

**SOUTH MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 24, 2017**

The Board of Directors of the South Mountain Audubon Society (SMAS) met on January 24 2017 at the Adams County Agricultural Center at 4 P.M.

President Deb Siefken called the meeting to order with the following board members present: Cindy Chambers, Betsy Griffiths, Jon Griffiths, Carole Simon, Nancy Locher, Mike O'Brien, and Linette Mansberger.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Deb participated in a January 9 conference call with the new Executive Director of Audubon PA – Greg Goldman. Greg emphasized advocacy and “Audubon in PA.” Ideas of ways we want Audubon PA to support us should be shared with Deb.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Kathy Gelner's Secretary's Report for October 18, 2016 was presented. A few names were corrected in the minutes: Mike O'Brien hosted the Tally Rally and the speaker for January 16 is Nathaniel Shank.

Resolved that: the minutes from the October 18, 2016 board meeting be approved by the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike Bertram's Treasurer's Report for December 2016 was reviewed. It was noted that the Christmas Bird Count fundraiser raised about \$335 dollars this year and that the Collaborative Grant funds have not yet been received.

Resolved that: the Treasurer's Report for December 2016 be approved by the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs: Upcoming programs include:

March 20 – Ryan the BugMan at 7:00 PM

May 15 – Birds of Honduras & their Shade-grown Habitat –
Laura Jackson

Program ideas were shared for June, September, October and November. Speaker ideas included Beth Brantley, Roy Brubaker, Mike Group, Gene Weingarten, and Andy Wilson. Suggested topics were “The Intelligence of Birds” and “Bird Songs.” A suggestion for the March youth education program is a bird rehabber. Linette will contact York Audubon about the possibility of sharing the fees for a fall meeting for a presenter on wintering hummingbirds.

Publicity:

Cindy has been sharing information with *The Merchandiser*, *The Hanover Evening Sun* and *The Gettysburg Times*. Bonnie Portzline has been contributing additional publicity information with her “Bird’s Eye View” column.

Field Trips: Upcoming field trips presently scheduled are:

February 4 – Big Spring, Newville coordinated by Linette

March 17 – Oakside Park, Biglerville coordinated by Mike B

May 13 – Spangler Spring, Gettysburg for IMBD coordinated by
Mike OB

Newsletter: Send ideas for the newsletter to Mike OB by late March.

Membership: Mike OB continues to update the list.

Education: Betsy shared information on *Audubon Adventures*. The cost per classroom for a subscription is \$38.50. Presently 1 teacher at Lincoln Elementary and 1 teacher at the Montessori School have requested subscriptions. Linette will check with Upper Adams School District for additional interest.

Betsy also reported on the Wildlife Leadership Academy and stated that there will be 6 academy choices this year. It was agreed that we would again sponsor \$250 toward the registration of an interested student from Gettysburg High School. Betsy will make the contacts to set this in motion.

Conservation: Carole reported on the possible development of a racetrack and casino that could affect the Grasslands IBA south of Gettysburg. SMAS will monitor this situation.

Hospitality: Siefkens will provide refreshments in May.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Luncheon – The banquet will be held on April 22 at Hickory Bridge Farm. Deb will contact Greg Goldman of Audubon PA to speak. The menu will be roast beef and chicken and the cost will be \$17.95 with SMAS covering the luncheon cost for a speaker and guest. Linette will prepare the flier.

Adoption of Bird Sanctuary at Oakside Park – Deb reported on a preliminary visit to the park by herself, Mike B and Kathy King, and Linette. It was agreed that SMAS will adopt the sanctuary and the first steps will be to create a sign and to begin regular visits to the park to create a bird list to be posted on our website. Jon agreed to create the sign when directed.

Collaborative Grant and CBC Fund-raiser – It was agreed that these funds will again be used to purchase *Audubon Adventures*, to create a \$250 scholarship for the Wildlife Leadership Academy, and to fund an educational program for children in March of 2018. The purchase of more library books will be put on hold until the cost of *Audubon Adventures* subscriptions is tallied.

NEW BUSINESS

The Green Gathering will be held on May 20, 2017. SMAS will participate.

SMAS will send volunteers to the Gettysburg National Military Park's celebration of the Great Backyard Bird Count on February 18, 2017.

The next meeting of the SMAS Board will be at 4:00 on April 11, 2017 at the Adams County Agricultural Center.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linette Mansberger