

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 23, 2017

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 Mary Lou Clark. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 9, 2017 was 80 people. Nancy McAllister gave a program entitled “Mom’s Big Year.” Linda Hunt also spoke briefly about butterflies and a memorial remembrance of Dick Smith.

Officer’s Reports

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

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy was not present but had sent the attached report covering January and February.

President’s Remarks (Harris): The election of officers will be held at the upcoming April club meeting. John thanked Mary Lou for running the January Board meeting in his absence. We are due to consider a budget for the 2017-2018 club fiscal year at this time. John agreed to ask Cindy to put together a draft budget for our consideration at the next board meeting.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Clark): Mary Lou reported she is preparing to give a birding talk and demonstration for elementary age kids at Forest Ridge Elementary on April 1.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): John announced that he and Joe had decided that the fourth RNC event will be a “Bird Walk for Kids” aimed at parents and grandparents to bring their children. This subject may have more appeal than a repeat of the “Woodpecker” walk John has been doing in the past.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo had no recent rarity sightings to report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt discussed four items currently active on the conservation front. 1) The MD Senate has passed an amendment to last year’s pollinator act that bans the use of neonicotinoids on sites. The House passed the bill with an amendment that weakens the bill. It is hoped that the weakening can be remedied in conference committee. 2) The fracking ban has passed the Senate and the Governor has expressed support for it so there is hope the ban will go into effect. 3) Howard CB-16 that attempted to remove land from Tier IV development status was defeated by the county council 3-2. Kurt testified in favor of CB-23 that would permit farmers to value their

property based on the property zoning rather than its Tier IV zoning for the purpose of farmland preservation easements. Kurt was pleased to find farmers and him supporting legislation. CB-24 which would have changed septic system rules was withdrawn. 4) Kurt attended an initial meeting on developing the Belt Woods Comprehensive Plan. He felt the approach being taken seems promising.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported he is catching up after just returning from Costa Rica. He has the upcoming programs from Jane Geuder. She reports that she will be rescheduling the speaker who was a no show due to illness as part of next year's schedule. He has an article reporting on the finding of the Long-eared Owl. Kathie reported that she will send him a report on the pot luck immediately after the event this coming Saturday.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob surveyed the Board to see if we had all received the latest NewsGram and concluded that the email system is functioning properly again. He will put off looking at MailChimp as a possible replacement for now, although he noted that MOS is using it for their mailings. He has posted the Chan Robbins memorial article on the website. We all agreed it was nicely done. Bob and Jo thanked those who had provided feedback as proof readers of the article.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie reported all is in readiness for Saturday. Thirty-six people have signed up and two RNC staff members are planning to attend. John McKitterick will make sure laptop is there although he had missed the Board meeting with a cold and may not make the potluck. RNC has provided a pass for two people to attend the nature center that will be a prize in the raffle.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): No report on the meeting held Saturday, March 4 at the College Park airport.

Old Business

Robinson Nature Center Memo of Understanding (MOU) – John met with Pamela Reese to finalize the MOU on March 7. The only issue was that RNC would like to set the end time for our meetings at 9:30 pm with an option to ask for later if we foresee a special need to run longer. John had surveyed the board earlier and we agreed that this would work. John will sign the MOU and deliver it to RNC.

Howard County Garden Club speaker – Linda Hunt will give a presentation to the garden club on butterfly/pollinator gardening. She has been in contact with their incoming Vice-President and the event is scheduled for June 2018.

SkyWatch eBird hotspot update – John had contacted eBird and inquired if they had a preference between the two options we discussed at last meeting. Namely 1) creating a SkyWatch hotspot interior to the Mt. Pleasant hotspot OR 2) a pseudo-account for the site that would be shared by anyone creating an eBird list at the site. They said either or both options would be OK. After discussion with Mike Kerwin and Joe Hanfman the preferred approach will be to create a hotspot. John has submitted that request but so far, he is waiting for the local volunteer hotspot coordinator to get around to it. Eventually we will announce the hotspot in NewsGram, Goldfinch, on the website (permanent), and on signs at the SkyWatch. Announcement should explain how we want people to use it, including using the comments section to note non-bird sightings. For those who don't do eBird we agreed we should create a separate eBird account maintained by one person (Mike Kerwin (?), John Harris) and have the non-eBird users send a list of what they observed to that person. The recipient would then enter the data in that eBird account so that we would have a more thorough list of sightings to report to The Howard County Conservancy. John agreed he could act as the person entering records from non-eBirder's but would check to see if Mike would like to do that.

