

PSO Board of Directors Meeting

Boalsberg, PA

October 24, 2015

The PSO Board of Directors met with the following members present: Chuck Berthoud, Jarrod Derr, Mike Fialkovich, Vern Gauthier, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Chad Kauffman, Mike Lanzone, Wayne Laubscher, Geoff Malosh, Annette Mathes, Flo McGuire, Holly Merker, and Linda Wagner. Mike called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes – Roger

The minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting by email. A motion to accept the minutes was made and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report & Membership Report - Frank

Frank distributed the treasurer's report and an update on PSO membership. Frank noted that we are still in the black with an October 23, 2015, bank balance of \$20,634.41. Membership has dropped by 38 members over last year.

A discussion ensued as to why there has been a decrease in membership. It was noted that several board members have encountered birders that feel intimidated by the mention of PSO and don't know who we are or what we do. The best way to gain new members seems to be face to face contact. Also facebook seems to have had a positive influence on new members. Another suggestion was to post on the list serve what PSO is doing.

Newsletter – Margaret

Margaret commented that she is in pretty good shape with articles for the newsletter. A number of people have already agreed to submit articles, and this issue will include a listing of the Christmas Bird Counts. If there is room, the membership list will also be included. It was suggested that a note could be posted on the list serve to ask for articles.

Certificates of Appreciation

There were no new COAs to approve.

Field Trips – Chad

Chad reported that PSO has now had a field trip to all of the hawk watches in PA. He plans to arrange some field trips with local bird clubs. He said that he is considering recommending that anyone who participates in any of the longer PSO field trips should be a member. There are 20 to 30 people on the field trip committee.

A trip to Barnegat Light has been scheduled for February, and he is going to arrange a trip back to Bucktoe. Potential future field trips include the Niagara Frontier, a winter pelagic, a North Carolina pelagic in August, and Cape May.

Awards Committee - Mike F.

Mike will post to the list serve for nominations for the Poole Award and the Conservation Award.

PSO Journal – Geoff

Geoff sent a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Editorial Board to all the PSO board members. A majority of the Editorial Board think that *PA Birds* should remain the way that it is. The possibility of recruiting a new photo editor was discussed. Geoff stated that copy editing takes most of the time for him and the seasonal editors. He questioned if there was any money available for a copy editor. The question was raised what the board thought of the possibility of publishing *PA Birds* on line. It was suggested that a survey of the membership be conducted to determine if this is feasible.

Geoff said that several people had expressed interest in the chief editor's position for *PA Birds*. They are Greg Grove and Tom Johnson. After discussing the candidates, Geoff made a motion that Frank seconded that Greg Grove be named as the chief editor. The motion was approved unanimously. Geoff said that Greg wants to do the copy editing himself. Geoff will finish as chief editor with Volume 29 which is the fall issue. Greg will begin with the winter issue.

Nominating – Mike L.

Wayne seems to be the only member on the Nominating Committee at this time besides Mike. Deb Grove was suggested as a possible new board member, and she has agreed to serve if elected. Chuck made a motion to place Deb Grove's name before the members at the annual meeting to be voted on. Frank seconded the motion. The vote to approve her nomination was unanimous.

A candidate for vice-president is still needed.

PORC

A summary of accepted records has not been published since 2011. Geoff suggested breaking the report into two parts. Summarize 2012 in one report and the rest in a second one. It was suggested that an ebird report that is documented with a photograph should be accepted with no further review.

Annual Meeting 2016 -- Shonah

The next Annual Meeting will be at the Quality Inn and Conference Center in Somerset, from May 21 through 23, 2016. Shonah said that rooms will be \$65 per night which will include breakfast. It will cost \$225 per day for use of the conference room. Shonah mentioned that she likes the online registration. She also said that this may be the last meeting that she organizes. Field trips are being planned.

Annual Meeting 2017

There was a brief discussion on where and when the annual meeting should be held in 2017. Chad and Vern volunteered to organize the 2017 annual meeting in Cumberland County. Chad made a motion which Frank seconded to have our 2017 annual meeting in Cumberland County. The motion passed unanimously. After some further discussion about the time of the year to hold the meeting,

Vern made a motion that Mike seconded that the 2017 annual meeting should be held in the fall. The motion passed unanimously. The dates will be September 15, 16, and 17.

New Business

There was a lively discussion of how bird records should be preserved by PSO. Should they be on ebird or by some other means? One of the concerns was that not everyone uses ebird or wants to use ebird to record their bird sightings. Without all sightings entered in a database, it is difficult to access the data. No action was taken.

Wayne expressed the opinion that it would benefit all bird clubs if PSO would establish a list of possible program presenters. One possibility would be to have a list on the website on which people could enter names.

Mike L mentioned that a template could be used to design a new website. This would possibly allow the board to add to or change the website.

Mike L. would like board members to send him their ideas on what the society's members are getting out of their membership, as well as where we are now and in what direction we should head.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee
Secretary