and then after the membership has had sufficient opportunity to sign up, he will open it to both the Hampton Roads Bird Club first and Historic Rivers Chapter of Master Naturalists. Then if spots remain available, the trip will be open to a much broader distribution. Last year, bird club members reserved about 1/3 to 1/2 of the spots.

Ann recommended that, like last year, checks be sent to the CVWO post office box in Lightfoot for convenience of pick-up.

Ann also stressed that the cancellation policy be in the initial announcement. Money is usually refunded only due to the captain cancelling due to bad weather.

**Nature Camp Scholarships:** Lee Schuster enquired whether in 2020 we would again be offering three Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships as well as the fourth one from the Mike and Jeanne Millin Fund. Cheryl noted that a total of twelve scholarships are offered from five local organizations: WBC, Native Plant Society, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners and Green Spring Garden Club. It is the most expensive program that our club supports. Each scholarship cost \$940 this year and is expected to rise in 2020. Cheryl proposed that the club sponsor two Bill Williams scholarships plus one from the Millin Fund for a total of three in 2020. Bill Williams moved that we do so; seconded by Cathy Millar and was unanimously approved.

**Purple Martin Project Update:** Cheryl reported that the martin house purchase by the club and installed at Ford's Colony by Bill Vanzetta did have some martin scouts but no nesting this year. The martin house donated by Susan Powell and installed at York River State Park has been failing structurally. The doors fell off and were replaced by money earmarked for repairs in the Purple Martin Project. Eight martins showed a lot of interest but left because it is thought that the house was too hot from inadequate ventilation. The pole is bent from the weight of the house and the winch is broken and all the cables are frayed. The cost of repairing the existing bird house would cost about \$600. Conversations with the folks from the Northern VA Purple Martin Project as well as at the Purple Martin Festival resulted in recommendations to use gourds as they offer larger and cooler units. Four gourds, a new pole and pulley system would cost about \$400. Cheryl has donated \$100 and Bill and Sherry Hancock another \$100. Cheryl asked WBC to make a matching donation of another \$200. The maintenance staff at YRSP have offered to help remove the old pole and install the new set-up. A home will try to be found for the broken martin house with folks who have the facility for repairing it (possibly at the filling station near NQP that has had a martin colony for years). Shirley noted our current deficit of \$759.40 and that we may need to front some money for the upcoming VSO annual meeting in May. Ann countered that we have a lot of money in CD's and can cash out one of the CD's worth close to \$2700, put it in the Money Market and then buy another when we want to. Cheryl noted that the boat trip turned a profit of \$600 last year. Shirley made a motion that the club contribute \$200 for buying new Purple Martin equipment for the York River State Park site. Gary seconded it and the motion was passed unanimously. Cheryl will order the equipment from the Purple Martin Conservation Association and send Ann an invoice for the entire cost with a note that \$200 is requested.

**CBC4Kids:** Cheryl reported that this is a program to get children involved in a designed for children Christmas Bird Count that started about 7 years ago in California and has since spread to other states and Canada. There have been many creative approaches such as one in CA that is in cooperation with a zoo wherein kids and their parents are given free visitation to count birds for two hours. Ann recommended that this might be a better project for junior high school science and biology teachers given that December is a busy month to try to get more volunteers from the club. Catherine suggested that the native plant garden at Stonehouse Elementary has parents already involved in helping to weed the garden that might be interested in such a project. Busch Gardens, Master Naturalists and the Scouts were also suggested as possible partners. Cheryl asked us to give some further thought of how we might help sponsor a CBC4Kids to help foster future birders.

**Vendors for the 2020 VSO Annual Meeting:** Cheryl has been having a very hard time procuring for-profit vendors. In the past there has been a \$75 vending fee at VSO events. Cheryl is finding that the \$75 is a stumbling block for artists with small operations and who are first-time vendors. She asked that she be allowed flexibility to negotiate that fee with them. There is no fee for nonprofit vendors. Ann noted she'd heard from other vendors that \$75 was quite a high charge and that 10-15% of the profit made from the day might be another option. The Board was in agreement that arrangements with vendors should be up to the host club. Cheryl asked for and received approval to send Rexanne Bruno an email reporting our flexibility regarding vendor fees and asking for her input/approval.

**PayPal:** Ann Carpenter reported that there has been conversation since the last Board meeting regarding making PayPal an option for paying dues. Ann expressed concern regarding how small our club is and about how much money the club will lose in fees if we set up an account and allow payment of dues via PayPal. She reported that the lower the donation amount, the higher percentage PayPal collects as their cut. For \$20 they collect 92 cents: 4.6% of the gross amount. On the other hand, if someone pays their membership and adds for example another \$75 to the donation, the PayPal fee for a \$100 donation is \$2.50 or 2.5% of the gross amount. PayPal had been initially considered because there were so many outstanding dues. But the need is less urgent now that many of those dues have been paid after Cheryl's reminding them. PayPal will be available for the VSO Annual Meeting registration in May 2020. Shirley noted that VSO successfully uses PayPal and strongly supported adding PayPal now for WBC membership because folks prefer paying by credit card. Ann requested that we wait until next year when there is more time to create all the categories as any donation would be involved and to update the membership spreadsheet etc. Ann noted that there is a way to request that the PayPal fee can be paid by the paying member. Ann noted that PayPal for *Gulls Gone Wild* doubled her work versus receiving a check and would like the added experience of working with PayPal and the VSO Annual Meeting registration before making a commitment. Cheryl proposed that we not further pursue using PayPal until after the 2020 VSO meeting. Those present were in final agreement.

Regarding dues, Ann also expressed concern about keeping track of dues from folks handing cash and checks to her or Jeanette at meetings without an accompanying membership form. She recommended that it needs to be made mandatory that all payments be accompanied by a

membership form whether in person or by mail. It was observed that to confuse the situation there are two types of forms: new membership and renewing membership. It was agreed by all that there should be only one membership form available that is titled 'new or renewing'. Shirley volunteered to create the new form. Jeanette will update it on our website.

**Liaison to CVWO – Nancy Barnhart:** Nancy had submitted the following report via email.

CVWO has had a busy and successful year celebrating the anniversary of its founding 25 years ago by Bill Williams. Two open-to-the-public Anniversary events were held; Butterfly Walk and Refreshments at Williamsburg Botanical Garden in August, and a Hawk ID Workshop and Refreshments at Kiptopeke State Park in September. President Brian Taber was the guest speaker at the October General Meeting of the Historic Rivers Chapter, VMN, and will be the speaker at the November meeting of the Williamsburg Bird Club. Historic Rivers Chapter, VMN, and The WBC had field trips to the Eastern Shore in the last two weeks. These included presentations by Brian, CVWO Hawkcounter Anna Stunkel and Hawkwatch Intern/Educator Megan Murante. Both Anna and Megan have also given numerous formal and informal presentations at the Hawkwatch. Our third seasonal employee, Monarch biologist Michael Ferrara, has likewise been busy with the Monarch Migration Project. Brian will be making a short presentation on raptors at Wild Birds Unlimited on October 26. Brian's book, Riding the Wind, A Birder's Ups and Downs, continues to sell at Backyard Birder, Wild Birds Unlimited, the Hawkwatch at Kiptopeke SP, and online at the CVWO website. The annual Kiptopeke Challenge was highly successful this year with a total of 10 teams competing in this friendly fund-raising event. Final totals will be announced when all donations are in at the end of October. All regular CVWO projects have been busy and successful during this Anniversary year.

**Next Meeting:** February 10, 2020 at Williamsburg Pottery Au Bon Pain

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Cathy Millar, Secretary,  
Williamsburg Bird Club  
November 4, 2019