

PSO Board of Directors Meeting

Boalsburg, PA

April 8, 2017

The PSO Board of Directors met with the following members present: Mike Fialkovich, Vern Gauthier, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Chad Kauffman, Annette Mathes, Flo McGuire, Holly Merker, Scott Stoleson, and Emily Thomas. Mike called the meeting to order at 11:43 a.m.

Treasurer's Report - Frank

Frank distributed the treasurer's report on line prior to the meeting. Frank prepared a chart that showed that the PSO finances have had a steady underlying growth over the years. Frank made a motion to approve the treasurer's report which Vern seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes – Roger

The minutes were distributed online prior to the meeting. Mike commented that nothing needed to be reviewed or changed.

Newsletter – Margaret

The next newsletter will be out in early June, and the deadline for articles will be May 20. All the information for registration needs to be in this newsletter as there will not be another one before the annual meeting in September. Margaret thanked Chad for getting people to write articles for the newsletter.

After some discussion it was decided that when Chad has completed his (description of upcoming) **report of previous field trips**, he will immediately place them online and then forward them to Margaret for the next issue of the newsletter.

PSO Journal – Greg

The fall issue of *Pennsylvania Birds* will be a little late due to the probable resignation of our photo editor, Ted Nichols. Ted has an increased work load at his job and does not feel that he can spend the necessary time doing the photo editor's job.

Annual Meeting 2017 - Vern

The next annual meeting will be held in Cumberland County, September 15 to 17, 2017, at the Comfort Inn and Suites in downtown Carlisle.

There will be 10 field trips per day with no more than 12 people on each trip. All but one of the leaders has been confirmed.

The schedule of events will be similar to past years with the exception of the Friday night business meeting which will be held at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30. In addition, there will be a fall warbler ID seminar at 8:00 and a field trip at 8:30. Also, Saturday afternoon programs will not start until 2:00, giving people a chance to visit the Waggoner's Gap Hawkwatch.

Because there will no longer be a silent auction to raise money for the youth scholarship, it was suggested that a meeting T-shirt be sold to replace the lost income with the PSO logo on the front and the meeting logo on the back. Shirts will be available in two different colors and cost \$16 per shirt. We would make approximately \$5.50 per shirt. Two other suggestions to replace the auction income were placing a donation button on the website, which was decided against, and requesting Rockjumper Tours to sponsor the meeting with a donation. Another suggestion was to have a 50/50 small game of chance or a guessing game of how many objects are in a jar. We would have to purchase a \$25 permit to be legal. Chad volunteered to be responsible for it. Chad made a motion which Vern seconded to have the 50/50. The motion passed.

Chad will be the contact for any vendors and will organize them. There is room for 12-15 tables in the meeting room. Vendors can set up Friday evening and stay through Saturday afternoon.

The cost of the banquet will be \$30 without dessert. Mike will ask Sherron Lynch if she is interested in making a cake for the banquet. Shonah suggested that we find out what the cost per person will be and pay Sherron. If she is not interested or cannot do it, then it was suggested that we buy a sheet cake locally.

Vern suggested that we use TicketSpice for online registration this year. A brief discussion ended with the decision to use TicketSpice. It was noted that using an online registration service involves a charge per registration. After we discussed whether to charge an additional \$3 to cover this cost, the consensus was not to charge for this online fee.

Deadlines for various aspects of registration were discussed. Also, Shonah suggested adding three banquet meals for late registrants or arrivals. A late fee of \$5 will be charged for late registration. A student registration rate was also discussed. Registration will begin June 10. **There will be a definite end date for online registration.** Vern will receive the registration forms that are mailed.

Mike thanked Vern for an excellent job on the meeting details.

Awards Committee – Vern

The committee considered four candidates for the Conservation Award (see attached Awards Committee report). On a 3-to-1 vote, the committee decided to recommend the Audubon Hawkwatch at Waggoner's Gap. Vern moved to approve the Audubon Hawkwatch at Waggoner's Gap as the 2017 Conservation Award recipient. Frank seconded the motion which was approved. It was decided that PSO would pay for two representatives and two guests to come to the meeting to receive the award. After discussion, we decided to increase the amount of the monetary award to \$200. Greg moved this increase, and Shonah seconded the motion which was approved.

