

PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

The PSO Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting with the following members participating: Dan Brauning, Brian Byrnes, Eli DePaulis, Tony DeSantis, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Laura Jackson, Chad Kauffman, Julia Plummer, Linda Wagner, Carole Winslow, and David Yeany. Dan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes – Roger

The minutes of the September 15 meeting were distributed prior to this meeting. There were no corrections or additions. Frank moved and Doug seconded a motion to accept the minutes as distributed.

Treasurer's Report – Frank

Frank distributed the treasurer's report prior to the meeting. Frank reported that we are in the black with an approximate annual income of \$24,000 and expenses of \$20,000. Our bank balance is about \$42,000 so his feeling is that we can be a little more generous when we fund grants, education outreach, etc. See Frank's email of November 16, 2021, for his attached treasurer's report.

Awards and Nominations-- Deb

Deb said the committee has received a manuscript to be published in PABirds from the 2019 student research grant winner. Frank said that he thinks PSO should give out the Conservation and Earl Poole Awards annually whether we have an annual meeting or not. This would also include the student research grants. There was general agreement among the board members that this is a good idea.

Citizen Science – Doug

Doug asked for volunteers to be on the committee. He said that he has many ideas but needs help implementing them. Dan announced that there would be a third Breeding Bird Atlas. Doug said that he feels that one of the important things that PSO can do with the BBA is to educate the public on bird ID and how to atlas.

Conservation – Laura

Laura began by reminding everyone to mark their calendars for the 2022 Breeding Bird Blitz. She then continued with information on the Anthracite Ridge Wind Project and the possibility of PSO joining the coalition of organizations that are sending a letter to Hegins Township, one of the municipalities affected by the project, expressing their concern about environmental impacts of this project. Dan asked the board members if there was any opposition to asking to join the coalition. There was none so Dan told Laura to request that PSO be allowed to join the coalition. Laura next brought up Audubon's Climate Watch program and asked if PSO would want to get involved in promoting it to the general public. A discussion of the problems with the program ensued, and the board decided to not promote the program. See Laura's email of November 16, 2021, for her attached Conservation Committee report.

Education – Need Chairperson (Tony volunteered to chair the committee before and after the meeting)

Journal – Greg

Things are going well but Greg still needs more articles.

Outreach – Need Chairperson

Nothing planned.

Events and Field Trips – Chad

Nothing planned.

Newsletter – Margaret

December newsletter is well underway, but several articles are still needed. Most of the CBC information has been received. David asked if there is any type of request has been sent to the PSO membership for articles for either the journal or newsletter. The answer was “no,” but this sounds like a good idea.

PORC – David

There are many changes to the way records are now submitted to PORC. It is working well. He said that three PORC board members are cycling off and need to be replaced. Potential replacement members must be nominated by PORC or PSO board members. He would like to put this out on social media asking for volunteers to be considered for the positions. They would have to send a resume with their qualifications so that both the PORC and PSO boards can review them. The PORC board members can then vote on them to replace the three open positions. This needs to be accomplished before the end of the year.

Other Matters – Dan

Dan wanted to know what day of the week works best for board members for a meeting. The third Wednesday or the fourth Tuesday. He got only one response, so this was left up in the air. He would also like to have in-person meetings once or twice a year, preferably twice depending on Covid trends.

Dan moved on to a review of the virtual annual meeting. He thanked everyone who was involved and said that he thought everything ran smoothly. Tony reviewed the results of the field trip breakout room. Some of the suggestions were combining education with the field trip basically make it a learning experience, target different areas of the state, plan an outing for every county of Pennsylvania, longer trips such as to Ontario and pelagic trips, promote trips of other organizations, and the state park birding competitions. Brian suggested that we should consider using some Pennsylvania-based bird tour guides to plan longer trips as these can be very time consuming to plan. It was also suggested that PSO begin asking field trip participants to sign waivers of liability.

Dan would like to have a face-to-face meeting in the fall, probably in Lancaster. This would be based around Covid with constraints and protocols established. A hybrid meeting was suggested with regional field trips and a virtual meeting for talks or programs. Other variations of these themes were also suggested.

David mentioned that he is interested in setting up quarterly webinars. Dan said he thinks the Education Committee should take this on as a project to develop topics and find speakers. The number per year can vary according to the number of speakers available and the interest of members.

Dan would like the committees to meet and conduct work in the time between meetings. Also, he thinks the chairperson of a committee should be a board member, and every board member should be on at least one committee.

Laura brought up that the only current way the board or committees communicate with the membership is through the newsletter. Frank said he can easily email all members who have given PSO their email addresses. All that needs to be done is for a board member to write an email and send it to him, and he will send it out to the membership.

Dan would like to do strategic planning at the next board meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 6:00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary