

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Board

Williamsburg Bird Club

January 31, 2022

Conducted via Zoom hosted by Ann Carpenter; Presided by President Nancy Barnhart

Board Member Attendees: Nancy Barnhart, Patty Maloney, Mary Ellen Hodges, Ann Carpenter, Cathy Millar, Gary Carpenter, Shirley Devan, Cheryl Jacobson

Board Members Absent: None

Chair Attendees: Jeanette Navia, George Martin, Lee Schuster, Catherine Flanagan, Patty Maloney, Nancy Barnhart, Cheryl Jacobson

Chair Attendees Absent: Jim Corliss

The meeting was called to order by Nancy Barnhart at 3 pm. A quorum of the Executive Board was present.

Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar: Cathy had submitted via email the minutes of the October 4, 2021 Board meeting for review twice resulting in one minor change. Shirley Devan moved that the minutes be accepted; seconded by Gary Carpenter; and the motion was approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter: Ann had emailed to Board members two pdf files (spreadsheets) that were added to the minutes. The first spreadsheet showed the total "2021 club year" income and expenses through December 31, 2021. The spreadsheet included some highlighted income and expenses from 2020 for comparison purposes. The second pdf showed actual Calendar Year 2021 income and expenses. This spreadsheet is the basis for the annual report to the VA Office of Charitable Solicitations.

Ann submitted the following summary of the club's Assets as of December 31, 2021:

Checking/Savings

SunTrust Checking	\$7,463.57
SunTrust CD 2	\$2,855.24
SunTrust Money Market	\$7,091.83

Total Checking/Savings \$17,410.64

Other Assets

Bird Club Fund in the Williamsburg Community Foundation: \$12,500.00

TOTAL ASSETS \$29,910.64

TOTAL "CLUB YEAR" INCOME: \$20,315.99

TOTAL "CLUB YEAR" EXPENSES: \$21,677.69

DEFICIT: \$ -1,361.70

TOTAL "CALENDAR YEAR" INCOME \$20,680.99

TOTAL "CALENDAR YEAR" EXPENSES: \$21,696.51

DEFICIT: -\$1,015.52

She further explained that regarding the 2021 expense to income deficit that, looking at the Club Year Spreadsheet, she showed an expense amount before including the \$12,500 expense that was the investment made into our fund in the Williamsburg Community Foundation last June. That amount is

\$8,777.70. And if you exclude some one-time special donations in 2021, that the income was \$8,715.49. Viewed this way, our income and expenses were almost the same.

She noted that the most important figures to look at are the amount currently in our checkbook and that with the dues and donations that we have collected to date (Jan 2022) we have \$15,000 between the checkbook and the money market. Also, our third CD (\$2,855) will mature this spring. In summary, we will have liquid money of over \$17,000 available for funding programs.

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas 2: Shirley Devan, who is on the VSO VBBA2 fundraising committee, reported that the VSO is expecting that a Sponsor-a-Species campaign will fund quite a bit of the development and publication of the VBBA2 website presenting maps, graphics, and text as described in the Atlas Final Products Committee. From 2022 to 2025 (four years) the VSO plans to raise \$274,000. They plan to use five types of fundraising: direct mail, a Sponsor a Species (SaS) program, a Birding Adventures program, major donors, and grants. An official request for SaS donations from the VSO will not be coming until May. The SaS fundraiser has been organized into the following five tiers: donations per year of \$200, \$300, \$500, \$1,000 and \$2,000. In 2023, VSO will petition individuals to sponsor a species for 3 years. Bird Clubs will be asked to pledge for 4 years. Our club mascot bird, the Red-headed Woodpecker, is in the \$2,000 level. Shirley informed us that larger VA bird clubs will be asked to sponsor at the \$2,000 level. We already have been annually donating \$500 to the VBBA2 so this would be an additional \$1500. Nancy noted that we need to plan how to fit this in our budget along with the funding of our club's other projects for the next 4 years. Last year we donated a total of \$2,350. If we support VSO's request, we'll be starting with \$2,000 for the VBBA2. She noted that we need to determine if we can continue to expect to have the same income in donations and then how do we allocate those donations while saving money for the VSO. Ann commented that it's too early to determine because only 35% of the members have renewed to date. Our bylaws say that members should pay their dues by April 1st so it will be appropriate to send reminders soon.

