

PSO Board of Directors Meeting

Teleconference

November 27, 2018

The PSO Board of Directors met with the following members present: Vern Gauthier, Doug Gross, Greg Grove, Deb Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Laura Jackson, Chad Kauffman, Wayne Laubscher, Evan Mann, Andy McGann, Holly Merker, and Emily Thomas . Evan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Minutes--Roger

The minutes had been distributed by email prior to the meeting. Frank made a motion which Holly seconded to accept the minutes as distributed.

Education –Holly

A question arose concerning how much it costs for a student scholarship to the PSO meeting. The general consensus is about \$300. A discussion ensued concerning how the funds for the scholarship could be raised. Vern suggested that perhaps we could use the Big Sit by asking for donations from one or more Big Sits in various areas. The exact details were not discussed. Also suggested was a check off box on the website to donate to the scholarship fund. State College Bird Club has a standing annual scholarship for a central Pennsylvania youth to attend the annual PSO meeting. It was suggested that we might try contacting the presidents of other local bird clubs to see if they would be willing to donate to the youth scholarship fund.

Holly then explained her proposal to involve the PSO in the symposium “Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth.” This event aims to connect youth in the mid-Atlantic region who are interested in birding. The Symposium will be held at Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin, Delaware the weekend of September 27-29, 2019. PSO’s involvement could be in several different ways. The general consensus of the board was that this is a project that PSO should support. Holly will get back to the board with more information on how the PSO can support this project through monetary contribution and by volunteering time. Please see Holly’s email November 26, 2018 with the Education Committee report attached for more details.

PORC—Holly

Holly thanked Andy for the time he served on the committee as both a member and as the chairman. PORC is considering a replacement for Andy who stepped down and will inform the board who they are considering as a courtesy. The board would like to approve proposed candidates, but both PORC’s and PSO’s bylaws would have to be changed to allow this. Frank congratulated Holly on getting PORC running more smoothly. Please see Holly’s full report which is attached to her email of November 25, 2018.

Financial Report – Frank

Frank reported that finances are fairly stable and there has been a slight increase in membership. We made about \$2,300 on the annual meeting this year. Approximately 109 people attended the meeting in Meadville and 130 in Carlyle last year. Evan questioned the costs associated with the production of the newsletter and the journal. Frank said that the costs are approximately \$300 and

\$3,000 respectively per issue. Please see Frank's full report attached to his email dated November 25, 2018.

Website – Frank

One issue that needs resolved with a better program is the site guides. More site guides need to be added to the website as not all areas are well covered. Evan suggested that possibly the county compilers could be asked to either write up the sites in their county or find a local birder or bird club who would be willing to contribute a write-up of a site. Frank said that he would like to hold off on trying to solicit write-ups for hot spots until he has a better program to present them on the website. Frank will provide the guidelines for the site write-ups. Andy suggested that the write up include a section on how to bird the site.

Another suggestion is that each newsletter issue could contain a highlight of a section of the website to make members aware of everything that the website contains. Frank said that he will write an article, and he has already submitted one for the March *Pileated*.

Newsletter – Margaret

The December newsletter is at the printers and will be out in early December. The next issue will be March and she will need articles by February 20.

PSO Journal – Greg

Greg thanked Frank for covering the cost of the color printing in the last *PA Birds* issue. He also said that the summer issue is almost done and will be in the mail by mid-December. He needs articles for the journal as this issue has only one article. Greg wants the county lists on line only and does not want them in the journal. He said that maybe some of the highlights of the lists could be included in the newsletter. Frank would like to see a summary of the lists in *PA Birds* and maybe also the newsletter. Frank also volunteered to put them on the website and update the lists as people send in their totals.

Student written articles were discussed again. The mechanism for PSO grants to students to do research and then write articles for *PABirds* is in place. An ad-hoc committee will be formed to evaluate any proposals for the grants. Deb, Greg, Vern, and Emily volunteered to be on the committee. Frank said that he believes that Greg should put out requests for articles on Face Book and the listserves.

Bylaws – Evan

Evan said that he, Vern, and Holly looked at the bylaws and will revise and rewrite them in time for the 2019 annual meeting.

2019 Annual Meeting – Wayne

The 2019 annual meeting will be held in Williamsport on September 13, 14, and 15 at the Holiday Inn Express. The cost of a room per night will be \$99 which includes a hot and cold breakfast at 5:30 a.m. He also negotiated the same room price for a small number of rooms at the Hampton Inn. The meeting rooms at the Holiday Inn are reasonable, and for the banquet he will probably go with a buffet. The Merlin will be depicted on the meeting pin. He will try to find a local artist to design the

pin. He already has a good list of possible field trips. Dan Brauning and Doug Gross were suggested as possible speakers.

Vern asked if registration for the meeting will migrate to the PSO website. Frank suggested that we stay with Vern's site which Vern will handle.

Conservation -- Laura

Laura said that there are no other members on the committee other than her and possibly Holly.

The procedure for taking action on conservation issues was discussed. The procedure will be that the board will be contacted about any issue, and a vote by email will be taken whether to proceed or not. The email vote would then be approved at the next board meeting and put in the minutes. (This procedure was changed by a motion and vote. See below.) A comment was made that some people think that PSO is not as responsive as they could be. We also need to be careful about the issues that we choose to promote.

Motion on procedure to conduct email votes – Vern and Evan

The bylaws need to be changed to reflect the use of email to conduct votes and how to record the votes. The board needs to agree on a procedure to conduct the email votes until the bylaws are changed.

Vern made a motion that any committee may take an email vote with the majority of the board members affirming the issue. Board members must vote within two days. The motion and the results must be entered into the minutes of the next board meeting. Evan seconded the motion which was approved.

Field Trips – Chad

Chad commented that there is already a list of field trips, but new ones can be added.

Birding Expo – Evan

Evan would like to increase the PSO membership. One possible way would be to have a presence at the birding expo to be held in Philadelphia. He said that a large number of Pennsylvania birders who do not belong to PSO attend the expo, so this could be a source for new members.

Meeting Dates – Vern

Vern would like to have set meeting dates and times. He feels that it would be more effective that way. Emily said that the board agreed to conduct their teleconference meetings on the 4th Tuesday of every odd month at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting will be January 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Frank moved to adjourn, and Andy seconded the motion. Everyone was in favor of the motion so the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee
Secretary