

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club
May 28, 2020**

Conducted via Zoom. Hosted by Catherine Flanagan

Board Member Attendees: Ann and Gary Carpenter, Cathy Millar, Mary Ellen Hodges, Shirley Devan, Dean Shostak, Victoria Gusman

Board Members Absent: Cheryl Jacobson, Bill Williams

Chair Attendees: George Martin, Jim Corliss, Catherine Flanagan, Nancy Barnhart, Lee Schuster, Patty Maloney

Chair Attendees Absent: Jeanette Navia

The meeting was called to order by Shirley Devan at 2:15 pm who reported the heartbreaking news that our president, Cheryl Jacobson, had just heard about the sudden death of her brother and was not able to facilitate the meeting. A quorum of the Executive Board was present.

Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar: The minutes sent to the Board prior to the meeting had had one minor correction. The April minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter: Ann reported the following.

Assets:

Check Book	\$5,695.68
Money Market	\$7,793.94
CD's	\$5,447.96

VSO Accounting:

Expenses			YR
09/29/18	Fort Magruder deposit	\$ 500.00	2018
02/14/20	Amazon - Banquet and Breakfast tickets	\$ 16.60	2020
02/21/20	Walmart - raffle tickets	\$ 9.61	2020
03/20/20	Certified Letter to Ft. Magruder	\$ 5.80	2020
	paypal fees	\$ 118.10	2020
		\$ 650.11	
Donations	from Planning Commtee Members		
		\$ 80.00	2020
		\$ 100.00	2020
		\$ 95.00	2020
		\$ 100.00	2020
		\$ 140.00	2020
		\$ 40.00	2020
		\$ 555.00	2020
Deficit		\$ (95.11)	

Geoff Giles Fund:

Christopher & Erica Giles	\$ 1,000.00
Mitchell Byrd	\$ 200.00
John & Marilyn Adair	\$ 100.00
Jennifer Hawkins	\$ 1,000.00
Elizabeth & Ruslan Rasiak	\$ 150.00
	\$ 2,450.00

Ann reviewed a spread sheet of WBC's income and expenses to date which was attached to the minutes. There have been deposits made since the last report and a single expense (\$73.84) for carbon deposit slips (the last order will last approximately eight years).

Current Balance Income versus Expenses: \$4,455 of which a large portion is from the Geoff Giles Memorial Fund. Not included yet on the spreadsheet, but please note, is that Nature Camp Scholarships will be returned restoring \$1,920 to the checking account. Other expenses that will not be incurred in 2020 due to the pandemic are as follows: Spring Bird Count, Speaker fees for Spring Meetings, reduced cost for not mailing out The Flyer, VSO dues (\$25 – paid in December), and reduction in requirement for seed at the CDR.

The Board reviewed the following outstanding 2020 donations which shows the amount paid in 2019 when there was more money in our treasury followed by amount given in previous recent years: Williamsburg Regional Library (\$200/\$200), Historic Virginia Land Conservancy (\$250/\$200), Center for Conservation Biology (\$250/200), Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (\$250/\$200), Cloud Community Forest Conservation (\$500/\$0) and the VABBA2 (\$500/\$0). Shirley Devan moved that we maintain our support of all of the above at the same level as in 2019. Seconded by Ann Carpenter and unanimously approved. Cheryl had notified us via email that the CCFC has a grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, under the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) to plant agro-forest parcels in villages that border the cloud forest within Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The money that we contribute will be matched \$3:\$1.

Ann noted that other outstanding expenses will be for Speakers at future meetings; the Christmas Bird Count; seed purchase if needed for CDR; reimbursement to Jeanette for printing costs for the New Member Welcome Package; rebuilding bird boxes at Waller Mill ES (\$88.28); and the Purple Martin projects which per Geoff Giles's wife's request will be partly funded from the Geoff Giles Fund.

Membership/Webmistress – Jeanette Navia: Jeanette was absent but reported that there are currently 162 members that have been paid for or are Life or Comp members.

She had emailed two concerns for the Board to consider.

