

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 24, 2016

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1st yr.)
Meg Harris (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Mary Lou Clark √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Robin Todd. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 10 was 68 people. Dr. Robert K. Musil gave a program entitled “Rachel Carson and Her Maryland Legacy.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy was not present but had submitted the attached February Treasurer’s Report in advance.

President’s Remarks (Todd): Robin reported that he and John Harris are leading a beginner’s field trip at Mt. Pleasant on Saturday April 2.

Vice-President’s Remarks (J. Harris): John mentioned that he had reviewed the spreadsheet that Kevin Heffernan put together with the calendar depiction of all the items that have to be done routinely as club activities. He was confident it would be very helpful in leading the club as President.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): It was reported that Joe has scheduled one new field trip for the spring. There will be a trip to Smith Island on Saturday April 23.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that the MD/DC Records Committee has accepted the record of Trumpeter Swans photographed at Lake Elkhorn last year. As a result Trumpeter Swan is officially added to the Howard County list.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was absent but had reported he plans to speak at the Planning Board hearing on April 7 regarding General Plan Amendment 2016-1 – Growth Tiers Designation. Earlier drafts had called for significant changes that would open large portions of western Howard County to development. The latest draft, as received via email today, seems to temper that assessment significantly. *Sec. Note: Kurt forwarded a copy of this email to the board after the meeting.* Bob plans to include this item in next NEWSGRAM.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported that the current deadline is tomorrow and that he is on schedule.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that the current version of the electronic payment form on the web has been being misinterpreted by a number of the users. He passed around copies and received a number of suggestions on ways to make it more understandable and hopefully eliminate the problem.

Potluck (Lillie): See Old Business.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): See New Business for one item that John McKitterick brought from the latest meeting.

Old Business

SkyWatch site for Mt. Pleasant – Robin reported that the Mt. Pleasant Grounds Committee is expected to meet sometime after the middle of April. Before then we need to have a written proposal that can be distributed to them before that meeting. Mike Kerwin has started a draft and he with help of others need to finalize the proposal. Robin agreed to inform Mike that he has this action. We also need a draft Memo of Understanding to start negotiations with the Conservancy on the MOU. Robin agreed to take a first cut at drafting the MOU. Jo listed a number of items that the MOU should address, including: 1) we accept responsibility for the cost, 2) we are responsible for all maintenance (refresh of mulch, mowing of the border, painting if needed), and 3) cost and design/development of signs consistent with Conservancy guidelines. We discussed whether we needed a policy on usage and agreed that it should be limited to an agreement that if either organization schedules a formal event that will use the site they should inform the other party so as to avoid conflicts.

Potluck March 19 Wrap-up – Kathie reported that the event seemed to go well and there were 32 attendees including two RNC staff members. She acknowledged the help of many members with setup and cleanup. She learned that we are welcome to leave excess food in the refrigerator and inform the desk that staff is welcome to have it.

New Business

YMOS request to sell raffle tickets at April meeting – Robin had received an email request from Ron Irons to permit his sons Daniel and Jonathan to attend our April meeting and sell raffle tickets supporting the YMOS World Series of Birding team. The boys are very avid birders and are active members of the Youth Division of the Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS). They are preparing to compete in the 2016 World Series of Birding in New Jersey in May for the fifth time. As a fund raiser for their team, they are selling raffle tickets for a pair of high quality binoculars - Vortex Diamond 8X32's. We agreed to let Daniel and Jonathan attend the next club meeting on April 14, where they will give a very short presentation on the World Series of Birding and the YMOS, and will offer raffle tickets for sale. Apparently the Irons live in Howard County but are not members of our club. John Harris agreed to prepare a short paragraph announcing this for Bob's next NEWSGRAM.

Members needed at GreenFest with club display – Robin is coordinating getting volunteers to man the booth at GreenFest at Howard Community College on Saturday, April 16. Bob has volunteered to setup and takedown the display. Kate mentioned several names of those who have volunteered in the past that Robin could contact. Robin took an action to provide Bob a draft announcement for the next NEWSGRAM.

Host the June MOS Board meeting? – John McKitterick reported that at the latest MOS Board meeting it was announced that the June meeting originally scheduled to be held in Garrett County needed to be relocated as a venue for the meeting had not been found. John asked if we wanted to volunteer to host the meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 4. If a new venue cannot be found they will attempt to hold the meeting during the MOS Conference the following weekend. After a brief discussion we agreed that if The Howard Conservancy was available as a venue we would be willing to host although it's just been one year since we last hosted. Robin took an action to check with the Conservancy to determine if we could use the facility on June 4.

Club display at Illchester Girl Scout Camp Earth Day – Kurt has arranged for us to have an MOS/HCBC display at the Earth Day celebration at Illchester Girl Scout Camp on April 24 10:00 am – 3:00pm. We will have our Bird Club display on the grounds. Volunteers are needed to man the booth. Bob agreed to draft an announcement for the next NEWSGRAM.

