

PSO Board of Directors Meeting

Boalsburg

February 28, 2009

The board of directors met at Duffy's Tavern in Boalsburg with the following members present: Rob Blye, John Fedak, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Rudy Keller, Arlene Koch, Tom Kuehl, Sandy Lockerman, Mark McConaughy, and Carmen Santasania. The meeting was called to order at 11:42 a.m. by Arlene.

Mark moved and Frank seconded a motion that the minutes be accepted as received through email. The motion passed.

Frank gave the treasurer's report simply as "we have money." He also said that the membership is up a bit. John moved and Mark seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed.

Margaret discussed the rebuttal letter that she received from Sam Sinderson in response to Mark Henry's conservation article that referred to the probably of the dire effects of global warming. It was decided that only the portion of letter which responded directly to Mark's comments would be printed in the newsletter. It was also agreed that this is the last letter on this subject that will be published in the newsletter. Rudy moved and Frank seconded a motion that we publish Sam's letter as it responds to Mark Henry's article. The motion passed with Mark and John dissenting.

Note: An additional letter was received from Tom Dick, Audubon, and The Nature Conservancy in rebuttal to Sam's response. Through email discussion, it was decided that this response should not be published in the newsletter but placed on the PSO website with a note in the newsletter that the response is on the website. It is further noted that Sam sent another rebuttal letter responding to this letter, but it was not published in the newsletter or on the website.

Old Business

Carmen asked Pennsylvania Audubon if PSO could use their mailing list to solicit new members. They refused.

Geoff has not yet started an advisory board search.

John will write a letter which Arlene will sign to send to other bird clubs in Pennsylvania in an attempt to get new members.

T-shirts - We have plenty of t-shirts to sell at the annual meeting.

Carmen will check to see if the governor will declare a birding week in Pennsylvania. It should be the 3rd week in May if possible.

The AOU meeting is in Philadelphia in August this year. Frank said that he is willing to

man a table for PSO if we can get more information on the cost. Rudy offered to help. We will have to check with Linda to see if the insurance is up to date for the annual meeting.

The E-bird site is up and running, and Doug Gross and Dan Brauning are working on the site. The PGC has adopted the project.

New Business

Certificates of Appreciation

There was unanimous agreement on the five nominations that were presented. Arlene will sign the certificates and send them to Frank who will include the copy of *Pennsylvania Birds* in which the specific bird was reported before mailing the certificates to the recipients.

Bill Etter is no longer compiling the migration count data. A new migration count coordinator is needed.

New Board Members

Arlene said that she would write an article for the newsletter asking interested persons to contact us if they think that they would like to serve on the board. This would be for the future and not necessarily for the annual meeting this year.

The 2010 annual meeting will be held at Presque Isle. We may be able to use the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

2009 Annual Meeting

The 2009 meeting will be at the Morgantown Holiday Inn, but the meeting will have to be in the atrium. We need enough snacks for 45 to 50 people on Friday night. Frank will decide what the snack will be. It was suggested that a veggie tray be provided as one of the offerings. The vendors will be in a side room. The Holiday Inn is willing to set up a breakfast buffet for us early if we can get 25 people to agree to purchase it. There will be cookies for the Saturday afternoon break. The Saturday night banquet will also be in the atrium. The open bar will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the banquet following at 7:00. The Distelfink will be used on the pin. The auction items will be displayed beginning on Saturday.

Awards

The nominations for our awards include Nick Pulcinella for the Poole Award and the Bartramian Audubon for the Conservation Award. Rudy moved and Rob seconded a motion that these nominations be accepted. The vote was unanimous in favor of the nominations.

Corey Husic is the winner of this year's Youth Scholarship. He was nominated by

Arlene.

Costs

The current registration fee is \$30 and our costs are approximately \$21. It was suggested that the fee be raised to \$35. The cost of the rooms this year will be \$94.

Field Trips

The current list of possible field trips include: French Creek, Great Marsh, Hay Creek, Glen Morgan Lake, Blue Marsh, Strubble Trail, State Game Lands, National Land Trust, Chrome Barrens, and Middle Creek.

Speakers

Steve Saffier - Audubon at Home Bird Habitat Recognition Program
Bert Filemyre and Jeff Holt - The Composite Prints of Audubon's Birds of America
Todd Underwood - Egg Recognition Behavior as Defense Against Cowbird Parasitism
David Barber - Movement Ecology of Vultures in Pennsylvania

Vendors

Aden Troyer, Larry Lewis, Jim Lockyer, Dave Hughes, and Backyard Birding Trips

The meeting adjourned at 1:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary