Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 24, 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
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1st yr.) ✓
Allen Lewis (2nd yr.) ✓
State Directors: Sarah Romero ✓
David Sandler
Clayton Koonce ✓
Past President: John Harris

Chapter Committees:
Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Sue Muller ✓
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem ✓
Webmaster: Bob Solem ✓
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan ✓
BBA3: Sue Muller
Others: Karen Heffernan

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Clayton Koonce. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 10 was 49 people. Bruce Beehler gave a program entitled “North on the Wing – Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Chuck reported he had received two additions to the draft minutes distributed to the board after last meeting. An acknowledgement that David Ziolkowski has been appointed as the Howard Co-coordinator with Sue Muller for the 3rd Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA3) was added. Brian Moyer volunteered to host a board meeting and the minutes now reflect he will host the May 28 meeting. The minutes were accepted as modified.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Moyer): Brian was not present but had sent a preliminary treasurer’s report as of the meeting date. In reviewing it we found several items that should be corrected before a final end of quarter report through October 31 is prepared for inclusion in the next board meeting minutes. It was agreed to provide Brian with further background on these items and other areas of club financial transactions. Chuck and Mary Lou agreed to meet with Brian to do this.

President’s Remarks (Clark): Mary Lou reported that we need to remain vigilant for emails from MOS and bird club board members with suspicious requests. She had received a spam email appearing to come from Robin Todd that morning.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Maxey): Mary reminded the board that she had forwarded the request seeking volunteers to assist with data entry/scanning of the backlog of nest cards at the Patuxent Wildlife research center. Bob said it would be included in the next NewsGram.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): It was reported that the November Centennial Sunday walks will not be significantly impacted by the on-going replacement of the red metal bridge on north side of the lake. A new bridge has been built over the dam on the pond behind the closed bridge construction site permitting a safe detour around the construction.
**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo reported that it has not been a super fall with no mega-rarities. She mentioned the Connecticut Warbler and Sedge Wren at Mt. Pleasant. There has been a minimal shorebird migration and thrush reports have been spotty. One late Green Heron stayed at Lake Kittamaqundi. Several Merlins have been reported. The latest Ruby-throated Hummingbird she had heard of was Jeff Culler’s report of Oct. 13. Lincoln Sparrow reports have been down. The only Boreal species reported was one Red-breasted Nuthatch at Daniels found by Fred Shaffer.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt had sent the attached Conservation report email. Sue reported she and Kurt had spent earlier that day at the Howard Community College “Campus Sustainability Day.” She said this in now planned as an annual event.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard had sent an email notifying the board that the due date for the Jan-Feb issue of the Goldfinch is November 25.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that beta-testing of the new web-site will continue until December. Bob plans to take the new website live in December. Bob, as Membership Chair, provided Allen and Kelsey with copies of the list of members who have not yet renewed their membership. As Chapter Directors they will contact those on the list and remind them to renew. Bob also passed around the attached graph displaying how the membership renewals have progressed this year as compared to the prior two years.

**Potluck** (Lillie): We still need a volunteer to help Kathie this year and assume responsibility for the potluck after that. She had sent an email stating she has contacted her POC at Robinson Nature Center requesting use of the auditorium for the potluck on either Saturday March 28 or March 21.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported the butterfly season is waning. Although several board members reported seeing one or two species in the past couple of days. In response to a query about whether we should continue with a joint bird/butterfly display at events or have separate tables Kevin felt most would be fine with joint display. He felt the one exception is GreenFest. It was agreed that next year’s budget should include funds for reserving two tables at GreenFest ($70).

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that RNC has finally taken action regarding “safe skies” treatment of the buildings windows. They have applied the commercial product “Feather Friendly” tape on the outside of office windows on the lowest level of the building. They are also considering additional treatment approaches for the other large windows in the building. It was asked if we should consider offering to assist with funding that effort. Sue said that they have asked the Robinson Foundation if they would support the effort. We agreed we should wait to see if they agree to do so before we make an offer to help.

Sue reported that she and Dave Ziolkowski will be attending training for County Coordinators on Sunday, October 27. She anticipates knowing a lot more about plans after that session. Having given former block coordinators an opportunity to pick a block for this atlas she is now accepting volunteers from others as she still has quite a few blocks that need coordinators. Dave has volunteered to give a presentation on the atlas at Howard County Conservancy for the public on Saturday, Jan. 18. Sue doesn’t expect this to be atlas training but will let the club know who should attend.

**State Board Reports**

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Sandler, Koonce, etc.): The next state Board meeting is December 7.

