

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board

Williamsburg Bird Club

October 23, 2023

Conducted via Zoom hosted by Ann Carpenter, presided by Nancy Barnhart from her car at Kiptopeke Hawkwatch

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

Board Members Absent: None

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

Committee Chairs Absent: Jim Corliss

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: Twice prior this meeting, Cathy had submitted via email a draft of the July 24, 2023 minutes for review and corrections. Ann moved that the minutes be accepted; motion seconded by Shirley; and the motion was unanimously approved. Cathy will submit the minutes for posting on WBC's website.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter:

Attached is a spreadsheet detailing the estimated income and expenses for Club Year 2023 with comparisons to Club Year 2022. Below is a summary of Assets as of October 23, 2023, and Projected Expenses to December 31, 2023. Note that the Asset and Liability summary only includes data from the Williamsburg Community Foundation through July 2023 and does not include the estimated earnings on the CD (\$120 estimate).

ASSETS summary as of October 23, 2023

Checking/Savings

Truist Checking Account \$6,208.07

Truist Money Market \$2,632.86

Truist CD \$5,000.00 (maturity date 12/3/2023)

Total Checking/Savings \$13,840.93

Other Assets

Bird Club Fund in Williamsburg Community Fund: \$11,493.46

TOTAL ASSETS \$25,334.39

PROJECTED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES (Liabilities):

Flyer Printing \$35.40

VSO dues \$25.00

Post Office Box \$166.00

CDR seed \$50.00

Subtotal \$276.40

Bill's Book & ISBN # \$3,096.00

Nature Camp Carry-forward \$611.15

YEAR END PROJECTED CHECKING AND SAVINGS: \$13,564.53 (before the printing of Bill's Book and

Nature Camp Carry-Forward)

Club Year Income and Expenses Summary: Our total ordinary income for Club Year 2023 to date is \$9,390. The amount collected in dues and other member donations are again lower than in Club Year 2022 and in previous years. It is unknown whether the Club may still get a check from Dan Cristol for his articles in the Virginia Gazette. Our Board approved program ordinary expenses for 2023 are estimated to be \$10,830.92 (excluding the printing of Bill's Book). The Projected Deficit of Ordinary Income versus Ordinary Expenses is (\$1,440.92). This figure does not include the estimated earnings on the CD (\$120 estimate).

Ann reported that a CD matures on December 3rd and asked if we should extend it for another 5 or 6 months. George and Nancy noted that we have the necessary funds for our current expenses, so it was agreed to extend the CD. Ann will investigate what the period of the CD is and if it is more than 5-6 months, will return to the Board for discussion.

Nancy reported that Bill's book is on hold and likely not to be published in this calendar year due to poor health of the editor. Meanwhile, records are being constantly updated.

The Flyer – Mary Ellen Hodges, Vice President (Editor): Mary Ellen reported that the deadline for submissions to the November newsletter is October 27th. Because there won't be a December publication, she will include a membership form in the Nov. issue and requested that Jeanette make any desired updates to the form before then.

Programs – Patty Maloney, Vice President: Patty reported that she'd checked availability at the Williamsburg Regional Library for our membership meetings for February through May of 2024. Only March and May were available. She is waiting to hear back about availability at Quarterpath Rec Center. The JCC Rec Center is open to reservations on Dec 1st, but her experience has been that it is difficult to get a reservation. Patty will investigate the availability and cost of a room at the Stryker Center. There was a consensus that we should try to book all four meetings at one facility. The Quarterpath Rec Center appears the most desirable because it costs less and one can bring refreshments and have time to socialize.

- **January:** Will be a Zoom only meeting. Patty is looking into a speaker from the Owl Research Center in Montana.
- **April:** Reports from recipients of the 2023 Bill Sheehan/Ruth Beck Ornithology Research Grants. Dan Cristol has agreed to be a speaker in an upcoming meeting and Patty is hoping to get Bryan Watts to do an update on local Bald Eagles. Patty requested further suggestions.

Cheryl suggested Dana Moseley, an avian ecologist at ODU's Biology Dept, who has previously lectured on how urbanization and noise impact Gray Catbirds and their avian communities in Virginia.

Shirley recommended checking the Hampton Roads Bird Club website to see who they've engaged for speakers.

Member-at-Large – Gary Carpenter: Gary reported that he has made one purchase of seeds for CDR since our last Board meeting and will probably be making one more purchase of seeds before the end of the year. CDR still doesn't know when they will be moving.