Events Volunteer Coordinator position – Sue Muller had not had any responses to initial NewsGram announcement of need for a volunteer to solicit/seek volunteers to man a club table/booth at various events such as GreenFest. Sue will announce need at coming club meeting, in another NewsGram, and in an article for the Goldfinch.

New Business

Chandler Robbins remembrance - Chan passed away earlier in the week. Jo announced that the family is planning a memorial service on April 15 at the United Methodist Church in Laurel. Bob will include the details for the memorial in an upcoming NewsGram. Jo reported that the staff at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center is hoping to hold a “living” outdoor activity at the refuge in Chan’s memory. MOS and the chapters are to be included and proposals for this event are welcome. We will announce the naming of the SkyWatch after Chan in the future but will limit the article in next Goldfinch to a short announcement of Chan’s death and a pointer to the website memorial page. Woody has reported that the Mt. Pleasant Grounds Committee will meet next week and he would like to be able to state the official name we are proposing. We agreed that it will be called the “Chandler S. Robbins SkyWatch.” John will notify Woody of this wording. We agreed it would be appropriate to send the family a sympathy card from the club and John took an action to do so.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Coordinate and give a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Woody/John H. SCHEDULED
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller REPORTED LAST MEETING
- Coordinate volunteers for the GreenFest display – Mary Lou/John H SEEKING COORDINATOR
- Conduct an email vote on Board acceptance of amended MOU – John Harris DONE
- Coordinate updated list of members approved for use of bird skins/specimens – Jo/John H DONE
- Talk to Mike Kerwin about SkyWatch signage – John Harris MIKE DECLINED TO DESIGN SIGNS
- Talk to Mike Kerwin and Joe Hanfman about the idea of a SkyWatch eBird account – John Harris DONE
- Contact Mary Maxey and assess status of plans for Jug Bay trip – Sue Muller DONE
- Ask Linda Hunt if she would be willing to give a program on butterflies to the Garden Club – John H DONE
- After Sue sends him the number for Park Ranger include it in an upcoming NEWSGRAM – Sue/Bob DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Ask Cindy to draft proposed budget for next Board meeting – John H.
- Provide text of request for an Event Volunteer Coordinator to Bob and Howard for inclusion in NewsGram and Goldfinch – Sue Muller
- Notify Woody of name for SkyWatch – John H.
- Send sympathy card from club to Robbins family – John H.
- Sign the RNC MOU and deliver it them for county signature – John H.
- Seek a person to serve as design coordinator for SkyWatch signage (ask Nancy McAllister) – 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)

- Agenda – HCBC Board of Directors Meeting – March 23, 2017
- Howard County Bird Club Treasurer’s Report – January & February (as of Feb. 28, 2017)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

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

Agenda

March 23, 2017 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright (will not be present)
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Announce slate of nominees in April meeting
 - Thank you Mary Lou Clark for running the January Board meeting
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
 - Robinson Nature Center memorandum of understanding (MOU)
 - Howard County Garden Club speaker – Linda Hunt will present
 - SkyWatch eBird hotspot update
 - Events Coordinator position
8. New Business
 - Chandler Robbins remembrance
9. Action Items Chuck
10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Mary Lou Clark

5153 Morningside Lane
Ellicott City MD 21043

(443) 878-2546

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT (Jan & Feb)
as of February 28, 2017

	Budget 2016-17	Jan & Feb Current Month	May - Feb Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		330	5,867
State Dues Paid			3,215
Net Membership Dues	2,000		2,652
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		100	3,023
Total Operating Income	2,000	430	5,675
Expenses			
Skywatch install (Used PNC funds-didn't deduct from current income)			[3488]
Habitat Preserv. To purchase trees for HCC			[1170]
Honorarium - Intern Barbara Sikorski			1,000
Programs	600	150	410
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200		250
Postage, Copies	250	90	270
HCBC Decals			450
Newsletter & Directory	400		379
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		300
Greenfest	35		35
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000		
Total Operating Expense	2,785	240	3,094
Income less Expense		190	2,581

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

Reserve Account beginning bal. 1/01/17	16190.93
Interest Received in Jan \$1.69 & Feb 1.58	3.27
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 02/28/17	16194.20

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 01/01/17	4807.62
Checking Bal. 02/28/17	3959.15
Total Assets	20153.35