

**Minutes of the Board
Williamsburg Bird Club**

July 22, 2024

Conducted via Zoom by Ann Carpenter/presided by President Nancy Barnhart

Board Member Attendees: Nancy Barnhart, Mary Ellen Hodges, Ann Carpenter, Cathy Millar, Deborah Humphries

Board Members Absent: Patty Maloney, Donna Benson, Cheryl Jacobson

Committee Chair Attendees: Jeanette Navia, George Martin, Cathy Flanagan, Nancy Barnhart, Lee Schuster, Gary Carpenter, Shirley Devan

Committee Chairs Absent: Jim Corliss, Patty Maloney, Cheryl Jacobson

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, a draft of the April 15, 2024 Board minutes twice for review and correction. Ann Carpenter moved that the minutes be accepted Shirley Devan seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Cathy will submit the minutes for posting on WBC's website.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Carpenter:

Ann provided a spreadsheet detailing the income and expenses for Club Year 2024. Below is a summary of projected Assets as of July 19, 2024.

ASSETS

Truist CD \$ 4,081.90

Truist Checking Account \$ 5,071.86 (does not include expected donation from WBU)

Truist Money Market \$ 4,746.63

Total Bank Accounts \$13,900.39

Other Assets

Bird Club Fund in Williamsburg Community Fund: \$12,659.68 (based on value as of 5/31/2024)

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 26,560.07

Club Year Income and Expenses Summary:

Our total ordinary income for Club Year 2024 is \$9,248.11 (note: this figure includes an expected check from Wild Birds Unlimited of \$526). The amount collected in dues and other member donations are only slightly lower than in previous years. (2024: Dues - \$3740.00; 2023: Dues \$3,532.50; Other member donations – 2024: \$1935; 2023: \$2,363).

Expenses to date are \$9,034.03 with estimated additional planned expenses of \$3,732.59 for total estimated expenses of \$12,766.62. The amounts on the spreadsheet for the cost of printing "The Birds of Virginia's Colonial Historic Triangle" are still an estimate.

The Estimated Projected Deficit of Ordinary Income versus Ordinary Expenses is \$3,618.51. It is difficult to project investment income until the end of the year. We have chosen not to take a distribution from the Foundation fund, but that can be revisited each year. This year's distribution of \$347.99 was reinvested into the Fund.

Adding to a potential deficit is the Current Balance in Carry-Forward funds for future Nature Camp Scholarship awards of \$729.15. When needed, this could be funded from a Foundation distribution from the Bird Club Fund.

Ann pointed out that at our last meeting, we set a budget of \$250 for the purchase and upkeep of purple martin housing. Cheryl has since submitted an invoice for \$285. But since members had

donated \$365 to the Conservation Fund, she enquired if it was appropriate that the additional money be drawn from that fund. Nancy thought it was and there was no further discussion.

Ann also noted that regarding planned expenses, she'd estimated \$200 for speaker honoraria for the rest of the year. But, because the remaining speakers will be club members, only \$100 will be required.

Regarding printing Bill Williams's book, Ann's cost estimate was based on that of a previous printer. We have over \$9,000 in liquid assets. She anticipates it will cost no more than \$3500 for 250 copies. Nancy reported that the book is ready for printing and due to happen soon. It is estimated that the book will be sold for \$20 from which the club will receive a profit of approx. \$7-8 per book.

The following suggestions were made.

- Nancy will check how the book can be sold (cash and/or credit card) at WBU and Backyard Birders.
- That we promote the book, as well as our bird club and its records being available to the public at W&M, by holding a book signing at W&M's Records Archive that will be open to the public. Nancy will work with the archivist, Jay, to coordinate this event. Nancy reported that Jeanette and Gary did an excellent job helping to edit Bill's book.
- That we be prepared to make the book available for sale via our WBC website and, for those that wish, have it mailed to them for a total cost of \$25. Jeanette agreed.
- That the book first be made available to WBC members before going public. Nancy noted that the book will also eventually be present online.

The Flyer – Mary Ellen Hodges, Vice President (Editor)

Mary Ellen reported that the next newsletter will be released early September. She noted that presently she doesn't have enough material to fill a newsletter. She asked Lee to see if the Nature Camp Scholarship recipients would be ready to submit their essays. Nancy volunteered to contribute a photo and write-up about the June bird walk and the recent Bioblitz. It was suggested that Cathy Flanagan write a piece about the entertaining Jeopardy game held at the June meeting at Chickahominy Riverfront Park. Mary Ellen will send an email to the membership in the first week of August to seek input. The Carpenters will be on a trip in October and Shirley will print the October newsletter for them.

Programs- Patty Maloney, Vice President: Patty was absent but had shared the following:

- **September 18:** Joe Piotrowski will report on his 6-month birding trip in Mexico.
- **October 23:** Rexanne Bruno will report on her birding in Ecuador
- **November 20:** Speaker still needed

Nancy reported that we will continue to meet at Quarterpath Rec Center for those 3 meetings.

Members-at-Large-Deborah Humphries and Donna Benson:

Donna was absent but Deborah brought to our attention that several club members had their photos in the recent issue of Virginia Wildlife Photography and suggested those photos be shared in our newsletter to celebrate the excellent photographers in our midst. Jeanette will provide Mary Ellen with the photos. Deborah also reported that the local Virginia Master Naturalists have an exhibit of photos at the Williamsburg Regional Library running through August 31st. Mary Ellen will add a notice about it in her August email to the membership.

