

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board

### Williamsburg Bird Club

July 25, 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

**Board Members Absent:** Cheryl Jacobson

**Chair Attendees :** Jeanette Navia, George Martin, Catherine Flanagan, Patty Maloney, Nancy Barnhart

**Chari Attendees Absent:** Jim Corliss, Cheryl Jacobson

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

**Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar:** Cathy had submitted the Aril 25, 2022 minutes to the Board via email twice. They were reviewed and a couple of minor corrections were made. Shirley moved that the minutes be accepted; seconded by Gary; and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter:** Ann had emailed the Board a spreadsheet detailing the current and expected income and expenses for Club Year 2022. A comparison to Club Year 2021 was included. Below is a summary of the club's Assets as of July 27, 2022 and projected to December 31, 2022. These projections include the \$500 additional donation to the VSO for VABBA2, a revised figure for speaker fees and a revised check amount from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Checking/Savings	July 27, 2022	Dec 2022
<b>Truist Checking</b>	\$ 8,751.12	
(includes cashed out CD valued at \$2,857)		
<b>Truist Money Market</b>	\$ 7,092.17	
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	\$15,843.29	
<b>Other Assets</b>		
WCF	\$ 10,393.40	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$ 26,936.69	
Expected Income:	\$ 610.00	
Expected Expenses:	\$ 1,125.28	
Estimated EOY 2022 Assets	\$ 26,241.41	
"CLUB YEAR" ORDINARY INCOME	\$ 9,619.72	\$10,229.72
"CLUB YEAR" EXPENSES:	\$ 9,494.05	\$10,619.33
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	\$ 122.67	\$ -389.61

In addition to the projected deficit of income versus expenditures, it is important to note that we did not use the monies (\$1,474.15) received from the Tom McCary fund this year for Nature Camp as the donation was not received until the end of March, long after decisions were made about Nature Camp. Following the last Board meeting, Ann was asked to contact Tom's brother, Ben, to see if there was to be a special designated name associated with the funds to be directed to Nature Camp from this specific fund. Mr. Andy Woods, Tom's estate attorney gave her Ben's email, however, he has never

replied. So, as noted in the April meeting minutes, we need at every possible opportunity to credit Tom in some way for this annual donation and award to Nature Camp.

Due to the current economic circumstances the value of the Bird Club Fund in the Williamsburg Community Foundation has decreased by \$2,060.61 since the last report. Besides the loss in value due to the stock and bond markets, the figure also includes the annual maintenance fee (\$250) and the March distribution to our checking account of \$438.

Ann noted that we are down by \$240 in membership dues and overall donations were down by \$1900. Although we are currently running a deficit income, we do have \$15,843.29 in the checkbook.

Nancy reported that she will make a concerted effort to email members who've not renewed this year. She also noted that the Breeding Bird Atlas will make a significant impact on our budget over the next 4 years.

A discussion ensued about the Nature Camp Scholarships. Attendance cost \$980 this year and three were awarded: two from our Bill Williams fund and one from the Millin fund. Ann enquired whether we wanted to decide if we wanted to make four in 2023: two from Bill Williams, one from Tom McCary and one from Millin. Lee reported that the applicant pool was small. This year, the Nature Camp Scholarship committee had twelve to award and only twelve applied. This no doubt is Covid related. The Millin scholarship attendee had to go home after attending only one of the two weeks due to having been exposed to Covid. It was agreed by all to keep in mind that we should honor the intent of the McCary Fund in 2023 by sending a check to the Nature Camp Scholarship Fund. The amount will be determined at a future meeting.

Lee asked if we were expecting the Nature Camp Scholarship recipients to report on their experience at one of our meetings. Lee suggested that instead we have them write a report for our newsletter which was approved by all.

Nancy reported that VSO has been notified and were very thankful that we had approved a total donation of \$4,000 to VABBA2 over the next 4 years. Nancy noted that we had not decided whether we wanted to honor somebody with our sponsorship of the Red-headed Woodpecker. Three suggestions had been made: the founders of our bird club, Bill Williams and Ruth Beck; Mitchell Byrd; and Tom McCary. Shirley suggested that we dedicate the Red-headed Woodpecker page in the final production of the VABB2 in memory of Ruth Beck and in honor of Bill Williams, founders of the Williamsburg Bird Club. After some discussion, Shirley restated the above in a proposal; Ann seconded the motion; approval was unanimous. Nancy will submit the required form along with a check for an additional \$500 from Ann to complete our commitment for 2022.

**Programs – Patty Maloney, Vice President:** Patty reported that she has two speakers lined up and is still working on finding a third. The two speakers have not been assigned a month yet but are Jim Easton, a local wildlife photographer, and Alex Wilke, who is a scientist with the Nature Conservancy. Alex was one of Ruth Beck's graduate students and did her research on Oyster Catchers. Alex's presentation will be via Zoom.

Patty has reserved the Williamsburg Community Library for September and October. November is not available and will be a Zoom meeting. Ann reported that she and Gary will be on a cruise in November and she will arrange for someone else to host the November Zoom meeting.

**The Flyer- Mary Ellen Hodges, Vice President (Editor):** Mary Ellen reported that issues of *The Flyer* will resume in September. The submission deadline is Friday, August 26. She has two special articles for the

September issue: Carol Annis about the birds she saw in the Galapagos and one by a student of Dan Cristol's about her experience taking his introductory ornithology course.

Gary and Ann will not be available to print and mail the September issue but Shirley Devan and Nancy Barnhart have volunteered to complete these tasks in their absence. Mary Ellen will send a PDF copy of *The Flyer* to Shirley.