The first one was about reimbursement for the black ink cartridges she uses to print the 16 pages of the membership packages for new members. There are three new members to whom she's not mailed one yet. She enquired if we want to make the packets smaller. She reviewed the contents as being:

- Welcome letter (1 page)
- Local area birding hotspots (2 pages)
- Local birds to look for (1 page)
- Reminder to use parking pass and wear badge to meetings (1 page - very little ink)
- Parking pass (1 page)
- VSO Checklist of birds (2 pages)

- Bill/Nancy's Summary of bird data (8 pages)
- Name tag

Shirley recommended that all materials for new members be sent to them via email as follows:

- 'Welcome letter' by email
- Include in the welcome email the PDFs of the documents that are currently in PDF form as attachments.
- Include links in the welcome email to locations on the Bird Club web site where they can find the other documents.
- If there are documents that are not in PDF or on the web site, then perhaps we can omit distribution to new members.
- Regarding Name Tag: Save the name tag to give to the person when they arrive at their first meeting.
- Regarding Parking Pass: Send PDF via email.

The Board unanimously approved this recommendation. Shirley will contact Jeanette about it.

Jeanette's other concern was regarding the 31 people who have not renewed their membership or have not requested to be deleted. She requested permission to delete these folks with the exception of Dorothy Whitfield who does not get email so has not seen email reminders to renew. She is also 100 years old and been a member for a long time.

After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed that Jeanette remove the 30 folks who have not renewed but maintain Dorothy Whitfield as a "complimentary" recipient of the hard copy of the newsletter for as long as she is alive. The Board requested that they receive a list of who those 31 members are. Ann and Gary will need to know which of the 31 people have been receiving hard copies so they can delete them from the list of those whom they mail hard copies. Also, to remove them for the List-serve list.

Warhill Mill Elementary School Bluebird Houses -Lee Schuster: Lee reported that the six bluebird houses made 5 years ago are falling apart. Roger Searles has been monitoring them weekly and four boxes have had successful fledglings. Roger is willing to make six new bluebird houses according to the VA Bluebird Society plans and is requesting funds for the raw materials which would cost \$88.28. There were no objections. Shirley Devan made the motion that we approve \$88.28. Cathy Millar seconded it. It was passed unanimously.

Purple Martin Project: Since Cheryl is absent, the subject will be deferred until the next meeting. Ann and Gary Carpenter had noted that there is no WBC attribution sign at the Purple Martin house the club donated at York River State Park. Cheryl will be asked to follow-up on this with the York River State Park staff.

Child Development Resources – Gary Carpenter: Gary reported that CDR is closed due to Covid 19 and has no idea when it will reopen. Therefore, no financial resources are needed.

Field Trips – George Martin: George reported that he does not consider field trips feasible in Phase One (gathering of 10 allowed) or Phase Two of Reopening. Phase Two allows a gathering of 50 people but social distancing would spread a group ridiculously apart. He also noted that we do not normally have field trip in

June, July and August. He recommended that we plan for field trip resumption in September but keep track of official health guidelines and defer further if necessary.

Bird Counts/Walks – Jim Corliss: Jim is open to ideas but can't think of how to lead a meaningful safe bird walk. Shirley noted that she'd received an e-mail from New Quarter Park that listed a WBC bird walk for the fourth Saturday in June. Jim will contact them to tell them that the June 27th walk will not occur and that we currently can't make any plans for when we can resume them.

Programs – Co-Vice Presidents Dean Shostak and Tory Gusman: Tory was welcomed as Acting Co-Vice President. She is helping Dean to develop means of sharing programs with the membership during the current Covid 19 pandemic. Dean has paid for Zoom Pro that offers unlimited minutes and has offered to host the meetings. Consulting with Cheryl, they are considering holding a membership meeting without a speaker in June to update members and get folks accustomed to using Zoom. Tory reported that Nick Newberry will be the July guest speaker reporting on tracing migratory birds with discussion about technology and specific examples regarding the Snowy Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher and shore birds. Dean expects that Mike Bishop will give a presentation in September on the Northern Virginia Purple Martin Initiative. Dean is open to any ideas for the speaker in August. Dean offered to hold a practice Zoom session the day or afternoon before the June meeting. Ann will send Dean a copy of Zoom instructions for senior citizens. Mary Ellen requested that Dean/Tory write an article for The Flyer about how upcoming programs will be presented.

The Flyer – Editor Mary Ellen Hodges: Mary Ellen reported that she is working on the June newsletter and is awaiting Cheryl's President's Corner which is at the beginning of the layout. Cheryl wanted to see if there is anything to add from this meeting. Feeling concerned that obtaining and mailing hard copies would present a coronavirus risk to those involved, Mary Ellen enquired whether a hard copy of this newsletter would be mailed out. Ann reported that she can email a PDF copy to Staples with the printing instructions and can get the order up via curbside pickup. She can present the debit card at curbside. For a fee of \$1.80, she can order 100 stamps to be sent from the post office. She and Gary would leave the printed copies in their home for 48 hours before folding and stamping them. They would then post them via the big drop slot at the Lightfoot Post Office. As a result, both Ann and Gary feel that they can safely send hard copies of The Flyer. Therefore, we will proceed with mailing the June issue.

Records/Liaison to CVWO – Nancy Barnhart: The 24th season of College Creek Hawkwatch will end on 5/31/20. A record-breaking March set the stage for a record-breaking season driven by the huge movement of Turkey Vultures all spring. On May 13 a Turkey Vulture became the 2353rd bird to pass north over College Creek breaking the previous record set in 2013. In addition to a big year for these vultures it was an above average year for Bald Eagles (counting only immature birds), Black Vultures, and Cooper's Hawks, and below average for Ospreys, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Red-tailed Hawks. American Kestrel, Merlin, and Broad-winged Hawks continue to decline. A detailed analysis of spring raptor migration by Hawk Migration Association of North America will help us understand the state of these birds of prey.

CVWO has hired a hawk counter for Kiptopeke Hawkwatch in the fall. We will continue to follow developments for park access and housing as changes in Covid-19 restrictions unfold. CVWO is about to release its 25th anniversary annual report.

Prothonotary Warbler monitoring is being conducted on Powhatan Creek Trail, Dragon Run, and Newport News. Shirley added that on the Powhatan Creek Trail Jim Easton photographed a banded female

Prothonotary where the numbers were readable showing that it was a female banded at the same box in June 2018. A photo has also been taken of a male who was banded as a nestling. Nancy added that as the record keeper, she gets a lot of her info via eBird but is also trying to gather info from the general public who aren't eBirders and requested that we report to her unusual sightings like the Black-bellied Whistling Duck at Ford's Colony.

Historian – Patty Maloney: Patty requested that folks save anything that should go into the club's binder. Lee said she had files from the early 90's and thought there might be something that would be appropriate and will check them.

Refreshments – Catherine Flanagan: Cathy was unable to report as had lost sound.

Nature Camp – Lee Schuster: Since Nature Camp has been canceled for this summer, it was suggested that this year's three recipients would, if possible, attend next summer. The Millin scholarship recipient has responded and wants to be deferred to next summer. She hasn't heard anything from the other two and will send another email reminding them that she needs to know their intentions by this August 1st. Lee will contact Philip about sending the refund for the three scholarships back to the Williamsburg Bird Club at the post office box address. Then Ann will send a check to Amy Millin. Jeanette picks up the mail and will be told to keep a lookout for it.

Next Meeting: Deferred to when Cheryl will be able to decide but will probably be in two months when we have a better idea of restrictions/guidelines regarding Covid 19.

Shirley Devan adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
June 4, 2020

Addendum:

June 21: Program Speaker Honorariums & Purple Martin Conservation Membership: Cheryl Jacobson emailed the Board to review honorariums for future program speakers who will be presenting via Zoom. We have usually given a \$100.00 Gratuity for a local presenter on site. She noted that our presenters are professionals who not only have to develop their presentation in a different format, but that for many they are learning to navigate Zoom as a presenter for the first time. She recommended a reduction of the \$100 to either \$50 or \$75. Because our programs will all be via zoom at this time, there will be no one at the out-of-town rate which is normally \$150. Cheryl proposed one exception being to give Katie Fallon \$125 based on her being a nationally known author and lecturer.

Cheryl also proposed that WBC become a member of the Purple Martin Conservation Association either as a Supporter at \$75.00 or Benefactor at \$150.00.

Ann Carpenter moved that we give \$75 Zoom Honorariums; approve \$125 for Katie Fallon; and join Purple Martin Conservation Association as a Benefactor at \$150. Cathy Millar seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