**Old Business**

**Nominating Committee Progress** – Mary Lou has appointed Mary Maxey as chair of the committee and eventually should add one or two additional members but that is not critical. What needs to be the focus is finding candidates for three vacant positions. Candidates are needed for Vice President, Chapter Director (1st year), and State Director (replacing Sarah Romero who is moving to Rome in September 2020). Mary was advised to consult with other Board members for suggestions to fill these positions.
Need for Program Chair & Potluck Chair – Mary Lou reported that she has not had anyone express interest in these two positions. She stated that she was considering volunteering to be Program Chair after her term as President is over. Sue informed Mary Lou that she has a list of several potential programs that members have suggested to her that did not fit in this year’s schedule.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –
July 26 – early August: In a sometimes contentious series of emails the board approved sending a letter of written testimony to the county council in support of CB-38-2019 an act restricting development in the Ellicott City watershed. The primary purpose of the legislature was flood control but it contained elements that will help habitat preservation. The act eventually failed by a vote of 3-2.

October 17: In an email exchange the Board agreed to sign onto a letter to the County Executive prepared by the organization Smarter Growth of Maryland that applauds efforts to protect trees.

October 20: In an email meeting the board overwhelmingly voted to send a letter to the County Council providing written testimony in support of CB-51-19 an act restricting use of certain pesticides and an herbicide on county property. This act subsequently was passed by the council.

October 21: In another email meeting the Board agreed to sign onto a similar letter to the one sent to the County Executive County supporting protections of trees to the members of the County Council.

November 5-6: In an email exchange the Board approved written testimony should be sent to the County Council supporting CB-62-19 an act repealing and reenacting the Forest Conservation Act of Howard County. The letter was sent on November 12.

New Business

Procedure for motions to be made outside of Board meetings – Mary Lou reviewed the issues that arose over the summer in responding to requests for the club to take a stand on several proposals for club action with short deadlines that precluded waiting for a formal board meeting. She summarized the procedure she is proposing for how to handle proposals/motions when timing precludes waiting to discuss the pros/cons of club taking a position/action at a board meeting going forward. Person raising the issue is responsible for contacting the President first and providing her with material explaining the proposed issue. If she feels the matter requires action that cannot wait for a board meeting she will work with the initiator to formulate an email providing the background information and the proposed motion (a formal second of the motion won’t be required). The email will be sent to the voting board members (currently 18 members). Members will reply by voting or initiating additional email discussion (reply all). Mary Lou, as President, will tally the votes. Ten votes in approval will be required for the motion to pass. The results of these activities will be summarized by the Secretary in the minutes of the next formal board meeting (see Old Business above). Lastly it was confirmed that if an issue arises that clearly deals with matters the board had discussed and developed an official position on the President could authorize a response in concert with that position without conducting a formal email vote.

Bird Count issues ?? – Mary Lou stated she had included this item on agenda because of an earlier perception that the participation in bird counts was dramatically decreasing. She since had noted that the Fall Count article reported participation was typical and in speaking with Kevin he confirmed this was generally true for Spring Count. Kevin and Chuck stated that her impression results from the fact that leading up to counts the numbers committing early seem to be down and coordinator comments reflect this. At the same time there is a need to find ways to bring in new participants, especially new members. Bob proposed that he would like to brainstorm with the count coordinators and any other interested members to come up with ideas and actions that would bring in new participants to the counts. We need to ensure all new members that indicate interest in counts on membership survey are personally approached prior to each count. In discussion someone asked about feeder counters participation during winter count that has declined. It became obvious several present didn’t even know about the winter count feeder sheet. It was proposed that we should have copies of the feeder sheets and promote feeder counts at the January club meeting. Kevin also proposed that Chuck share his historical participant spreadsheet with all area counters in advance to help that all recent prior participants are approached.
Authorization of who will be on HCBC accounts – Chuck stated that the board needed to formally authorize who should have signature authority on the club’s financial accounts since Brian was now taking charge as Treasurer. The board formally approved the following authorizations:

- PNC Checking Account: Treasurer, Brian Moyer; President, Mary Lou Clark; Secretary, Charles Stirrat
- T Rowe Price Money Market Fund: Treasurer, Brian Moyer; Secretary, Charles Stirrat
- PayPal Account: Treasurer, Brian Moyer; Membership Chairman, Bob Solem

Convention Help Needed (May 15-17, 2020) Cumberland, MD – Meg Harris has agreed to be the chairman of MOS Convention committee again this coming spring. Mary Lou urged us to consider volunteering to help her in planning and supporting the convention.

Planned Giving on Website – Bob stated that Cindy had mentioned to him that many charitable organizations include information on “planned giving” on their website to encourage people to consider including that organization in planning their charitable giving. Accordingly he had developed a proposed webpage that would provide such information and appear as an active link in the footer of webpages. The proposed page is available in the beta testing version of the website at the following link – https://howardbirds.website/planned-giving/. Bob asked for proposed corrections or changes if any. The consensus of the Board was that this was a good idea.