Mission Statement? – Cindy had sent an email wondering if we wanted to adopt a formal mission statement that recognizes the club’s broadened interest beyond birds. In response Bob had located and passed out three different versions that might be used as reference for such a discussion. First was the short synopsis he has drafted for the “About Us” page on the club website, the second was the opening paragraphs from the club’s By-laws, and lastly the stated purpose of MOS. Chuck had started with the first of these and reformatted it as a mission statement. He shared copies with the Board. We agreed it would be a reasonable starting point for further discussion at a subsequent Board meeting after others had time to think about it. The draft mission statement reads:

“The mission of the Howard County Bird Club is to promote the knowledge, development, protection, and conservation of bird life, butterflies, dragonflies, flowers and everything else that is part of nature including preservation of habitat and natural resources.”

Around the Room –

- Jo reported that she had learned that Marty Chestem, one of the last remaining founders of our club and a Past President of the club and MOS, is apparently living in an assisted living setting near Denver. Apparently she went to visit a relative (?) over the holidays and never returned despite having her town house still here in Wilde Lake and planning to return. Apparently the Florence Bain Senior Center received contact information but is unwilling to violate privacy and provide it. Accordingly Jo has sent a certified letter to her address here in Columbia in hope it will be forwarded and she will get a reply that allows us to regain contact with her.
- Howard reported that Joe Hanfman told him that Chan Robbins is in failing health and Jo confirmed that he had been in the hospital. Several attendees shared recollections of Chan and his “keep going attitude” well into his 90’s.
- When asked Mary Lou agreed that having attended a Board meeting she was willing to have her name added to the nomination slate as candidate for Vice President.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Offer suggestions for potential candidates for club Vice President and State Director to Nominating Committee – All DONE
- Identify other projects or causes for us to support with our habitat preservation funds – All
- Inform the nominating committee that we also need a State Director candidate – Robin DONE
- Share Sue Muller email regarding the BioBlitz with the Board and contact Sue for further details – Robin PLANS CANCELED
- Register the club to participate in GreenFest and submit check for registration fee – Cindy DONE
- Proceed with development of SkyWatch/HawkWatch site and keep the Board informed of progress – Mike Kerwin CONTINUING
- Solicit volunteer to coordinate GreenFest participation – Robin IN PROGRESS

New/Continuing Action Items

- Identify other projects or causes for us to support with our habitat preservation funds – All
- Proceed with development of SkyWatch/HawkWatch site including finalize a formal written proposal and keep the Board informed of progress – Mike Kerwin
- Coordinate Green Fest participation including draft a NEWSGRAM announcement for Bob– Robin
- Inform Mike Kerwin that the formal SkyWatch proposal should be ready by mid-April (in advance of Conservancy committee meeting) – Robin
- Draft MOU between The HC Conservancy and the HCBC regarding the SkyWatch site – Robin
- Check with The HC Conservancy on availability of facility to host the MOS Board meeting on June 4 – Robin
- Draft NEWSGRAM article on YMOS raffle ticket sale – John Harris
- Draft NEWSGRAM article on Camp Illchester Earth Day display – Bob
- Add Mary Lou as Vice President to the slate read at the March meeting and distribute the election notice along with the club directory - Bob

Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 24, 2015	-	Robin Todd
October 22, 2015	-	Karen Heffernan
November 19, 2015	-	Cindy Albright (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 2016	-	Bob & Jo Solem
February 25, 2016	-	John McKitterick
March 24, 2016	-	Robin Todd
April 28, 2016	-	Kate Tufts
May 26, 2016	-	Meg & John Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – March 24, 2016
- HCBC Treasurer’s Report – February 2016

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

March 24, 2016

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy
4. President's Remarks Robin
5. Vice President's Remarks John

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips
 - Records Jo
 - Conservation Kurt (away)
 - Newsletter Howard
 - Web Master Bob

7. Old Business
 - Hawk watch stand for Mt. Pleasant update – Robin for Mike Kerwin
 - Potluck March 19th – wrap up report from Kathie

8. New Business
 - YMOS to sell raffle tickets at April meeting?
 - Members needed at GreenFest with Club's display
 - *Host the June MOS Board meeting?*
 - *Club display at Illchester Girl Scout Camp Earth Day*
 - *Mission Statement?*

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
Robin & Hyacinth Todd
10174 Green Clover Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-313-8154 (H)
410-491-5333 (C)
totnesman@aol

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/15-4/30/16**

	Budget 2015-16	February Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income			
Membership Dues		25	5,246.53
State Dues Paid		(75.00)	(3,075.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	(50.00)	2,171.53
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		25.00	2,111.33
Contributions to Emy's fund			2,365.00
Contributions to MOS			110.00
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	(25.00)	6,757.86
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		515.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, Copies	250.00	144.83	151.83
Projector Expense			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	85.00	366.00
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund			
Habitat Preservation - All Creatures G & S		300.00	300.00
Greenfest	35.00		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000.00		1,000.00
Total Operating Expense	2,685.00	529.83	2,332.83
Income over Expense		(554.83)	4,425.03
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T Rowe Price Prime Reserve acct.			
Reserve Account beginning bal. 2/1/16			\$10,649.30
Interest Received in January			0.06
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 2/29/16			16,189.36
PNC Bank Balance			
Checking Bal. 02/29/16			12,786.34
Petty Cash			45.03
Total Assets			29,020.73