Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 21, 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 Allen Lewis. Total number in attendance was 16. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 14 was 43 people. Bill Mahoney, Howard County Office of Community Sustainability, gave a program entitled “The Howard County Green Infrastructure Network: An Approach to Defending Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Chuck reported that Kurt had clarified how signing onto letters prepared by the organization Smarter Growth Maryland did not imply we were members of that organization, so a sentence referring to this was deleted. The minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Moyer): Brian was able to attend his first board meeting. He had sent a template of a monthly report generated using Excel (rather than the exported reports from QuickBooks). There are still several entries that need to be corrected and the board mentioned a few items we would like to see added or changed. Chuck will meet with Brian to provide background on these requests and help develop a report format and an updated report for the second quarter.

President’s Remarks (Clark): Mary Lou warned the board that some people are still receiving spam mail appearing to come from her. She urged everyone to be alert for this. Any unusual requests from her (especially if they come from a “strange” email address) should not be replied to and should be deleted.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Maxey): See Old Business.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): Joe was not present. Schedule is in good shape. Mary Lou reported that she had received a request from the Meg Boyd, Howard County Conservancy, asking to include a reference to our birding field trips in the list of 30 activities to consider doing as part of the HCC 30th anniversary. Mary Lou was asked to provide feedback to refer to them as “walks” or trips but not hikes which would give a false impression of the pace we move at. Also it was suggested that they should refer to both birds and butterflies. Mary Lou will provide Meg with updates and Bob will send her the URL for the web page that will have a current list of trips.
Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that Cheryl Farfaras had reported that the MPEA parking lot on Trotter Road is not yet open, despite the gate being open and signs missing. The county needs to complete a walk-through and officially sign off on the work by contractors. Jo will send an email to listers when the entrance is officially opened.

Best sighting since the previous Board meeting is the two Rufous Hummingbirds coming to feeders off Manahan Road. Kurt reported that the one remaining male was still being seen that day but it’s pattern has changed and is not visiting the feeder as frequently. Posting on-line still being repressed, but if people contact Kurt he will coordinate a visit. Also noteworthy was the large flock of Cackling Geese (28) coming to Scott’s Pond on South Trotter Road. A few winter finches have been reported including Purple Finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Other sightings include Bonaparte’s Gulls (55), a late Osprey, American Woodcock at or near end of migration, Vesper Sparrow, Rusty Blackbirds (20), and some late warblers: Tennessee, Orange-crowned, and a new late date Black-throated Green on 11/4.

Conservation (Schwarz): Mary Lou summarized an email she had received from Carolyn Parsa expressing appreciation for the excellent effort Kurt does for conservation. Mary Lou added her personal thanks as well. Kurt noted that David Sandler, Kathie Lillie, and he had attended the council meeting on Nov. 18 in support of CB-62, Forest Conservation Act. The vote on this bill is set for Dec. 2. Kurt indicated he was working on an action alert asking club members to personally contact the county council members urging them to support the bill which replaces the current Forest Conservation Plan with a new one greatly improving its protection of the environment. Once ready he will forward it to Mary Lou for approval and Bob for sending. Kurt then asked to revisit the discussion we had at prior meeting adding greater formality to Board actions held on-line between regular board meetings. He stressed the short timelines often associated with conservation issues especially when legislative actions are involved. He pointed out that we had been allowing him to initiate such actions without the formality of having to rely on the President to initiate them for many years. After discussion we agreed that as long as the request is sent to all members of the board (currently 18) and are accompanied by the information necessary to assess the proposed action we could resume the historical process where Kurt as Conservation Chair can initiate a request for the Board to vote on a proposed action.

Newsletter (Patterson): The due date for next issue is November 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob stated that in the NewsGram prior to the December meeting he will announce that the club website will be down at various times during December as he accomplishes the transition from the current website to the new one developed with WordPress. He will refer people to the MOS website calendar during those periods. He also encouraged people to continue beta testing of the new website.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie was not present but had confirmed via email she has reserved RNC for the potluck on Saturday, March 28.

Butterflies (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that he and Linda have begun preparation for their presentation at the January meeting. He has been working on a spreadsheet with information on landscaping a yard for pollinator. It will also include multiple references. He and Linda have been participating in the county led Pollinator meetings formed as part of the Bee City! Program announced by the County Executive. Julie Constantino, who is county representative for this program, will participate in the club January meeting.

Breeding Bird Atlas 3 (Sue Muller): Sue announced she has block coordinators for about 2/3 of county blocks. She reminded us that we are only 6 weeks from the official start of BBA3 on January 1. A training session for block coordinators will be held at RNC from 1 to 3 pm Sunday January 12 at RNC. A presentation on the atlas, “Citizen Science Birding,” meant for the general public will be held from 10 – 11 am, Saturday Jan 18 at Belmont. The presentation is free but requires advance registration on the Howard County Conservancy website.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Clark, Romero, Sandler, Koonce, etc.): The next meeting is Saturday, December 7 at the Conowingo Visitors Center, 4948 Conowingo Road, Darlington, MD 21034.
Old Business
Nominating Committee progress – Mary Lou reported that David Sandler and Kevin Heffernan had volunteered to serve on the nominating committee along with committee chair Mary Maxey. Mary M. reported they are looking to fill the positions of Vice President, State Director, and Chapter Director. The Board brainstormed for a few minutes identifying potential individuals for the committee to approach.