Past President & Conservation Chair – Cheryl Jacobson:

Cheryl was absent but she has been keeping us updated on the successful Purple Martin Project.

Membership – Jeanette Navia: Jeanette reported the following.

We currently have 155 paying memberships (include Family, Individual, and Patron) paid through 2024 or 2025 (2 people paid twice and asked if their membership could be extended) We have 11 Life members and 5 Comp members

Earlier this month, she deleted 22 people who had not paid. Most of these were people who had joined in the last few years. A few had been long-time members (Christina Clarke, Ron Giese, Beatrix Woods, Carol Ball, Barb Boyer, Ivan Mankres, Kathleen Jabs). They had been given several reminders over the year.

69 memberships this year were paid with PayPal; the rest paid via check or cash.

One change in Google Groups that is concerning Jeanette is that she used to be able to directly add anyone with any address. Now she can only directly add people with Gmail addresses. With any other addresses (cox.net, yahoo.com, etc.), she has to send an Invite and the person has to accept the invitation. There have been several people in her photo club who say they never got the invite. It sometimes ends up in the spam folder. So, she may need to write to the people to tell them to look for it. Or perhaps Nancy could add a line about it in her Welcome email, if their address is a non-Gmail address.

Field Trips- George Martin, Field Trip Coordinator: George reported the following.

- **Saturday, Sept 29:** Casual birding at 8am at Jamestown Beach with Babs Giffin as recorder
- **Saturday, Oct. 19:** Eastern Shore. Leaders to be determined.

Bird Walks/Counts – Jim Corliss, Chairperson: Jim was absent. Shirley is taking over the Christmas Bird Count. She suggested Sunday, Dec 22 which was agreed on and will be promoted in the September *Flyer*. It is unsure how much Jim will be involved in future bird walks. Nancy reported that she and Scott Hemler have been leading the NQP bird walks.

Library/Liaison & Refreshments – Cathy Flanagan: Cathy had left the meeting for health reasons. Nancy reported that she doesn't want providing refreshments to be too much of a burden on Cathy. She suggested we can either reimburse her for cookies or we can share the responsibility. Nancy will contact Cathy about this.

Historian – Patty Maloney: Patty was absent.

Records/Liaison to CVWO – Nancy Barnhart: Nancy reported that at Kiptopeke Hawkwatch, they had hired a hawkwatcher starting August 25th. She's excited that they've also hired an assistant hawkwatcher who is also a monarch butterfly biologist. Andrew Rapp is also planning to be there every weekend.

Nature Camp Scholarships – Lee Schuster: Lee reported that she will contact the recipients to remind them that they are responsible for writing a summary about their experience. Ann reported that there is enough money being donated to Nature Camp that we are likely to have enough to sponsor a third student in 2026. Lee reported that they currently are having difficulty finding enough students for the available scholarships. Historically, this has not been the case but is probably due to concerns over Covid. It is hoped there will be more applicants by 2026.

Liaison to VSO – Shirley Devan:

Shirley reported that VSO has asked the state's bird clubs to participate in an outreach program wherein the VSO will partner with bird clubs to hold a one-day field trip in each club's region. This is to

reach folks who otherwise may not be able to attend field trips requiring overnight reservations. A person at VSO has been chosen to be the coordinator. This is being promoted to VSO members and the public. The discussion that ensued resulting in the following points.

- Half day of 8 am to noon was recommended.
- Concern over too many attendees from a mix of our club members and our guests. We can pick the date and location and set a limit on number of attendees. Will probably need a sign-up list. The VSO coordinator will manage registration and publicity.
- After considering adding VSO members to one of our regular field trips, it was decided to hold a special one for this event to prevent overcrowding.
- Greensprings Interpretive Trail was considered a good site due to adequate parking plus the trail layout goes in two directions so attendees could be split in 2 groups. Also, because many WBC members are familiar with the trail, fewer may sign up leaving more room for guests.

The VSO coordinator will contact Nancy with more details.

Shirley thanked our club for our financial support of the VABBA2. Of the goal of raising \$300,000, the VSO has raised \$280,000 to date with a year still remaining before publication.

Assistant Editor – Gary Carpenter: Nancy reiterated her appreciation to Gary and Jeanette for helping her and Bill edit his book.

Gary reported that Child Development Resources still has no idea when they'll be moving to where FISH is currently located. Patty Maloney donated two 20 lb. bags of seed to CDR which Gary delivered. May be all the seeds that will be needed for the rest of the year.

New and Continuing Business

Owl Prowl request: New Quarter Park has requested another owl prowling. Scott Hemler enjoyed leading one last November and may do so again if he agrees.

Elections and Nominating Committee: Nancy reported that elections are coming up this autumn. She asked for folks to consider being volunteers on the Nominating Committee. Patty has already agreed to serve. Nancy will send out emails to the membership to see if anyone is interested in serving on the Board or the Nominating Committee.

Used Book Distribution: Lee Schuster reported that she has boxes of bird books that she wants to give away. Shirley recommended that she bring them to the September meeting. Those not claimed can then go to the Williamsburg Library.

Next Board Meeting: Nancy proposed October 21 at 3 pm via Zoom.

Nancy Barnhart adjourned the meeting at 4:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
July 24, 2024