Member-at-Large – Shirley Devan: Shirley reported that she'd shared via email with the Board a page from the Northern Virginia Bird Club newsletter that included their treasurer's report. She thought it gave an interesting insight into another Virginia bird club whose membership is about three times that of ours. A quick comparison showed our club doing quite admirably. Shirley will send a copy of their membership form to Jeanette and Ann.

Conservation Committee – Cheryl Jacobson, Past President, Chairperson: Cheryl reported having installed an extension kit funded by CVWO which added housing for 16 more pairs of Purple Martins at the Chickahominy Riverfront Park. Historic Rivers Master Naturalists have funded an extension kit to be added to the purple martin housing at York River State Park. Cheryl has been encouraging the staff at NQP to do a low mow around the purple martin housing there to facilitate more insects in the area for the martins. When they cleaned the gourds at VIMS, they found 4 gourds with nests built by birds who arrived too late to raise a family. Cheryl expressed appreciation to CVWO and the Master Naturalists.

Membership – Jeanette Navia, Chairperson: Jeanette reported that we have 6 new members

Field Trips – George Martin, Field Trip Coordinator: George reported the following:

- **Saturday, November 18:** Michelle Gianvecchio will lead a trip at Grandview Nature Preserve
- **Saturday, January 20:** Rose Ryan will lead a trip at Dutch Gap

Bird Counts/Bird Walks – Jim Corliss, Chairperson: Jim was absent. Nancy reported that the Christmas Bird Count will be held December 17th. Rexanne Bruno will speak at our November meeting about the history of the CBC.

There will be a December bird walk at NQP on the 23rd.

A second monthly bird walk is still under consideration for future months.

Refreshments/Library Liaison – Catherine Flanagan, Chairperson: As Library Liaison, Cathy reported in *The Flyer* that The Williamsburg Regional Library purchased the following new books for its collection this year using funds donated by the WBC:

- 100 Plants to Feed the Birds, by Laura Erickson
- The Beginner's Guide to Photographing Birds, by Rosl Rössner
- Better Living Through Birding, by Christian Cooper
- The Bird Name Book, by Susan Myers
- Birdgirl, by Mya-Rose Craig
- Conversations With Birds, by Priyanka Kumar
- In the Footsteps of Audubon, by Denis Chavreul
- National Geographic Birding Basics, by Noah Strycker
- What an Owl Knows, by Jennifer Ackerman
- A Wing and a Prayer, by Anders Gyllenhaal
- Woman, Watching: Louise de Kiriline Lawrence and the Songbirds of Pimisi Bay, by Marilyn Simonds
- Ospreys: The Revival of a Global Raptor, by Alan Forsyth Poole.

As Refreshments Chairperson, she will ask folks to bring their favorite holiday cookie for the November meeting. Cheryl will bring something to drink. Cathy announced that she's written lyrics called *The Twelve Days of Feeder Watch* that she will share with the Board and have at the meeting for attendees to enjoy. There will also be raffle items. There will be an emphasis on making the November meeting a social event.

Historian – Patty Maloney: Patty had nothing specific to mention other than collecting some bits and pieces. Nancy noted that if we choose to have W&M archive our documents, Patty will be involved in the process.

Records/Liaison to CVWO – Nancy Barnhart: Nancy had already reported about the delay in publishing Bill Williams's book. Nancy reported that hawk watch continues at Kiptopeke and that Andrew Rapp tagged his 600th monarch butterfly and is continuing to tag more.

Nature Camp Scholarships – Lee Schuster: Lee reported that applications from prospective students are to be received by her committee, which represents 4 groups, by Oct 31. They are then sent to Judy Jones, whereupon the selection of those who are granted scholarships will be on November 3rd. The students selected need to get their applications to Nature Camp in January. She estimated that the cost of camp per student will be about \$1000. There will be 2 awards from the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship and 1 from the Millin Nature Camp Scholarship.

New and Continuing Business

Archiving WBC Records at W&M: Nancy reported that she'd received an email from Lisa Nickel inviting our club to archive some, or all, of our WBC materials at W&M. This can include physical records like paper newsletters, membership lists, meeting minutes, financial records, and photographs. Electronic records would require access to our club's digital data. Once physical items are archived at W&M, they are considered property of W&M. They can't be removed from the library and can be accessed only during regular library open hours. Archiving doesn't have to cost us anything but a donation would fund a student to digitize records in a timelier manner, and would also be used to purchase acid-free conservation boxes to house paper records. Nancy will find out what is considered an appropriate donation.

The Board needs to decide if we want to do this and, if so, what to archive. Nancy said that she and Bill Williams would be very relieved to have the extensive collection of bird records that is currently at Nancy's home archived in a safe place. Another plus is that it will allow the community, students researchers access to our records. Nancy acknowledged that we should currently think about it and vote on it at a future date.

Jeanette expressed concern about what W&M's deacquisition policy is. Her experience at the regional library was that if something isn't used for a few years, items are discarded. Shirley responded that Bird Club documents would not be in the circulating library but in the archives, saved for all time. Nancy will meet with Lisa and the archivist to collect more information for our consideration. Shirley noted that VSO has been archiving all their paper records at UVA for many years and are currently entering a contract to digitize VSO Newsletters. The anticipated cost to VSO is between \$750 - \$1000.

Election of 2024 Board Members: Nancy noted that Shirley and Gary are leaving their positions as Member-at-Large on the Executive Board. She was pleased to report that Shirley will remain on the Board as VSO Liaison, and Gary, as assistant editor to *The Flyer*. She was pleased to report that Donna Benson and Deborah Humphries have been nominated as the two new Members-at-Large.

The following slate will be presented at the November meeting for a vote from the membership.

President: Nancy Barnhart

Vice President — Programs: Patty Maloney

Vice President — Newsletter: Mary Ellen Hodges

Treasurer: Ann Carpenter

Secretary: Cathy Millar

Member at Large: Donna Benson

Member at Large: Deborah Humphries

The meeting was temporarily halted while Nancy dashed from her car to witness a rare Swainson's Hawk fly over the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch platform.

Cheryl noted that she'd like to see more than two Members-at-Large positions on the Board to facilitate bringing in new younger folks to gain Board experience and eventually be ready for additional duties. Shirley noted that we would need to change our Bylaws to allow that. She reported that master naturalists have the potential for up to 5 Members-at-Large. She suggested that, while we're at it, we undertake a total review of the Bylaws to see what else needs to be changed/updated. Nancy suggested that we could share the proposed changes to the Bylaws at the November membership meeting with a vote to follow within the appropriate time frame as dictated by our Bylaws. She asked that we all review the Bylaws and pool our thoughts on appropriate changes via email.

Next Board Meeting: Our usual 3rd Monday for Board meetings will not work in January as Nancy will be in India. She proposed fifth Monday. It was agreed to meet at 3pm, January 29, 2024 via Zoom.

Nancy Barnhart adjourned the meeting at 4:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
October 27, 2023

Addendum: Archiving WBC Records: November 17: Nancy reported that she and Patty met with Lisa Nickel at the Swem library to talk about archiving WBC records. Archiving would protect the records in a vault with a fire suppression system. The records would also be available for research and community use. Lisa pointed out that interest in STEM is rising and that these records would be of great interest in undergraduate research. There is no danger of the records ever being deaquisitioned because they become state property.

Digitizing will take some time as the WBC records will be in a queue along with many other records that are awaiting digitizing. If we wanted that to happen faster it would take a considerable amount of money. Meanwhile, hard copy is always available to be used during library hours.

Information from our website will be "scraped" (not everything will be included), downloaded and saved. It is up to us what we want to include.

Nancy pointed out that we need to be aware that once newsletters are archived, they are available to the public, including photos. (they already are on our website.) When we take photos at bird walks, we tell folks they might end up in the newsletter and, to date, this has not been problematic.

There is no cost to archiving but it is customary to make a donation. Lisa mentioned that CVWO gave them \$500 and said that was a reasonable amount. But that would be up to us to decide.

The next step will be for the Board to vote on whether we want to do this. If we want to proceed, a Deed of Gift transferring ownership would be signed. And then we would start to hand over records. Nancy is considering immediately transferring the large binder Patty has been maintaining as Historian, and the four large binders of Records of the Historic Triangle.

Lisa suggested we could have a nice photo op and publicity as we do this and include whoever we would like to include; Bill as founder, Dan Cristol as advisor, etc.

Archiving WBC Records, November 18th Motion: Mary Ellen Hodges moved that (1) the WBC execute a Deed of Gift transferring ownership of the club's records to the Special Collections Research Center

(SCRC) at William & Mary's Swem Library for archiving and (2) that our gift be accompanied by a donation of \$500 to the SCRC in recognition of the service it will be providing WBC in preserving our records. Cathy Millar seconded it.

Archiving WBC Records, November 19th Vote: The motion was passed with no objections. All votes were via email.