Ann suggested that other than addressing time sensitive donations toward Nature Camp and Ornithology Grants, we should table this discussion for the next board meeting. The board expressed general support for the VSO fundraiser and Nancy proposed that we determine our 2022 funding at a late April board meeting when we will have more needed information. Cheryl voiced a concern that was generally agreed upon that we need to maintain a balance between funding data collection and service projects.

Regarding the Center for Conservation Biology, Ann reminded us that our donation had been increased from \$250 to \$500 last year to help support research about our birds in their wintering grounds in Central and South America.

Regarding CDR seed purchase, Gary reported that the club spent only \$50 on bird seed in 2021 because the facility was closed most of the year due to the pandemic. It currently is closed due to the Omicron surge. They are scheduled to move to a building where there no large windows for birdwatching and they apparently have no current plans for including a birdfeeder there. He suggested that we might want to use the \$600 that we've previously budgeted for something else. Nancy noted that there've been suggestions to donate money for birdseed to NQP but Cheryl noted that she'd heard from the staff at NQP that they didn't have staff available to fill the feeders which suggests that we'd need a dedicated volunteer if we decided to donate seed.

2022 Nature Camp: All student applications are in and Nancy reported that Judy Jones said that the \$500 we'd made available for disadvantaged kids attending Nature Camp will not be needed this year.

Lee reported that the cost per scholarship this year is \$975. Ann reported that Tom McCary's fund might supply approximately \$900 in March or April towards the Bill Williams Nature Camp scholarship. It was agreed that our club will fund one full scholarship and whatever monies are needed to supplement any money not supplied by Tom's fund for the second scholarship. A third scholarship will be paid for by the Millin Fund.

Ornithology Research Grants: Nancy reported that Dan Cristol won't know how many applicants there will be until Feb 7th.

Programs – Patty Maloney, Vice President: Patty reported that the Williamsburg Library theater has been reserved for our February meeting for \$95. Because it is a joint meeting with the Historic Rivers Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists, the cost is being split with them. The plan is to do a hybrid meeting of welcoming members in-person and offering it on Zoom. A recording of it will be available for those who can't make it. Nancy noted that this is a significant decision and asked for input. It was agreed that there is enough space at the library for social distancing and that wearing masks will be mandatory. No refreshments will be served. Members will be told they can bring their own water. The library closes at 8 pm so a firm starting time was set for 6:30 pm. Mary Ellen will inform the membership of these requirements in the February issue of *The Flyer*.

- Wednesday, February 16: : Bill Williams is slated to present a program about the birds on Craney Island.
- Wednesday, March 16: Shirley Devan will talk about her work with Prothonotary Warblers

The Flyer – Mary Ellen Hodges, Vice President (Editor): Mary Ellen reported that she'd been awaiting information provided by this meeting and that otherwise the February issue will be ready for Gary to proofread in two to three days.

Membership – Chairperson Jeanette Navia: Jeanette reported that to date 29 members paid their dues via PayPal and 75 via check. We still have 101 members who paid last year that have not yet renewed. Jeanette will send Nancy the emails of those members.

Field Trips – George Martin, Field Trip Coordinator:

- **Sunday, February 13:** The boat trip has 39 people signed up leaving 1 space left. Face masks in the cabin will be mandatory.
- **Saturday, February 19:** Dutch Gap led by Rose Ryan. We will be meeting there at 9am. There will be no carpooling.
- **Saturday, March 19 :** Machicomoco State Park, Hayes, VA. George is waiting to hear if Dave Youker is available to lead the walk
- **Saturday, April 16:** George is working on it
- **Saturday, May 21:** Cranston's Mill Pond (approximately 4 miles southwest of Toano) is being considered since the owners have granted permission.

