

PSO Board of Directors Meeting

Boalsburg, PA

November 19, 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, Wayne Laubscher, Annette Mathes, Andy McGann, Flo McGuire, and Holly Merker. Mike called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

Minutes – Roger

The minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting by email. Andy moved and Frank seconded a motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Frank suggested that the minutes be sent out within a week of the meeting so that other board members not in attendance would know what was discussed. There was a discussion whether to put the minutes on line, in the newsletter, or both. Vern made a motion which Frank seconded to put a recap of the minutes in the newsletter. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes will be emailed to board member for approval by vote and then the recap would be approved before it is put in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report - Frank

Frank distributed the treasurer's report. Frank said that our finances remain pretty steady. Sandy made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, and Holly seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. It was also decided to put the annual treasurer's report on the website.

Newsletter – Margaret

Margaret said that she still needs a conservation article for this newsletter. Chad said that he will submit a list of field trips for the next several months. Paul Hess will be sending his articles soon.

Other discussion about the newsletter included trying to encourage members to get the newsletter on line. A brief reminder will be placed in every newsletter. Other discussion included finding other ways to mail the newsletter including mailing it flat like a magazine and having the printer include the address when printing it. This would reduce the time presently spent to prepare the newsletter for mailing.

PSO Journal – Greg

Greg said that Geoff did an unbelievable amount of work when doing the journal. He, Deb, and Ted Nichols are now working together to do the same job.

After some discussion Greg said that the Pennsylvania bird lists would be published in the journal again. A disclaimer will be added saying that these are self-reported numbers and that any questions should be directed to the compiler. Greg also said that he is not ready to put *PA Birds* on line yet, so it will remain as a printed journal for several more years. The board discussed the need for articles for the journal and suggested that we make a plea for articles on Face Book.

To encourage grad students to contribute articles to *PA Birds*, the possibility of giving a grad student a grant/scholarship of \$300 to \$500 dollars was discussed. In return, the student would have to give a talk at the annual meeting or write an article for the journal. Academic s would be contacted to ask them to make students aware of this and encourage them to apply. Frank made a motion which Chuck seconded that PSO sponsor at least one and maybe two grad students each year with a \$500 grant/scholarship to help with a research project involving a bird that regularly occurs in Pennsylvania. The student does not have to attend school in Pennsylvania, and the research does not necessarily have to be conducted in the state. The results will have to be written in layman's terms to be published in *PA Birds*. The motion passed unanimously. Andy and Chuck will work on this project under the research committee. Andy will write an article for the newsletter encouraging students to apply. Applicants will be screened on the applicability of their research to Pennsylvania ornithology.

Certificates of Appreciation - Sandy

There had been no new COAs to approve until several board members mentioned several people they thought should receive them. Sandy will take care of sending them. Frank sends the magazine in which the record appears, a membership form, and a letter to the recipient of the COA.

Annual Meeting 2017

The next annual meeting will be held in Cumberland County on September 15 to 17, 2017, at the Comfort Inn and Suites in downtown Carlisle. Several birding organizations are helping with the meeting and will be conducting field trips in their areas which include Adams, Franklin, and Dauphin Counties. Waggoner's Gap Hawkwatch will be an afternoon field trip possibly on both days.

The banquet speaker will be Ted Floyd. Jack Solomon has volunteered to pay for Ted's air fare, and Tom Kuehl will pay for the speaker's fee. Other speakers will be Andy Wilson speaking on "The Use of Drones in Research" and Art McMorris on "Pennsylvania Peregrines." Ian Gardner has volunteered to present an educational program on Friday evening on "Fall Warbler ID."

The bird on the meeting pin will be the Dickcissel. Also a meeting T-shirt will be sold with a Dickcissel on it with possibly part of the proceeds going toward the youth scholarship fund. The shirts will be ordered by the participant at the time of registration so that we will have the sizes and number needed. There will be no silent auction this year. Registration will be on line again for the meeting, and we will probably use EventBrite. Vern said that he will only organize the 2017 annual meeting.

Chad suggested that we might have bird banding as a field trip at a future meeting.

Mike suggested that the 2018 meeting be in Crawford County. He will check the Days Inn in Meadville as a possible meeting place

Conservation and Education Committee – Holly

There are eight to ten members on the committee. They discussed having a tab on the website so that anyone can click on it and go to a page where they can get information on conservation issues. We may want to consider taking positions on issues and encouraging people to contact appropriate entities to voice their views. An example would be shade grown coffee and where to buy it. Annette said she will share an article on the extent of involvement in political positions for nonprofit organizations.

The committee has also been considering what direction to go with education. They decided to focus on youth birding. One of the ideas was to assemble a young birder kit to be given to groups of young birders. It was suggested that the committee consider what they would put in the kit and what the cost would be. The board would then be better able to decide if they want to fund such an effort. Another possibility is to ask for donations from companies such as REI.

Field Trips – Chad

Chad will get Margaret a list of coming outings for the newsletter.

Wayne is looking at a possible trip to Ontario probably in February. This will depend on if the northern species come south. Vern said he will probably lead a trip to New Jersey February 24 to 26.

Website – Mike F

Mike is wondering where we stand on the new website. After some discussion, Andy said that he will contact Drew Weber to start a new website project. Mike F said that he will contact Mike L and let him know that we are going to move on. It is estimated that we should have a new website by March 2017.

PORC – Andy

Andy said that the last PORC report was published for 2011. He currently has the 2012 report approximately 80% complete. The remaining years will be compiled and written by a cooperative effort of Mike F, Ian Gardner, and Andy.

New Business

Mike F thinks that we need to look at committees again and disband inactive committees. Essentially, we do not have to have a committee just to have a committee to make a list. Vern said he thinks that if someone has an idea or project that they are willing to put time and effort into, then we should consider forming a committee to pursue that idea or project.

Vern expressed his opinion that we as individuals and members of PSO should do more “evangelizing” to personally invite nonmembers and previous members to join PSO. He feels that the personal touch has more effect on encouraging people to join than just writing articles about PSO.

Vern made a motion to adjourn which Frank seconded. No one objected. The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee
Secretary