

PSO Board of Directors Meeting

State College, PA

February 27, 2016

The PSO Board of Directors met with the following members present: Chuck Berthoud, Jarrod Derr, Sandy Lockerman, Mike Fialkovich, Vern Gauthier, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Chad Kauffman, Mike Lanzone (by Skype), Wayne Laubscher, Geoff Malosh, Annette Mathes, Mark McConaughy, Andy McGann, Flo McGuire, Holly Merker, Scott Stoleson, Emily Thomas, and Linda Wagner with Deb Grove also attending. Mike called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes – Roger

The minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting by email. Mark moved and Vern seconded a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Frank

Frank distributed the treasurer's report. There was a question on the annual meeting numbers. Frank explained that the income and expenses can be split over two fiscal years so that the totals for the meeting are at the bottom of the page. Mark made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, and Andy seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Certificates of Appreciation - Sandy

There were no new COAs to approve. There have been 126 COAs awarded thus far. If the person is not a member, they receive a complimentary copy of *PA Birds* in which the record of the bird appears. They also receive a PSO brochure with a membership form.

Awards Committee - Mike L.

There are two candidates for the Poole award. They are Bob Mulvihill and Scott Weidensaul. For the Conservation award the Somerset County Conservancy and Fort Indiantown Gap are being considered. For the Golden Pileated Project Snow Storm is a possibility. For the Service Award we need to discuss what we want to do for deserving PSO members, not just board members.

It was decided to recognize the Somerset County Conservancy. Vern made a motion which Sandy seconded. It was approved with one abstention. Bob Mulvihill was chosen to receive the Poole Award. Shonah made a motion and Mark seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously. It was decided not to award a Golden Pileated at this time. The Service Award needs to be better defined. We should create the award but check other organizations for ideas and have an email discussion to create the award and who should get it.

Field Trips – Chad

Already set for 2016.

Research and Conservation Committee – Scott

Scott would like to encourage "Citizen Scientists" to perform surveys of Northern Goshawks so that

they can be listed as threatened.

There was a discussion about splitting Conservation away from Research and creating it as a separate committee which Holly will chair.

Mike wants an update on committees and members so that they can be added to the website.

Newsletter – Margaret

Margaret commented that she has many articles for the next newsletter.

PSO Journal – Geoff and Greg

The transition is underway. Geoff is finishing the fall issue which will be his last one.

Greg is still concerned about getting articles. We need to decide what type of articles we want and the guidelines for submission. Greg feels that the articles should go easy on the statistics because the PA Bird audience is not scientific. Scott and Greg volunteered to establish the guidelines.

Nominating – Mike L.

Vern agreed to be vice-president.

PORC - Andy

Nearly all votes have been completed for records through 2014. He will have a little blurb for the newsletter. He will have individual summaries for each year. There will be low level eBird automated acceptance for certain unusual but not rare species. This would include multiple observers and days or photos or videos, etc.

Website – Mike L

Mike stated that he dropped the ball. We were attacked in November. He plans to transition over to a free server soon. Everyone on the board will get credentials to make changes to the website. By February 29 the website committee will have credentials to the new website so that they can add pages, etc. There will be a guide to tell people how to post to it.

Annual Meeting 2016 -- Shonah

The next Annual Meeting will be at the Quality Inn and Conference Center in Somerset, from May 20 through 22, 2016. The registration form is ready to go. Only four people registered by paper copy last meeting. Registration this year will be on line only as well as the youth scholarship nomination form. Shonah needs information about speakers, vendors, and award winners. Whoever asks any of the above is responsible for providing her with the information that she needs. So far known expenses are \$1169. Jeff Payne will coordinate the seven field trips. There may be an evening field trip on Friday night.

Speakers

Bob Mulvihill - Banquet

Afternoon Programs

Jeff Payne - Somerset Lake

Matt Webb - Window Deaths in Pittsburgh

Movie - "The Messenger"

Andy Wilson - Grassland Birds

Annual Meeting 2017

Chad and Vern are organizing the 2017 annual meeting in Cumberland County.

New Business

We need to determine our mission and future direction.

Andy noted that we have an all white board. Maybe we should look for possible board members within the minorities. He also thinks that we should try to get more young people involved.

Shonah suggested that maybe we could develop an urban youth scholarship.

Greg, Mike F, Vern, and Dan will create a survey for the membership. Once it is created, it will be emailed to all the board to review and vote on.

Chuck commented on the Pennsylvania Migration Count. Much of the data went to eBird, and he has not been able to get it into a useable format. Andy will write Mike L to send an email to eBird to allow us to get data so we can use it. It was also suggested to ask them to put a "donate to PSO" button on the eBird website.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee
Secretary