Around the Room -
Kelsey reported that volunteers to provide treats and drinks are in pretty good shape following the sign up at past meeting.

Review of Prior Action Items:
- Appoint additional Nominating Committee members – Mary Lou
- Find Potluck Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Find Program Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Decide who is hosting February 27, March 26, April 23, and May 28 Board meetings. Clark, Heffernan, Sandler, and Solem have offered but need to decide who does which meeting. - Mary Lou coordinate DONE
- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)

New/Continuing Action Items
- Appoint additional Nominating Committee members – Mary Lou
- Find Potluck Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Find Program Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Contact Russ Ruffing/John Harris about meeting with Chuck Sharp as next step in shorebird habitat project – Mary Lou
- Discuss ideas for increasing count participation – Kevin, Chuck, Joe Hanfman, Mike McClure, Bob
- Contact members who have not yet renewed to remind them to renew – Allen, Kelsey

Board Meeting Schedule

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Host</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 26, 2019</td>
<td>Mary Lou Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 24, 2019</td>
<td>Clayton Koonce</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 21, 2019</td>
<td>Allen Lewis     (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>NO MEETING</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 23, 2020</td>
<td>Jo Solem</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 27, 2020</td>
<td>Kevin Heffernan</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26, 2020</td>
<td>David Sandler</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23, 2020</td>
<td>Jo Solem</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28, 2020</td>
<td>Brian Moyer    (Joint meeting with new and old members)</td>
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Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – October 24, 2019
- Conservation Report – October 24, 2019
- Membership Progress Graph – October 24, 2019

Minutes submitted by:

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

Agenda

October 24, 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
     The replacement of the red steel bridge at Centennial Park will not affect the bird walks.
   ● Records Jo Solem
   ● Conservation Kurt Schwarz
   ● Newsletter Howard Patterson
   ● Webmaster Bob Solem
   ● Potluck Kathie Lilli
   ● Butterflies Kevin Heffernan
   ● BBA3 Sue Muller

7. State Board Meeting- The next meeting will be Saturday, December 7, 2019
8. Old Business-
   ● Nominating Committee progress
   ● Need for program chair and potluck chair

9. New Business-
   ● Procedure for motions to be made outside of the club meetings
   ● Bird Count issues?????
   ● Authorization of who will be on HCBC accounts-Chuck
   ● Convention Help Needed (May 15-17, 2020) Cumberland, Md

10. Action Items Chuck

11. Around the room

Meeting Location
Clayton Koonce
5587 Vantage Point Road
Columbia, Maryland
Meeting Begins at 7:30 pm
Conservation Report, October 24, 2019

I want to thank the Club joining the Smarter Growth Alliance of Howard County letter in support of greater forest conservation in Howard County. I realize that the SGA is an unknown quantity for virtually everyone, and I will be providing further information on this entity in the coming weeks. I have worked with similar efforts/alliances in my capacity as MOS Conservation Chair, and can attest to their good and effective actions on behalf of Smart Growth in Maryland. Stay tuned.

A forest conservation bill was announced last Thursday and the text is available. It does not have a bill number yet, and it would be premature to draw up any written testimony at this time. Per a former member of the Sustainability Board, it is a good first step. More to follow as I digest this bill and get feedback from others.

I attended the hearing on Monday of the Council for bill CB-51, which would ban or curtail use of certain pesticides and herbicides on County-owned property. I think the Club for sending in a letter of support. Several individuals spoke in support of the bill. Emily Ransom of Clean Water Action also spoke in favor, and submitted a detail letter in support. Another group speaking in favor was Our Revolution Howard County. OrHoCo is a new entity to me. From what I have learned, it’s may raison d’etre is support for the Green New Deal and it may or may not be affiliated with the Sanders presidential campaign. Their website is less than informative, and the FB page, as most are, chaotic.

Oppositions was expressed by the Farm Bureau in the person of Howie Feagea, and two other farmers. They all claimed to have been blindsided by the bill, and were concerned that it would interfere with farming. The former claim I believe to be disingenuous at best. The announcement was widely advertised and very public. As for interfering with farm operations, this is just misinformation. The bill applies only to County-owned property, and does not apply to private property. Furthermore, it explicitly does not apply to county-owned property leased to farmers. So, these concerns have no basis.

I was able to ambush Councilperson Walsh, who represents my district, on the way to the restroom. I tried to extract from her position on the bill. She made no commitment, but I got the impression she was favorable.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt
Added comment sent in email after initial release:

Regarding CB-51, the Sierra Club was unable to draft a letter of support or oral testimony. This is perplexing in that Sierra did send talking points and a link to legislators to their members on the bill. It is to the credit of HCBC and Clean Water Action that they were able to draft, approve, and submit testimony in the space of just three days.