Bird Counts/Walks – Chairperson Jim Corliss: Jim was absent.

Bird Walks: Nancy reported that the monthly New Quarter Park walks held on the fourth week are continuing with Scott Hemler leading them.

Library Liaison- Chairperson Lee Schuster: Lee reported that she won't be receiving the list of books for her to review until about May. She reminded us that this will be her last year as Library Liaison.

Refreshments – Chairperson Catherine Flanagan: As a Covid precaution, refreshments are not currently being served at our meetings. Nancy noted the success of Cheryl's Purple Martin meeting and Shirley's January 1st get-together that were both held outdoors and that she would like for us to think about holding more outdoor meetings for presentations or socializing and where refreshments would be allowed.

Historian – Chairperson Patty Maloney: Patty has been adding items as they come.

Records/Liaison to CVWO – Chairperson Nancy Barnhart: Nancy didn't have anything to report regarding CVWO. But regarding Records, she reported that Bill Williams has just finished a revision of his 2012 annotated checklist book, THE BIRDS OF VIRGINIA'S COLONIAL HISTORIC TRIANGLE, which Nancy is editing with him. This time there will be an electronic version. We will need to decide upon funding a limited edition of hardcopies. Shirley reported that we had printed 250 copies of the first edition at Owen Printing for \$2831.00. They quickly sold out for \$20.00 each. Nancy noted that the data has been showing that species in our historic triangle that were noted as common-uncommon are now becoming increasingly uncommon. Cheryl suggested that we could use the sale of the book as a VBBA2 fundraiser.

Conservation Committee – Chairperson Cheryl Jacobson: Cheryl reported that she had emailed the membership the information for attending the virtual Audubon 2022 Policy and Advocacy Town Hall on Jan 31 at 6pm. She noted that Purple Martin scouts have arrived in Georgia so as soon as it gets a little warmer, she'll train a couple more volunteers and the gourds will be prepared for their arrival here.

New Business:

Freedom Park Collaboration: Nancy reported that the supervisor of Freedom Park, Sarah O'Reilly, has asked if our club would be interested in some regular collaborative effort with them such as bird walks or programs. Shirley suggested a once a quarter/season Saturday bird walk. Nancy would like to have a list of people willing to lead bird walks.

Sibley Field Guides: Nancy reported that years ago, Geoff Giles had given Judy Jones 10 new Sibley Field Guides that he wanted to be used with student or in schools. Lee will contact Hugh Beard at Lafayette High School and Roger Searles at Waller Mill Elementary School to see if they would like them for their students.

VSO Annual Meeting: Shirley reported that the meeting hosted by the Cape Henry Bird Club and Friends of Great Dismal Swamp NWR will be held April 29, 30 and May 1. She wanted us to be aware of those dates so that we don't plan to hold our annual Spring Bird Count then.

Next Board Meeting: The board agreed that for convenience we will continue our meetings on Zoom. Next meeting will be April 25 at 3 pm.

Nancy Barnhart adjourned the meeting at 4:18 pm

Addendum:

February 28; Ornithology Research Grants: Nancy emailed the Board that we'd received three Ornithology Research Grant proposals from Dan Cristol. She requested the Boards approval for three \$599 grants for a total of \$1797. The titles of the student research are:

"Heat-induced calling affects embryonic vibrations: Scrambled eggs or genuine feedback?" Elizabeth

Elliott

“Full Metal Sparrow: Examining the effects of sublethal lead on ecologically-important behaviors in a commensal songbird”. Joseph Di Liberto

“Novel Approach to the Detection of Avian Window Collisions”. Moira Meehan

The response from the Board was an enthusiastic agreement to support these grants with no objections. Ann wrote and mailed the checks.

March 11; Geoff Giles Memorial Fund: Cheryl Jacobson reported a request in writing from Geoff’s wife, Heike, that the remaining funds in the Geoff Giles Memorial Fund be used for the Purple Martin Project and not used for Nature Camp.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
February 1, 2022