

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 22, 2016

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Woody Merkle (1st yr.) √
Nancy McAllister (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Robin Todd √
Past President: Robin Todd

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
Others:
Sue Muller √
Barbara Sikorski √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of John Harris. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 8 was 40 people. Lindsay Jacks, Director of Lights Out Baltimore, gave a program entitled "The Impact of Buildings on Birds."

Officer's Reports

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

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had distributed the attached Treasurer's Reports for June/July and August. Primary disbursements were: Donation to HC Conservancy for signage as part of their major expansion (\$5000), Honorarium (1st half) for Barbara Sikorski (Rec & Parks intern)(\$500), tools for Howard Rec & Park's use in maintain butterfly meadows (\$300), All Creatures Great & Small (\$300), and HCBC decals (\$450). Cindy reported that she has received 81 memberships, nearly half of which were submitted and paid for using the on-line option.

President's Remarks (Harris): John H had a couple of heads-up items for next month. It will be time to begin process of having Chapter Director's contact members who have not renewed by phone. Second it will be time to confirm pot luck coordinator and date. He then asked Jo and Sue to say a few words on preliminary planning for a BioBlitz to be held at Mt. Pleasant next fall (tentative date September 7, 2017). Discussions have begun with the Conservancy and the Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP). MBP would establish and maintain a special Mt. Pleasant collection for an initial fee of \$1000 and an annual continuing cost of \$500. Jo and Bob Solem are prepared to make a personal donation to cover these costs, but we agreed to discuss the potential of the club helping to fund this effort at a future meeting.

Vice-President's Remarks (Clark): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): No report. Kurt has made arrangements for an additional field trip to Belt Woods on October 29. There is time to get this added to the Goldfinch currently being assembled as it will arrive before then. It will also be announced in an upcoming Newsgram. *Sec. Note – The trip was cancelled because the area was opened to general hunting.*

Records (Jo Solem): Jo summarized the highlights of the past season's birds. *Sec. Note: I chose not to repeat them here as they will all appear in her upcoming seasonal report in the next issue of The Goldfinch.*

Conservation (Schwarz): No report.

Newsletter (Patterson): No formal report, but the newsletter is coming together and is waiting for the completion of an article on the recent Fall Count.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob was not present but had provided the attached graph depicting the status of incoming memberships. Jo also mentioned that the schedule of managed deer hunts in the county parks and WSSC have been posted on the website.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie reported that she has a proposed date for the potluck, namely March 25, 2017.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): John McKitterick had sent an email to the Board summarizing the highlights of the September 10 meeting that is attached.

Old Business

SkyWatch – Cindy had asked about status of bill from contractor for services to date and payment. John H had determined that Mike Kerwin had told them to bill him and he would then submit it to Cindy for payment. The estimate was \$3488. The bill has not been received yet, but Woody reported that there has been a change in the ownership/management of the contractor that may explain the delay. As for future efforts we are responsible for all aspects of maintenance (pull weeds, weed wack perimeter, future wood chip replenishment, etc.). Future improvements such as informational signs and seating are contemplated but not expected soon. The Conservancy has plans to change the signs on the property and we may want to coordinate with them, although Woody expressed his opinion that might not be soon as the major renovation will occupy staff for for-seeable future. Nancy mentioned she had taken pictures of signs at Cape May Hawk Watch that might be useful in planning signs for the SkyWatch. She agreed to send them to Mike Kerwin.

September To-Do item – John H mentioned it is time to confirm our reservation with RNC for our meetings next year. Karen took an action to contact RNC and confirm we are on the schedule. In a related measure John M asked if we had any responsibility for the relatively limited success of the events we conduct for RNC (several did not have enough participants to run). We agreed to not take any different actions unless RNC staff expresses that they have an issue. Accordingly John H agreed to ensure Joe Hanfman is continuing to organize our four RNC events.

New Business

Davis Branch Stream Restoration – As announced in a recent Newsgram Howard County Government is holding an informational public meeting on this topic on September 27 at Mt. Pleasant. Woody explained that although comments will probably be accepted the plans are complete and work is to begin this winter with completion by March. It is Woody's understanding that the plan is to create a new stream bed running west of the current stream from the road to just past the bridge at foot of stone fence trail. Woody will be attending in his role as a Conservancy officer and feels it would be worthwhile for a few bird club members to attend.

Dick Smith Remembrance – The sudden unexpected death of Dick Smith is a great loss to the club and the knowledge of butterflies in Howard County. The Board discussed potential ways to honor his memory. One obvious choice is to continue the annual Labor Day Weekend butterfly walks as a memorial walk in Dick's memory. The first was held this past Labor Day and was very well attended. John Harris took an action to notify Joe Hanfman to include this walk annually in the field trip schedule. Linda Hunt is by default now the point person for club butterfly activities. One other suggestion as a memorial would be to plant hackberry shrubs in or near the Centennial and/or Daisy pollinator plots to attract Tawny Emperor. Sue Muller agreed to talk to the county forester about this idea.