The Board agreed that there are only three newsletters for the remainder of 2022 as there isn't one for December.

Mary Ellen has tried unsuccessfully to contact W&M grad student, Michael Academia, who was our 2021 Ornithology Grant recipient on his Osprey research. She'd been hoping he'd write an article about the Chesapeake menhaden industry and its effect on the Osprey population. If she continues to not be able to reach Michael, Mary Ellen is considering writing an article to inform our membership about the issue and how they can take action.

**Child Development Resources – Gary Carpenter, Member-at-Large:** Gary reported that he'd sent CDR an email since he hadn't heard from them for a while. He got a response that they were still interested in a relationship with our club as the feeders mean a lot to the children. Currently they don't need any seed or suet and the feeders are in good condition. They are still in the old location as the move to the new facility is taking longer than anticipated. Due to Covid, they have not needed our services as much but will let us know when they need anything.

**Membership – Chairperson, Jeanette Navia:** Jeanette reported that we've added two new members. There are about 33 members who've not renewed. Nancy will contact them one more time and that if we don't hear from them, they will not receive any more WBC emails. She will also inform them that at this late date they should pay via check.

**Field Trips – George Martin, Field Trip Coordinator:** In view of our previous discussions about making our activities accessible to folks with mobility issues, George proposed that we make our September field trip a 'sit' at Jamestown Beach Park instead of a walk. He suggested that we sit in a circle for 2 hours (8-10 am) and count how many birds we see. He has bounced the idea off some folks who aren't very mobile and they were enthused. He will start publicizing the event to our membership. He is planning a trip to the Eastern Shore in October.

He reminded us this is normally the time to start planning for our January boat trip. He recommended that we not continue doing a boat trip because it entails a lot of work for a trip for a small subset of our membership and that it is often canceled due to bad weather. Last year, about only 22 members signed-up. There are many other tours/opportunities from the Virginia Beach area for those still interested. The boat is smaller so less money for WBC is now made from the trip. He suggested that we go to Dutch Gap instead while more ducks are still there than in February. There was general agreement among the Board members for George to not plan a boat trip.

**Bird Walks/ Counts – Chairperson, Jim Corliss:** Jim was absent and had told Nancy that he can't attend our meeting at this time of day because he is in charge of a meeting at work on Monday afternoons. He had nothing to add.

**Library Liaison – Chairperson Lee Schuster:** Lee reported that the books had been ordered and she will provide a list of those books for the next issue of *The Flyer*. This will be her last year as chairperson. She did ask that we keep in mind that recommendations for appropriate books would be most welcome by the future chairperson.

**Refreshments – Chairperson Catherine Flanagan:** Nancy complimented Cathy for the lovely refreshments that she brought to our June gathering. It was fun and well attended. A discussion ensued about providing refreshments at future meetings at the library as there is limited time with the library closing at 8pm. The Board agreed that we consider holding occasional social meetings in lieu of refreshments at our future library meetings.

**Historian – Chairperson Patty Maloney:** Patty reported that she's added copies of our newsletter but there haven't been many newspaper articles, etc.

**Records/Liaison to CVWO – Chairperson Nancy Barnhart:** Nancy provided an update on Bill Williams's annotated checklist "*The Birds of Virginia's Colonial Historic Triangle*". It will feature 60 to 70 photos and is currently being edited. There will be an on-line version so future changes can be easily made. It is still to be decided how many copies will be printed.

This year, CVWO is holding the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch One Millionth Bird contest. The purpose is to raise an awareness of raptors and Kiptopeke State Park. The contest is to guess the date and time the one millionth bird passes overhead with added recognition for guessing the species. Prizes will include a pair of Zeiss binoculars. Starting the end of August, about 16,700 birds will need to be spotted to reach the target number.

Nancy reported that Andrew Rapp will be the CVWO's citizen hawkwatcher/monarch biologist this year.

**Conservation Committee – Chairperson Cheryl Jacobson:** Cheryl was unable to attend but had emailed a report that 53 Purple Martins had fledged at the Chickahominy Riverfront Park. She has been advised that next year there will probably be double that number. Soon the Martins will leave and Cheryl will do a complete report addressing each site.

### **New and Continuing Business:**

**Availability of a Speaker for a For-profit Campground:** Nancy reported that there had been a request on the WBC web site if someone would be available to conduct a birding program for children at their Lanexa campground. Nancy expressed concern about the new activities director being very vague about what they envisioned as well as concern that once we start doing such programs, there'd be many more requests from other for-profit groups. We don't have a policy about providing such programs and she enquired if we needed one or should we consider each on a case-by-case basis. Nancy added that Backyard Birder's Birding 101 class which is open to the public is very popular. A consensus was reached that we remain open to providing educational opportunities on a case-by-case basis.

**Nominating Committee and Elections:** Nancy reported that although all the Board members have agreed to continue, we still need a nominating committee and slate of officers for members to vote on at the November meeting. The slate will need to be published in the October or November issue of *The Flyer*. A notice to the membership will be posted in the September newsletter inviting anyone interested in serving/nominating someone to the Board to contact the nominating committee. Patty Maloney, Shirley Devan and Barbara Giffin have agreed to serve on the nominating committee. The November meeting will be conducted via Zoom. If there is a nomination from the floor, members will be instructed to send in their vote to a specified person via chat box.

**Accessibility to WBC Activities:** This is an ongoing conversation. George's plan for the September 'Sit' is a step in this direction.

**Next Board Meeting:** Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. (Jim Corliss was contacted and he agreed to the time and will try to attend).

Nancy Barnhart adjourned the meeting at 4:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Millar, Secretary,  
Williamsburg Bird Club,  
July 27, 2022