Need for program chair and potluck chair – Mary Lou reported that Linda Hunt has volunteered to serve as a Co-chairman for the Potluck. Mary Lou stated she is still looking for someone to join Linda as a Co-chair and we still need someone to serve as Program Chair.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – 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
Follow-up by Chapter Directors on members who haven’t joined for the new year – Kelsey reviewed her experience in calling those who were members last year who haven’t yet renewed. She indicated that many appear not to be answering the phone or replying to voice mail messages. Allen reported that he seemed to have better luck emailing those on his list. Since his personal phone shows as being from Puerto Rico area code he didn’t expect he’d have much luck with phone calls. Brian and Bob reported that there has been a pickup in memberships received in last two weeks so it appears the attempt at a targeted reminder has been beneficial. Bob reported he would have an update on membership after MOS sends him an update at end of November. He asked Chuck to wait and send out an updated membership graph after he receives the update (attached). Sec. Note – The chart shows the increase and that the membership already exceeds 200 voting members which qualifies the club for having three directors on the MOS Board. Bob also pointed out that when he sends out the Jan-Feb Goldfinch link those who have not yet renewed will get an email that says “Sorry but the newsletter is only available to paid up members.”

Safe Skies window display at the Conservancy – Mary Lou and Sarah had observed the bird strike decals placed on the windows of the Gudelsky Center were already peeling off as if they had not been applied properly. Mary Lou contacted Meg Boyd who reassured her that what is there is only a temporary (prototype) installation. Meg reassured them she will be addressing and monitoring the installation.

Name tags at general meetings? – Mary M. proposed we might want to institute a formal use of nametags at club meetings. She proposed we have a table setup outside door manned by a greeter with two different colored tags. She suggested we have one color for current members and another color for new members and visitors. In this way one could make a point to welcome the new members/visitors. We used to have name tags but no formal way of distinguishing guests. It was agreed to implement this and see how it works. Volunteers to man the table will need to be solicited for each meeting. Mary agreed to purchase the nametags and man the table for the first meeting.

Around the Room – Jo reported that the supply of club window decals she includes in new member packets is about depleted. She indicated some had complained the ones we have had (use static to cling to inside of window) are not visible in cars with darkened windows. She asked if people would prefer she order the same kind or an alternative type that would stick on outside (like bumper). Board indicated strong preference for external. Jo will research options and report back to board in future.

Sue relayed an interesting exchange and outcome from her Safe Skies monitoring of the “Gateway Building” (County owned) on Gateway Drive in Columbia. A woman that works in Risk Mgt. in the Gateway Building has seen her picking up dead birds several times and she has educated her about the problem. Unbeknownst to Sue, she contacted the head of the facilities Dept. and told him about the lady from Rec & Parks picking up dead birds every day that hit the windows and asked what could be done about it. The Facilities Manager was unaware of her surveys and the problem until this employee contacted him. He went ahead and got an estimate to put a film over the windows. Sue spoke with the man and asked him to meet with Beth Decker and herself to find the best solution for the money and the birds. Felicia Lovelett had helped with surveys in the past and had inquired what the cost was to
treat the windows at Gateway as she wanted to make a contribution. Felicia is aware of the problem there and helped Sue survey the Gary Arthur Center during the migration season.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Appoint additional Nominating Committee members – Mary Lou DONE
- Find Potluck Committee Chair – Mary Lou FOUND ONE CO-CHAIR
- 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 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 DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Find 2nd Potluck Committee Co-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 project – Mary Lou
- Discuss ideas for increasing count participation – Kevin, Chuck, Joe Hanfman, Mike McClure, Bob
- Send Meg Boyd proposed update for HCC anniversary activity list – Mary Lou
- Send Meg Boyd URL for field trip web page – Bob
- Send out an email (text from Kurt) urging members to contact County Council in support of Forest Conservation Act – Mary Lou
- Send out email(s) to Listers on current status of MPEA Trotter Road access and when she is informed it is officially re-opened – Jo
- Purchase name-tags and coordinate/staff a welcome table at regular meetings – Mary M.
- Research alternatives for club decals that would go on outside of car/etc. vice the current internal style - Jo

Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 26, 2019 - Mary Lou Clark
October 24, 2019 - Clayton Koonce
November 21, 2019 - Allen Lewis (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December - NO MEETING
January 23, 2020 - Jo Solem
February 27, 2020 - Kevin Heffernan
March 26, 2020 - David Sandler
April 23, 2020 - Jo Solem
May 28, 2020 - Brian Moyer (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – November 21, 2019
- Howard County Bird Club Membership Chart as of Dec 1 2019

Minutes submitted by:

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

Agenda

November 21, 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
     Goldfinch submissions due November 25
   • Webmaster Bob Solem
   • Potluck Kathie Lillie
   • 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 Mary Maxey
   • Need for program chair and potluck chair

9. New Business-
   • Follow-up by Chapter Directors on members who haven't joined for the new year.
   • Safe Skies window display at the Conservancy
   • Name tags at general meetings?

10. Action Items Chuck

11. Around the room

Meeting Location
Allen Lewis
7226 Lasting Way
Columbia, Md
757-590-4501
Meeting Begins at 7:30 pm
Howard County Bird Club
Number of Votes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>18-19</th>
<th>17-18</th>
<th>19-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prev</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Sep</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-Oct</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Dec</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>225</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Mar</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>