Barbara Sikorski – Barbara gave a short talk entitled “My Summer Internship at Emy’s Meadow.” She was the intern the club had offered an honorarium to in recognition of her volunteering to work with Sue Muller in monitoring, coordinating, and maintaining the pollinator meadow at Centennial. Her presentation had photos of many of the species she observed in the meadow. She is pursuing a major in Environmental Science & Policy. She recommended that management of invasive plants needs to begin earlier in the season as the height of grasses makes access much more difficult later in summer. However, this is somewhat problematic as an intern to coordinate volunteer activity usually won’t be available until school summer vacation begins.

Marty Chestem Books – Long time club member, Marty Chestem, is now living in an assisted living setting in Colorado. Recently one of her relatives was in town to clean out her place here in Columbia and contacted Jo to see if there were things that the club could use. Jo picked up several boxes of books, knickknacks, etc. that might be have interest to club members. One item that was very interest was Marty’s journal with many observations from her early involvement in birding in the 70’s. It was agreed that Jo would bring the items to the November meeting and they would be offered to club members first come first served. Donations to the habitat fund would be solicited but not required.

Around the Room –

- Robin reported that the Patapsco Valley State Park was holding a meeting on August 27 at Soldier’s Delight to plan a bird blitz.
- Chuck mentioned that MOS was registered as a recipient of a portion of purchases made on Smile.Amazon.com.
- Nancy reported that her Mom’s Big Year total was up to 429.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Solicit volunteers for a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Robin/John H
- Inform Sue Muller of decisions on intern honorarium and tools – Jo DONE
- Send a reply to Howard Community College declining request to provide a FAST speaker – Robin DONE
- Update the list of donations made from seed sale proceeds and other gifts to include with the seed sale form – Bob DONE
- Investigate getting club seal window decals and provide results to Board – Jo – DECALS AVAILABLE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Solicit volunteers for a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Robin/John H
- Notify Joe H. to include Dick Smith Memorial butterfly trip annually – John H.
- Discuss idea of Hackberry plantings with county forester – Sue Muller
- Disburse second half of honorarium (\$500) to Barbara Sikorski - Cindy

Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 22, 2016	-	John Harris
October 27, 2016	-	Karen Heffernan
November 17, 2016	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2017	-	Howard Patterson
February 23, 2017	-	Bob & Jo Solem
March 23, 2017	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 27, 2017	-	Kathie Lillie
May 25, 2017	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – September 22, 2016
- Treasurer’s Report – June/July 2016
- Treasurer’s Report – August 2016
- Membership - Running Total Chart
- Notes from MOS Board Meeting held September 10

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

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

Agenda

September 22, 2016 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Heads-up for next month:
 - Follow up email/phone-contact to members that did not renew
 - Potluck dinner - confirm coordinator, set date
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem

7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch
 - Payment for services to date
 - contractor will bill Mike Kerwin by around October 14, 2016
 - Proposal stated \$3,488
 - Coordination with HCC
 - Maintenance, signage
 - September To-Do item:
 - Check and update reservations for Club Meetings
 - Response to HCBC-RNC events

8. New Business
 - Davis Stream Branch restoration
 - Howard County Government hosts public meeting
 - Tuesday, September 27th at 7:00pm in the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center at Mt. Pleasant
 - Dick Smith – ideas for remembrance
 - Barbara Sikorski
 - “My Summer Internship at Emy's Meadow”

9. Action Items Chuck

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
June & July 2016

	Budget 2016-17	June-July Current Month	May-July Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		92	185
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000		
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		60	598
Contributions to MOS			
Total Operating Income	2,000	152	783
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100		
Meetings:			
Programs	600		50
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200	250	250
Postage, Copies	250		
USPS Postal Box rental			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50		
Newsletter & Directory	400		
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund		800	Intern + tools
Skywatch		5,000	HCConservancy
		* From PNC prev. yrs reserves	
All Creatures G & S	300		
Greenfest	35		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon			
Total Operating Expense	1,985	250	300
Income over Expense		(98)	483

TRowe Reserve Account beginning bal. 6/1/16	10649.54
Interest Received in June/July	0.12
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance	5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 7/31/16	16189.66
PNC Bank Balance	
Checking Bal. 06/01/16	12413.62
Checking Bal. 07/31/16	* 6465.73
Petty Cash	45.03
Total Assets	22700.42

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
as of August 31, 2016

	Budget 2016-17	August Current Month	May - Aug Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		1,441	1,626
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000		
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		128	726
Contributions to MOS			
Total Operating Income	2,000	1,569	2,352
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100		
Meetings:			
Programs	600		50
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200		250
Postage, Copies	250	107	107
HCBC Decals		450	450
Pot Luck Supplies	50		
Newsletter & Directory	400	97	97
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		
Greenfest	35		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000		
Total Operating Expense	2,985	654	954
Income over Expense		915	1,398

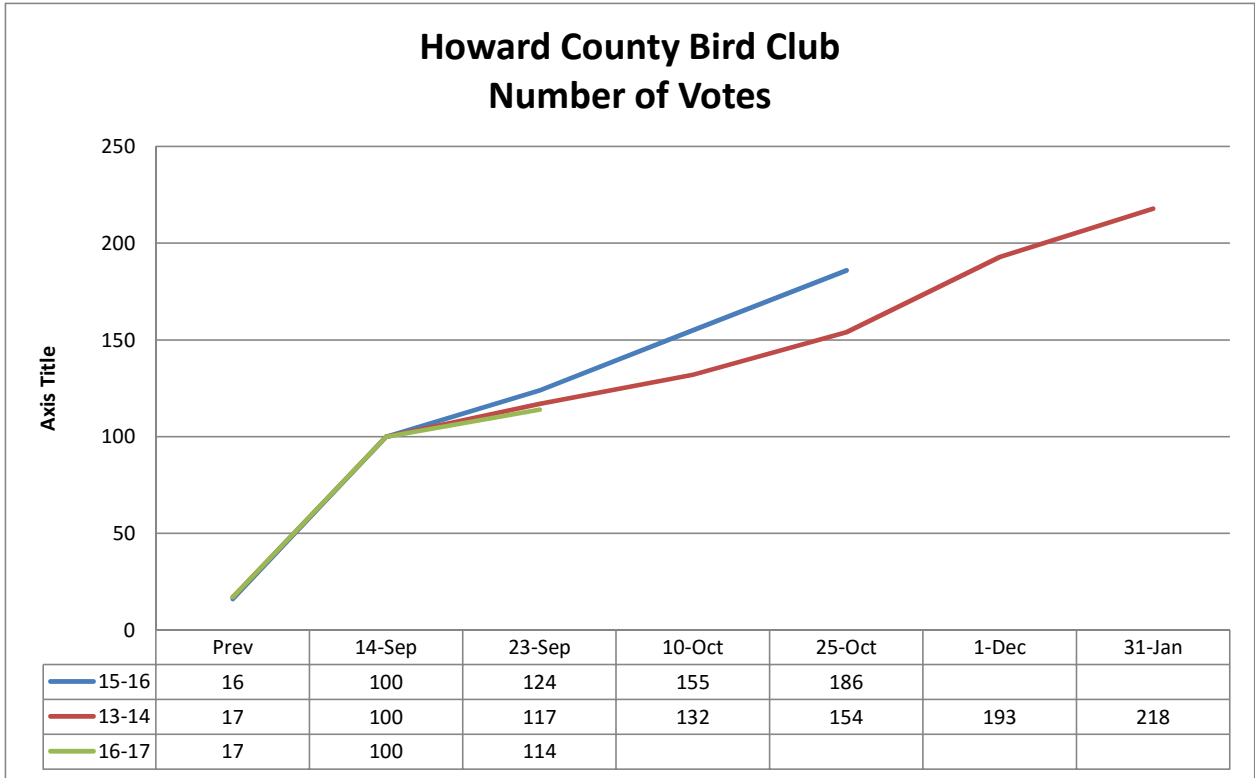
T Rowe Price Prime Reserve acct.

Reserve Account beginning bal. 8/1/16	16189.66
Interest Received in August	0.08
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 7/31/16	16189.74

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 08/01/16	6465.73
Checking Bal. 08/31/16	7381.05
Total Assets	23570.79

YEAR	Prev	14-Sep	23-Sep	10-Oct	25-Oct	1-Dec	31-Jan	
15-16	16	100	124	155	186			Blue line.
13-14	17	100	117	132	154	193	218	Red line.
16-17	17	100	114					Green line. Current total.





Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Notes from the MOS Board meeting

John McKitterick <jbmck@verizon.net>

Mon, Sep 19, 2016 at 5:16 PM

To: John Harris <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>, Cindy Albright <cindyalbright@gmail.com>, Robin Todd <Totnesman@aol.com>, Karen Heffernan <khdarcy4@aol.com>, Nancy McAllister <nancymcallister@yahoo.com>, Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>, "Lillie, Kathie" <klillie12@verizon.net>, Howard Patterson <howard21042@verizon.net>

To all (and I'm missing some email addresses on the local board):

The state MOS board meeting was held on Saturday, September 10th at Cylburn arboretum. The following are my notes from that meeting:

1. An ad-hoc committee is being formed to investigate better methods of paying dues. Currently, each local club collects the dues and then forwards some of the money onto MOS. The motivation for this committee is to simplify the process so that the appropriate money is automatically delivered to the right places, without having to write checks. Volunteers are being sought, club treasurers in particular.
2. Budget requests (for next year) need to be in to Paul Zucker by January 1st.
3. The MOS conference will held at Wisp on the weekend of May 19th-21st. Rooms can be booked directly through Wisp.
4. Fred Fallon led a discussion of moving the conference around in the calendar. He noted that there had been a period of time when the conference was held twice a year, with the winter meeting held in Ocean City. Given the decline in attendance at the conference, Fred put forth the idea of having the conference every 18 months, with the fall/winter conferences being held on the Eastern Shore (as the only suitable location during November - January).

5. The on-line MD/DC Birding Guide is getting closer to completion, with the descriptions of 167 sites already completed and accessible on line. More help is needed to complete write-ups of the remaining sites, mostly on the Eastern Shore. The website can be found at MDBirdingGuide.com (note the two 'G's).

--John