

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board

### Williamsburg Bird Club

January 23, 2023

Conducted via Zoom hosted by Ann Carpenter; Presided by 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

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

**Committee Chairs Absent:** Cheryl Jacobson

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

**Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar:** Cathy had submitted via email for the Board to review the October 24, 2023 minutes written by Mary Ellen Hodges while Cathy recovered from a fractured wrist. Gary moved that the minutes be accepted; the motion was seconded by Shirley; and the motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter:** On January 15, 2023, Ann emailed the Board a spreadsheet detailing the income and expenses for Club Year 2022. A comparison to Club Year 2021 was also included. Both sheets are attached separately. Ann also provided the summary below of the club's Assets as of December 31, 2022.

#### **ASSETS**

##### Checking/Savings

Truist Checking Account	\$9,793.64
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Truist Money Market	\$7,092.52
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Total Checking/Savings	\$16,886.16
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##### Other Assets

Bird Club Fund in Williamsburg Community Fund	\$10,810.19
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<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$27,696.35</b>
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Ann added that due to the current economic circumstances the value of the Bird Club Fund in the Williamsburg Community Foundation has decreased by \$ 1,689.81 since the initial investment. Besides the loss in value due to the stock and bond markets, the figure also includes the maintenance fee to date (\$291.62) and the annual distribution (\$438) to our checking account. The latter two are funded from the principal in the Fund and not from our checking account.

Our total ordinary income for 2022 was \$10,832.10.

Ann noted that the amount earned in dues in 2022 were slightly down from previous year. Jeanette didn't know whether that indicated a decline in membership or fewer donations. She added that the club has received a bill for \$503.64 for maintaining the club's website for the next 3 years.

Ann also noted that the cost of printing *The Flyer* has gone up by about \$10 as well as the cost of stamps. There are still 26 members requesting a paper copy.

In summary, the Club's 2022 deficit of income versus expenses was minus 838.04 and the overall deficit was minus 2,477.92.

Nancy responded by acknowledging that the deficit was acceptable in view of the Covid economy, the added cost of a meeting room, and our donation commitment to VABBA2 of \$4,000 over 4 years of which we've paid one year.

Ann then reviewed the expenses and income from Dec 31, 2022 – Jan 23, 2023. Membership dues and donations to date totaled a \$3,000 income. She noted that of that income, \$1,550 was in dues. By the end of 2022, the club had collected \$3,500 in dues.

Expenses ( administrative, business, Flyer, honorarium) have totaled \$692.67. Net income to date is \$2,307.33.

Mary Ellen reported that her bank had informed her that money market and CD rates have recently risen considerably and that she should make changes. She enquired if this was in Ann's planning. Ann responded that our investment in CD's ended in April 2022. Our assets are currently in the money market, checking account and Williamsburg Community Fund. She is reluctant to change anything until she knows this year's expenses. Ann noted that we'd put \$12,500 into the Community Fund and is hoping that it will eventually be a better investment of our funds.

**2023 Club Donations:** The Board reviewed our 2022 donations to **Center for Conservation Biology \$500, Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory \$250, Community Cloud Forest Conservation \$500, Historic VA Land Conservancy \$250, Purple Martin Conservation \$150 , VABBA2 \$1000, and Williamsburg Regional Library \$200.**

Mary Ellen suggested that Cheryl, who previously has been in contact with one of the administrators of Community Cloud Forest, ask them for an update that can be included in *The Flyer*.

Shirley made a motion to maintain the same level of support for 2023 as we did in 2022. Mary Ellen seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Cheryl Jacobson, **Conservation Committee** chairperson, requested \$150 for the maintenance of Purple Martin gourds and additional gourds. Shirley moved that we do so and Cathy seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

**Ornithology Research Grants:** Ann reported that we spent more in 2021 than 2022 which reflected Dan Cristol's donation to the club of the \$500 he gets for his bird column in the Virginia Gazette. However, he didn't do that last year, so we have gone back to funding three grants of \$599 each. Ann volunteered to contact Renee Peace, office manager of Integrated Science Center, to ask Dan Cristol to propose three worthy students for the grants. Ann made the motion that we fund up to three ornithology grants of \$599 each. Mary Ellen seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

**CDR Seed Purchase:** Ann commented that we used to allocate \$600 annually. Gary reported that he has bought them only one bag of seeds this year. He recently wrote them a note enquiring if they needed any assistance and they replied no. He thinks this may be due to being preoccupied with their upcoming move to their new location.

**Nature Camp Scholarships:** The cost has increased to \$995 each. Lee reported that three students (two Bill Williams and one Millin) have sent in their applications and are awaiting acceptance.

**Programs- Patty Maloney, Vice President:** Patty reported the following:

- **Wednesday, February 15:** The meeting will be in person at the Williamsburg Library and on Zoom at 6 pm. This will be a joint meeting with the Historic Rivers Master Naturalists. They will be paying half of the rental and speaker's fee. The speaker will be Deb Woodward of AWARE Wildlife Rehabilitators. The title is Behind-the-Scenes Look at Wildlife Rehabilitation and What We Need to Know About Rescuing Wildlife. Some of their popular 'ambassador animals' will be brought to this presentation. The public will be invited. Jeanette will notify the public via the local newspaper and FB. Shirley volunteered to staff a table with WBC rack cards between 5:30 and 6:00 to greet non-members and invite them to join our club. She also offered to sell WBC

pins and patches. She suggested that the announcement of this meeting to the membership include that there will be caps, pins and patches available. Jeanette reminded us that the old rack cards still show the old membership fee of \$15. Shirley will use that as an incentive to join at that rate for the first year.

- **Wednesday, March 15:** Chance Hines will speak about Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.
- **Wednesday, April 19:** Patty will invite the students who received last year's ornithology grants to report on their research.

**Future Meetings:** Nancy noted that the February meeting will be a hybrid meeting and the Williamsburg Library Theater is reserved for the March meeting. She acknowledged the public concern over all the current respiratory diseases and proposed that we will get a better feeling about in-person meetings by the size of the attendance at the library in February. We will continue to monitor the situation.

**The Flyer – Mary Ellen Hodges, Vice President (Editor):** Mary Ellen reported that she has received a good number of submissions for the February issue and that she will include a membership renewal form.

**Membership – Jeanette Navia, Chairperson:** Jeanette reported that we have 66 renewals to date. She noted that more members are paying by check than by PayPal. Shirley suggested that we mention in our next newsletter that one need not be a member of PayPal to use it. Jeanette said she will note that on the website as well.

**Field Trips – George Martin, Field Trip Coordinator:** George reported that 19 people attended the Dutch Gap field trip. He will send Mary Ellen a report for *The Flyer*. The next field trips are:

- **Saturday, February 18:** Rexanne Bruno will lead a field trip along the Colonial Parkway to see water birds on the York River and shoreline. We'll carpool at the Marquis Pkwy Target parking lot.
- **Saturday, March 18:** Dave Youker will lead a field trip at 8 am to Machicomoco State Park in Hayes, VA. More details to come.

**Bird Counts/Bird Walks – Chairperson, Jim Corliss:** Jim reported that he has finished compiling the **Christmas Bird Count** data and will have an article ready to send to Mary Ellen for *The Flyer* by the end of the week. He noted that there were an average number of birds and species. The date of the **Spring Bird Count** has yet to be determined.

**New Quarter Park Programs:** Nancy reported that Scott Hemler's Owl Prowl drew 23 participants. They were a mix of WBC members and non-member folks with children who've been attending NQP bird walks. No owls were heard but everyone had a good time, including sitting silently for almost 20 minutes. Scott Hemler was praised for his leadership skills at these NQP walks. She also noted Cape Henry Audubon asked us if they could join us for the Feb 25<sup>th</sup> walk at NQP. Nancy assured them the walks are open to the public and they will be most welcome. She will make sure that there are enough folks to help with the added 10 -12 expected folks if we need to break up into groups. The Middle Peninsula Bird Club will be joining us on the April walk.

**Freedom Park Programs:** They have also been asking for us to collaborate with them for activities. Nancy will be leading a Birds & Brunch walk on April 29. She needs someone to lead a walk for their

Longest Day celebrations on June 21. Nancy commented that she is planning on grooming more folks as future bird walk leaders.

**Refreshments/Library Liaison – Catherine Flanagan, Chairperson:** Refreshments have been on hold so Cathy has assumed the position of Library Liaison as Lee Schuster is stepping down. Lee asked for Cathy's email address so Lisa Hilleary at the library can send her the list of books they are recommending. Lee reported that she usually receives the list every April or May and that they have never turned down anything that she's requested. She has made a practice of reviewing the books on Amazon before approving the ones that the library recommends. And for books that other's recommend, she's checked the library catalog to make sure it is not already available.

Nancy is planning an outdoor membership gathering, perhaps in June, where refreshments will be needed.

**Historian - Patty Maloney, Chairperson:** Patty reported that she's been collecting thank you notes, newsletters, etc. It was noted that Mary Ellen has been maintaining the index to the newsletters.

**Records/Liaison to CVWO – Nancy Barnhart, Chairperson:** Nancy noted that she is always interested in hearing of any unusual bird sightings for her record keeping. Otherwise, she gets most of the data from eBird. She also reported that CVWO Hawk Watch at College Creek begins March 1.

**Next Board Meeting:** April 24 at 3pm via Zoom

Nancy Barnhart adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted  
Cathy Millar, Secretary,  
Williamsburg Bird Club,  
January 25, 2023

**Addendum:** On Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, Ann Carpenter, Treasurer, shared with the Board an email from Nancy Cote of the Williamsburg Community Foundation. Nancy reported about the payout from the endowment fund and the Tom McCary Fund. The endowment is calculated at \$407 and the Tom McCary Fund will distribute \$1400. She asked if we would prefer to not have a distribution from the endowment and leave that in the fund and just receive the payout from the McCary Fund. The payout will happen in early March. We will also be getting \$995 from the Millin Fund for the Nature Camp. She suggested that if the Bird Club doesn't need a distribution from the fund that we should leave the monies in the fund to earn more down the road. Ann tended to agree as not taking the distribution will contribute to the appearance of an expected deficit this year, but with our current checking and money market value at almost \$18,000 we will not be running out of funds in 2023. A majority of the Board agreed to this decision.