The Poole Award had four nominees. The committee decided to recommend Scott Weidensaul as the Poole Award recipient for 2017 on a 3-to-2 vote. Vern made a motion, which Frank seconded, to confirm Scott Weidensaul as the 2017 Poole Award winner. The motion was approved. He will receive \$100 and a plaque.

The Youth Scholarship Award was discussed and it was decided that it should be the Education committee's responsibility. Vern made a motion to move the Youth Scholarship from the Awards Committee to the Education Committee. Shonah seconded the motion which was approved.

Certificates of Appreciation –

Two new COAs were issued.

Membership Survey – Mike

Various sections of the Membership Survey results were discussed. Members felt that the field trips were the most important part of the annual meeting with the banquet second. The newsletter and journal were rated very high in importance.

After a review of the survey results, we discussed the annual meeting. The feeling was that the meeting is the same every year. Something new should be added to attract more people. The possibility of bird banding was suggested, and it was noted that three banders are on the board. Vern suggested that we try fall meetings for the next two or three years to see how attendance fares and then reevaluate whether spring or fall meetings seem to suit people better. The feeling is that we should choose where the meetings will be well in advance so that people can make plans. For 2018 we will try to put together a meeting in the Crawford County area which would include Pymatuning. Northeastern Pennsylvania was suggested for 2019's meeting.

Mike said that he would comment on the survey in his newsletter article.

Chad suggested that, after we digest the current membership survey, we should consider a general generic survey of the general public to find out what people are thinking.

Conservation and Education Committee – Holly

The Conservation and Education Committee has been split into the Conservation Committee chaired by Annette and the Education Committee chaired by Holly.

Conservation Committee – Annette

We discussed how we should focus our efforts on conservation. Some possibilities could be to provide awareness, (have native plant sales) **promote members' participation in bird census surveys**, raise money for a particular issue or cause. We could narrow it to a particular issue that affects birds. We should make PSO an information portal with links on a page of our website. Action would not be suggested, but this would give anyone interested the information to take action. Another possibility is to help the Pennsylvania Game Commission conduct surveys.

Education Committee – Holly

The Education Committee will now be responsible for deciding the winner of the youth scholarship award and making arrangements for his or her attendance at the annual meeting. Other possible functions of the committee could be providing resources or educational tips, sponsoring events such as local workshops, and distributing young birder kits.

A Conservation Fund could be established which could provide scholarships for youth attending birding camps. The fund could possibly be initially funded by relabeling the Discretionary Fund as the Conservation Fund. The possibility of using the Big Sit as a fundraiser was suggested as well as asking for corporation donations.

PORC - Mike

Mike reported that the results for the PORC reviews for the listed years are as follows:

2012 – Andy has the report mostly completed.

2013 – Mike has completed this report.

2014 – Mike has volunteered to write this report if the PORC wants him to.

2015 – Needs to be done.

2016 – Needs to be done.

PORC is using an expedited review process to minimize a backlog. The process will use eBird records that have already been reviewed by the eBird reviewer if the record contains an identifiable photograph. No written records will be accepted in this expedited process. A record can still be flagged for review by PORC. PORC will be reviewing the entire state list to update it.

There has been a problem with the PORC site becoming so full of records for review that it stops accepting them. Holly questioned how this can be fixed. Frank said that PORC could be incorporated into the PSO database which will accept more records.

Website – Mike F

There has been no news on the new website from Andy or Drew. Last meeting it was estimated that a new website would be running by March of this year. The BOD agreed that we definitely need a new website before the fall meeting. Some of the suggestions were to check with Andy, setting a definite deadline. If Andy is too busy, possibly Jarrod may be interested in working on it. Another possibility is to continue to build on what Mike L began. Mike F said that he would check into it.

Breeding Bird Blitz

Vern posed the question of whether we should use prizes to encourage people to participate in the Breeding Bird Blitz. The consensus of the board was that prizes are not necessary.

PAMC

Chuck questions the need to compile the PAMC. He has had much difficulty getting the records from eBird. No decision was made on this issue.

Frank moved to adjourn, and Vern seconded the motion. Everyone was in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee
Secretary