

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 27, 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 √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Karen Heffernan. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 13, 2016 was 50 people. Sue Muller introduced and led a discussion on the film “Messenger” that the club had purchased for this purpose and to make it available for other groups that would be interested in learning more about the many threats birds face.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy provided the attached Treasurer’s report for September. Membership dues continue to come in. The invoice for the work on the SkyWatch was received and has been paid. The payment will appear on the October report.

President’s Remarks (Harris): John had included several items on the agenda to be addressed as his remarks. Those who have not yet renewed have received an email reminder. Bob reported that memberships continue to be received on a rate consistent with recent years. He provided a list of those who have not yet renewed to Woody and will send the list to Nancy. As renewals arrive he will provide them with updates so that they can begin calling those on the list. The intent is to have contacted all on the list who have not renewed before Thanksgiving. Sue Muller expressed surprise that our membership was only a little over 200 in such a populous county. Mary Lou commented that she had a number of ideas for increasing club membership. John asked Mary Lou and Sue to serve as an ad hoc membership committee making suggestions for ways to solicit new members.

John mentioned the need to finalize coordinators and tally location for Mid-winter count will be next month’s board meeting. In addition he will need to appoint a Nominating Committee and we should start discussing candidates for Chapter Director, as that is only open position presuming current officers agree to continue. The current officers present agreed that they plan to continue.

We discussed potential actions in memory of Dick Smith. The first agreement was that we would hold a butterfly Labor Day weekend walk at the Lake Elkhorn gardens and butterfly field. It will be called the “Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk.” Sue Muller had spoken to the Rec and Parks Forester and he had agreed they could purchase several Common Hackberry trees to be planted at the Daisy butterfly meadow location, as hackberry is preferred by three species of butterfly (American Snout, Tawny Emperor, and Hackberry Emperor). Although the county will purchase the trees we agreed to inform club that any gifts received in memory of Dick will be given to

Rec and Parks in compensation for the purchase. Sue also stated that although no signs will be posted it might be acceptable to informally refer to the Daisy site as “Dick’s Meadow” as we have promoted “Emy’s Meadow” at Centennial. We did not take any formal action on this idea. *Sec. Note: Subsequently it was pointed out that the meadow was the fruition of actions by the Concerned Citizens of Western Howard County and other community members. Those who worked to save it as a pollinator meadow are best honored by referring to it by the neighborhood’s preference, “Daisy Meadow”. Hence the announcement of the memorial gift opportunity referred to the “Dick Smith Memorial Grove” to potentially be planted at the Daisy Meadow site.*

Several members had made note of an error in the latest Yellowthroat calendar incorrectly listed Dec 18 as a meeting where the “Messenger” will be shown. Bob will post a correction on our web site and include it in a Newsgram later. In reference to Newsgrams, Bob requested that someone agree to carefully proof-read his drafts. Mary Lou agreed to do this.

Sue reported that she had been in touch with Lindsay Jacks who has agreed to give a talk on Lights Out Baltimore at Greenfest 2017.

Lastly Jo described plans for Marty Chestem’s books and miscellaneous item to be made available to members before the November club meeting. Items will be displayed in hallway. There will be no prices but voluntary donations for habitat will be solicited. This will be announced in Newsgram prior to the meeting. Jo (or her designate) will collect donations as Cindy will not be able to attend. Bob will accept membership applications in Cindy’s absence.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Clark): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): No report.

Records (Jo Solem): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report.

Newsletter (Patterson): Next deadline is November 24.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob has been reformatting the front page of website with better drop-down menus. Galleries are now listed under “Natural History.”

Potluck (Lillie): We have a reservation for the RNC auditorium Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 6 – 10 pm.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): No meeting since our prior Board meeting.

Old Business

SkyWatch – As noted in Treasurer’s Report the invoice for initial construction of the SkyWatch for \$3488 was paid to BrightView Landscape Services. In a related topic Tabby Fique, the Land Manager for the Howard Conservancy had alerted the club to a very good sale price for convertible benches that we might want to purchase for the SkyWatch site. It was agreed we should order four of them. Bob agreed to inform Mike that this purchase could be made using funds remaining in the original \$5000 we had authorized for the SkyWatch.

New Business

Greenfest 2017 – It is time to make early application for participation in the next Greenfest to be held February 4, 2017. Cindy agreed to fill out the application and submit it along with a check for the registration fee. Sue reminded us that early application ensures getting a better location for display. Mary Lou agreed to coordinate finding members to man the display. Bob volunteered to set up and take down the display.

Invitation to “Celebration of Partners in the Parks” – Robin had received and forwarded the club’s invitation to this event to John H. This event sponsored by Howard County Rec and Parks gives organizations that partner with Rec and Parks an opportunity to meet key government officials responsible for the parks. The Solem’s also are invited and recommended John should attend. He will RSVP to the invitation.

