

PSO Board of Directors Meeting

Boalsburg, PA

February 22, 2014

Members present: John Fedak, Mark McConaughy, Shonah Hunter, Marjorie Howard, Wayne Laubscher, Mike Fialkovich, Mike Lanzone, Flo McGuire, Emily Thomas, Scott Stoleson, Chad Kaufman, Tom Kuehl, Carmen Santasania, Sandy Lockerman, Frank Haas, Geoff Malosh, Andy McGann **anyone else?** . John called the meeting to order at 11:38 a.m.

Minutes - Roger Higbee (*in absentia*)

Minutes of October 5, 2013. Motion to approve (Mark, Scott). Approved.
Shonah will take minutes today.

Treasurer's Report & Membership Report - Frank Haas

Financial report – Motion to approve (Mark, Margie). Approved.

Membership – could increase. Carmen said many people are joining the listserve primarily because of the Snowy Owl project. He will put an announcement on the listserve about PSO.

It was suggested (**by whom?**) that on the membership renewal form/online, there could be a \$5 box to donate to Snowy Owl project – Project SNOWstorm.

Mike Lanzone suggested sending PA Birds to libraries to try to get subscriptions to them.

Request/Suggestion on purchases – Check into “not for profit” Paypal charges to see if they can be reduced.

Tome Kuehl said his employer will probably make another donation this year to PSO.

Newsletter – Margaret Higbee (*in absentia*)

Status/Requirements for the March issue. Margaret needs articles now.

Suggestions: Encourage submissions from outside organization. Perhaps Holly will do an article on ebird.

Certificates of Appreciation – Sandy Lockerman

Nominations/Approvals – Sandy has 13 awards to send out. It was noted that the COA committee makes the decision about COA recipients and reports to the Board. The Board does not have to approve it, it just accepts the report.

John will send out the COA member list.

Change in who can receive COAs – Sandy asked whether who is no longer in their home can receive a COS because it's now not a homeowners property. Should there be some variation in the wording.

Motion (Geoff, Scott) to allow the COA committee to make the decision about whether a non-homeowner should be given a COA.

Awards Committee – Mike Lanzone

Status/timeline for awards at the May/June 2014 annual meeting.

John – Nominated Cameron County Youth Outdoor Activity for the Conservation Award (make sure I got this right).

John – nominated Scott Stoleson for the Poole Award

Motion (Mark, Carmen) made to close nominations. Approved. 1 abstention (Scott) for the Poole Award nomination.

PA Birds - Geoff Malosh

General updates/issues – the Editorial Board will be meeting. It is still a struggle to get articles. The compilers are doing OK, but some cannot be reached. Finding new compilers is hard.

Points of discussion:

Geoff raised concerns about the Board decision to make electronic versions available to students because we had previously decided not to make the journal electronically available. Will this now extend to other members? What other services should be extended to other members? What about viewing only, but not downloadable? Geoff will find out what other organizations do.

Does the journal really still need to be in print? If not in print, then many things about the journal could change. What direction is it going?

In the next 5 years, Geoff will be leaving as Editor, so the Board needs to discuss the transition.

Birds of Note database can be useful to help compilers with county records, etc. PORC database is not searchable.

Geoff will send Carmen a compilers job description to post on the listserve to try to get more county compilers.

Old Business:

New Directors: Tom said 5 Directors' terms will be expiring. Mark and Sandy are interested in continuing. Tom as past president will not be continuing.

Officers: Mike Fialkovich was nominated for the VP.

Board of Directors job description: Tom has done it and will send it to Mike Lanzone.

Annual meeting 2015 – Somewhere around West Chester/southern Chester County for the end of May/early June time. West Chester Bird Club is very active. Shonah will look into it.

Annual meeting 2016 – Mike Lanzone suggested Sommerset.

New Business:

Summer Field Trips: Chad said several are planned (**get more info from Chad**).

Wayne reported that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment is considering a proposal to site 36 wind turbines on Amherst Island, Ontario.

Motion (Wayne, Scott) for PSO Board to draft a letter to the Ministry to oppose the project because of bird conservation issues. Approved.

Motion (Mike L., Mark) for PSO Board to send a letter to the wind companies and the local representatives expressing opposition to the Stone Mountain and Jacks Mountain wind projects. Approved.

Motion (Scott, Mike L.) for PSO Board to send a letter (to whom?) in opposition to HB 1576 which would require Fish and Boat Commission and the Game Commission to send their endangered species list to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission for review. Approved. Individuals should also contact their local representatives.

The web site needs to be updated – Mike L. and Drew Weber will work on that.

Annual Meeting – Bradford, PA June 6-8, 2014

Location and catering review – Shonah reported that the details were falling into place for the UPitt – Bradford Conference Center.

Outings Review – Scott and John – 6 outings each day. Plans are continuing.

Review Agenda, Speaker, Vendors and Presentations – John. There will be a speaker on Saw-whet breeding habitat, one on youth and nature, Mike L. will present on Project SNOWstorm. The Allegheny Highlands Rehabilitation Center will have a presentation which will be open to the public in the nearby auditorium. PSO is co-sponsoring and there is a \$50 charge for the presentation (**John correct this for me**).

There will be several vendors and displays. An outside tent will be set up for Aiden to display his optics.

Motion (Scott, Andy) to order 50 Zippo lighters with the PSO logo for sale at the meeting and thereafter, on the website. The cost is ????? and we will charge \$32.50. The silver color was chosen, but if there is enough interest, the green color may also be ordered.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shonah A. Hunter, Interim Secretary.