Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 28, 2019

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:
- President: Mary Lou Clark √
- Vice-president: Mary Maxey √
- Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
- Treasurer: Brian Moyer √
- Interim Treasurer: Cindy Albright
- Chap. Directors: Allen Lewis (1st yr.) √
  David Sandler (2nd yr.) √
- State Directors: Sarah Romero √
  Vacant
  Vacant
- Past President: John Harris

Chapter Committees:
- Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
- Programs: Jane Geuder
- Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
- Newsletter: Howard Patterson
- Records: Jo Solem √
- Webmaster: Bob Solem √
- Potluck: Kathie Lillie
- Publicity: Allen Lewis
- Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan
- Others: Sue Muller √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 14, 2019 was 77 people. Bonnie Ott gave a program entitled “Birds of the Meadows, Fields, and Marshes.”

Following the prior Board meeting Brian Moyer responded to the NewsGram seeking a volunteer to replace Cindy Albright, who had announced her intention to retire as Treasurer. Brian volunteered to take the position, although he has a work assignment that will have him out of town from mid-March until late July. Cindy submitted her resignation effective February 20 so the Board could appoint Brian as interim Treasurer to fill out the remainder of her term. The Board approved Brian’s appointment by an email vote on February 21-22. Cindy and Brian began the transition immediately but when it became obvious that a complete transition would not be completed before Brian leaves, Cindy volunteered to continue handling the treasurer’s tasks until Brian returns and the transition can be completed. The Board approved this arrangement.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Chuck reported that a few minor discrepancies had been identified in the Treasurer’s Report distributed with the draft minutes. An updated report is included in the minutes that were emailed to the Board as part of the agenda for this meeting. These updated minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Moyer): Brian introduced himself and summarized the progress he and Cindy have made in beginning the transition. He is the Director of Environmental Quality for the US Army, working at the Pentagon. He and his wife live in Columbia with two college-age daughters. He has been a life-long birder and is looking forward to working with the Board.

President’s Remarks (Clark): Mary Lou offered her remarks at the beginning of the meeting so she could welcome Brian as the newly appointed Treasurer. She thanked him for volunteering and made note of the fact that Cindy has volunteered to continue the duties of Treasurer until Brian returns from his work assignment in Hawaii.

Mary Lou thanked Jo Solem and Sue Muller for their presentations at a Master Naturalists Retreat held at the Howard County Conservancy on January 25. Both promoted the bird club in their presentations, with Sue even showing the club’s website on-line to illustrate her presentation. Mary Lou also thanked Bob Solem for all the work he has been putting in on the website. She stated that our website is a role model for all other bird clubs to follow.
**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary had no formal remarks but noted she had seen Tree Swallows at Patuxent NWR during the week.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe wasn’t present. Chuck observed that the March Centennial walks were beginning on the upcoming Sunday.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo reviewed some of the key sightings from the winter season including: Greater White-fronted Goose, Trumpeter Swans (8 at Wilde Lake, 1 at Stone Lake for 4th & 5th records), Snow Goose, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Red-headed Wood-pecker (4), Tundra Swan (5), Evening Grosbeak.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was out of town but has been actively soliciting support for three bills in the Maryland legislature. 1) Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2019, 2) Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition, 3) Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products – Prohibition.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard was not present but had sent email stating the deadline for the next Goldfinch is March 25. Early submittals are welcome as he will be on a trip in early April so has less time available for the editing process.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has completed applying the new format to all pages on the website.

**Potluck** (Lillie): Kathie was not present but had sent an email reporting that plans for the potluck on March 30 are on track. As of now 39 people have signed up.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin was not present and had sent an email stating there had been no new butterfly activity since what was reported at the last regular club meeting.

**State Board Reports**

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Etc.): The next meeting was scheduled for March 2 in Harford County.

**Old Business**

Response to solicitation to web developers – Bob reported that he has received one proposal and expects two more by March 4. We will discuss further at March board meeting.

Update on Birding Basics Class Registration – Jo reported that class scheduled for March 9 has sold out (35 attendees). Committee/Instructors are Allen Lewis, Kevin Heffernan, Jo Solem, Chuck Stirrat, John Harris, and Woody Merkle. Jo requested the Board authorize $25 for copying handout material for the class. It was moved, seconded, and approved that the request be authorized.

**New Business**

Ratify the addition of Chuck to PNC account – In discussing the transition of treasurers it was suggested having another person, besides the Treasurer and President, added to those authorized for the PNC Bank checking account. It was proposed the Secretary, Charles Stirrat, would be an appropriate individual for this since he has been a continuing presence on the Board. Chuck has already been added to the T Rowe Price account. The motion passed unanimously. At the earliest opportunity Chuck and the current President, Mary Lou Clark, should be added to the bank’s account records. The opportunity to replace Cindy Albright with Brian Moyer as treasurer won’t occur until later this summer when Brian returns; however this is appropriate since the Board has approved Cindy continuing until then.

Accept Cindy Albright Resignation Letter – See discussion in introductory General Notes.
Need for two State Directors – Mary Lou is attempting to formulate the slate of officers for announcement at the March meeting. She confirmed that all the current officers have agreed to continue with the exception we need a new first year Chapter Director and two new State Directors to replace Karen Heffernan and Robin Todd. Kelsey Wellons has agreed to be nominated for Chapter Director. After the responsibilities of State Director were explained David Sandler volunteered to be nominated for one of the State Director positions. As a result the only opening on the slate left to be sought is a state director.

Triadelphia Reservoir – bridge and passes – Jo had stopped at the new WSSC office at Triadelphia Reservoir and obtained an update on the (lack of) access we will have for the next year or more. She had shared her findings with the listers email group and has provided the directions to Bob for inclusion in an upcoming NewsGram.

Updates to the Membership Application Webpage – Bob reminded the Board that for the past year we have allowed new/renewing members to use either the HCBC website OR the MOS website to join/renew as a trial period. As this past year was the first year the state website supported on-line membership. Bob wished to discuss whether we wanted to continue offering both methods or just point to the MOS website from our membership page. The major benefit of continuing the local website process is having applicants complete a survey of interests. The survey is not available on the MOS site. Kevin Heffernan had concluded that the spreadsheet summarizing the survey results was not being used so he has discontinued preparing it. Hence if we want to continue collecting the survey results we will need to find a way to disseminate the results. A number of ideas were proposed and finally Mary Lou proposed that she, Jo, and Bob would get together and brainstorm how to proceed. Sec. Note: Following the meeting they got together and decided the first destination page for “Join Us” should be changed to show the HCBC electronic form, the MOS electronic form and the HCBC paper form but NOT to change the contents of the HCBC actual forms. In other words, the HCBC electronic form and paper form will continue to show Activities/Interests, etc. The change has been implemented on the web.

Support for Wildlife Rehabilitators – Bob moved that we should donate $300 to Friskies. The motion was seconded and approved. Sec. Note: A donation to All Creatures Great and Small has already been made.

Support for YMOS Bird-a-thon Fundraiser – Bob moved that we donate $200 to the YMOS Bird-a-thon. The motion was seconded and approved.

Around the Room –

- Bob announced the membership directory will be sent to the membership on next day (March 1). It will only be provided in electronic form only as previously decided by the board. He has adopted a new format that is more compact and consistent with the format he has to provide to MOS.
- Sue Muller asked if Jo would like to receive the breeding wild turkey records that the county had acquired this year. Jo said yes she would.
- Sue Muller asked if anyone else was planning to attend the I Bird – I Vote Summit being held March 2 at Patuxent NWR. No one present indicated they were, but it was expected Kurt would be attending.
- Sue reported that the county had re-advertised the RNC Director position because they hadn’t received sufficient qualified applicants.
- Chuck observed that the Howard County Rec and Parks Spring/Summer Activity Guide had two programs that appear to be ones we are providing. David Cummings is doing a Timberdoodle walk on March 9 and Wes Earp is leading a Bluebird Trail walk on June 1 at Schooley Mill. Another walk labeled Spring Migration is a walk around Centennial Park on May 16 for $25. Sec. Note: This walk includes a “field guide” and is being led by Dawn Thomas who, according to Sue Muller, is associated with the Adventure Shack at Centennial Park.
Review of Prior Action Items:
- Certificates – With Williamses and Ellis family settle on a date for presentation of certificates – Jo
  SCHEDULED FOR APRIL MEETING 4/11
- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County
  Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou
- Develop annual financial report for FY 17-18 as template for future reports – Cindy & Ward Ebert
- Notify HCC and Beth Decker on approval to fund bird strike remediation project – Woody DONE
- Update Treasurer Duties description for NEWSGRAM – Mary Lou DONE
- Contact Volunteer Center Howard County about posting treasurer opportunity – Mary M. OBE
- Prepare request for proposal soliciting redesign, maintenance, and hosting of web site – Bob DONE

New/Continuing Action Items
- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County
  Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou
- Develop annual financial report for FY 17-18 as template for future reports – Cindy & Ward Ebert
- Brainstorm how to handle membership webpage options and forms – Mary Lou, Jo, & Bob – DONE
- Notify Cindy to make donations to Friskies and YMOS Bird-a-thon – Chuck/Cindy
- Make arrangements to add Mary Lou and Chuck to PNC account - Cindy

Board Meeting Schedule
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chair</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 27, 2018</td>
<td>Mary Lou Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 25, 2018</td>
<td>David Sandler</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 15, 2018</td>
<td>Allen Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>NO MEETING</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24, 2019</td>
<td>Jo Solem</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28, 2019</td>
<td>Jo Solem</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28, 2019</td>
<td>Karen &amp; Kevin Heffernan</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25, 2019</td>
<td>Kathie Lillie</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23, 2019</td>
<td>Mary Lou Clark</td>
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</tbody>
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(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)
- Agenda – Howard County Bird Club – February 28, 2019

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club
Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda

February 28, 2019

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes  Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer’s Report  Brian Moyer
4. President’s Remarks  Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President’s Remarks  Mary Maxey

6. Chapter Committee Reports
   ● Field Trips  Joe Hanfman
   ● Records  Jo Solem
   ● Conservation  Kurt Schwarz
   ● Newsletter  Howard Patterson
   ● Webmaster  Bob Solem
   ● Potluck  Kathie Lillie
   ● Butterflies  Kevin Heffernan

7. State Board Reports

8. Old Business
   ● Response to solicitation to web developers  Bob Solem
   ● Update on Birding Basics Class Registration (Including request for $25)  Jo Solem

9. New Business
   ● Ratify the addition of Chuck to PNC Account
   ● Accept Cindy Albright’s Resignation Letter
   ● Need for two State Directors
   ● Triadelphia Reservoir-bridge and passes

10. Action Items  Chuck

11. Around the room
Meeting Location
Bob & Jo Solem
10617 Graeloch Road
Laurel MD 20725
(301) 725-5037