2017 Hog Island Scholarships – John H. asked what we need to do regarding the MOS scholarship program. The club should seek potential applicants. Applicants should be Maryland teachers, youth leaders, park rangers, and nature center staff. Applicants need not be MOS members but need to be endorsed by a member or chapter. Bob and Jo agreed to develop an information sheet on the scholarship program to be provided potential candidates. Sue mentioned a newly hired group of Park Rangers who might be candidates. Woody mentioned staff at Mt. Pleasant might be candidates, as well as RNC staff.

Request for Speaking Time at Club Meeting – MOS President, Barbara Johnson had approached John about having 5 minutes to speak to the club at our November meeting. She and Marion Clement, new Maryland Bird Conservation Initiative Coordinator, are trying to attend MOS chapter meetings as a way to communicate with the MOS membership. After consulting the Board, John asked Barbara if she could visit another of our meetings as Chan Robbins is the speaker and the Marty Chestem book give-away is already scheduled for the November meeting. Barbara agreed to reschedule her visit for a future meeting.

Howard Rec & Parks Species Lists – Bob and Jo stated the sudden unexpected death of Dick Smith has motivated them to begin actively working on transition planning. They want to ensure future maintenance and retention of the large amount of natural history data that they are currently responsible for is in place. Cindy stated she would like to volunteer to help this effort. They see the data falling into two major categories, essential bird club material and Rec and Parks reference data. With Sue's help they recently met with Rec and Parks staff responsible for their web site to discuss how they currently link to our web site for species lists for each of the parks. As a first step Bob had prepared a proposed set of revised links that would go directly to the species lists for each individual park instead of the current link which only goes to the Flora and Fauna overview page. They are hopeful that as the county wants to have this material available they will be willing to provide resources and manpower to help maintain and archive the species lists and eventually do the same for more of the reference material we have on the club website, e.g. Amphibian and Reptile Atlas data.

Blandair Park query – Kurt had received a query from club member, Mary Maxey, regarding the pending development of the northern section of Blandair Park. She wanted to know if there was anything the club could do to influence the plans for park which she characterizes as a major loss of habitat. Kurt asked the Board for guidance. The Board discussed the question. Because the period for public comment has long passed, we decided the HCBC will not take action on this issue. John agreed to provide that feedback to Kurt.

Around the Room –

In response to a question Jo reported that Bob and Linda Hunt had received the butterfly information that was on Dick Smith's personal computer.

Review of Prior Action Items:

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

New/Continuing Action Items

- Solicit volunteers for a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – John H.
- Provide the membership renewal call list to Nancy and Woody – Bob
- Make renewal calls before Thanksgiving – Nancy and Woody
- Draft an item on Dick Smith memorial Hackberry Tree gifts for Newsgram – Bob/Jo
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller
- Draft MOS Scholarship information sheet and provide it to Sue and Woody – Bob & Jo
- Complete Greenfest application and submit with fee – Cindy
- Coordinate volunteers for the Greenfest display – Mary Lou
- Inform Kurt on our decision on Blandair development – John H.

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)

- HCBC Board of Directors Meeting Agenda – October 27, 2016
- Treasurer’s Report – September 2016

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

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

Agenda

October 27, 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
 - Tasks for this month
 - email to members that did not renew
 - Potluck – confirm date
 - Heads-up for next month:
 - Confirm coordinator and area coordinators for Mid-winter Count and tally rally location
 - Follow-up phone calls to members that did not renew
 - Form Nominating Committee/ Discuss possible candidates for next year
 - Need wording for title of annual butterfly walk in memory of Dick Smith
 - This year's title was "Butterflies through Binoculars"
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
 - BrightView invoice
8. New Business
 - GreenFest 2017
 - Invitation to "Celebration of Partners in Parks"
 - 2017 Hog Island scholarships
 - Request for speaking time at club meeting:
 - Barbara Johnson – President, MOS
 - Marion Clement, new Maryland Bird Conservation Initiative coordinator
9. Action Items Chuck

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10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Karen & Kevin Heffernan
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City MD 21042
(410) 857-1789
(443) 668-7618

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
as of September 30, 2016

	Budget 2016-17	September Current Month	May - Sept Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		1,083	1,626
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000		
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		420	1,146
Contributions to MOS		40	40
Total Operating Income	2,000	1,543	2,812
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100		
Meetings:			
Programs	600		50
Hospitality-Chapter & Stat	50		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200		250
Postage, Copies	250		107
HCBC Decals			450
Pot Luck Supplies	50		
Newsletter & Directory	400		97
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		
Greenfest	35		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000		
Total Operating Expense	2,985		954
Income over Expense		1,543	1,858

T Rowe Price Government Money Fund (renamed from T Rowe Prime Reserve Fund)

Reserve Account beginning bal. 9/1/16	16189.74
Interest Received in Sept	0.07
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 9/30/16	16189.81

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 09/01/16	7381.05
Checking Bal. 09/30/16	8923.70
Total Assets	23570.86