

SOUTH MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 1, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 4:05 pm by President Linette Mansberger. Due to Covid-19 considerations, it was held on Nancy Locher's porch. Others present were Deb Siefken, Mike Bertram, Nancy Locher, Carol Deardorff, Carole Simon, Jon and Betsy Griffiths, and Kathy Gelner.

President's Report

Beginning Birder Class – Linette cancelled the classes that were to be held in September or October at the library, due to Covid.

Survey to be completed - The Pennsylvania Audubon Council is requesting input to ascertain the perspective of each of the twenty-one Pennsylvania Audubon Chapters to prioritize the conservation issues of greatest concern. A “prioritization package” is now available for each chapter to reference and use for this purpose to let them know the priorities that each chapter recommends for education and action. Linette and Deb will respond. Anyone else who is interested is welcome to join in.

Vice-President's Report – There was a lively discussion of the feasibility of SMAS commissioning the painting of a mural. This included probable costs and possible locations for the project and whether it should be inside or out. We will look at the Sterner Building in Rec Park at the time of our monthly meeting at the end of the month to see if that might be a possibility. There was also a discussion of whether this would be the best use of our funds.

Secretary's Report

Mike moved and Deb seconded that the minutes from the last board meeting as presented be approved with no changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolved that: the minutes from the July 26, 2021 board meeting be approved by the board.

Treasurer's Report

New treasurer, Carol, reported that there was a \$50 donation from Carol's church that was received as a result of a Neotropics program that Linette presented for them. She also received payment for one local membership. In addition, there was a credit from Rec Park for an earlier cancelled meeting for which we had already paid rent, but that will be used to offset the rent for the meeting we will hold there this month. Carol also noted that the CDs that we hold roll over automatically so no investment decisions need to be made regarding them.

Mike, as former treasurer, suggested that a new budget not be adopted at this time since we do not know what meetings and activities may take place due to Covid. Nancy moved to have the same budget we had this year adopted for next year. Mike said that the budget had already been proposed and that it should be amended to be the same as last year. Nancy seconded the amendment which passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Education -

Betsy said that she received a positive response from the third grade at Lincoln Elementary regarding receiving subscriptions to *Audubon Adventures*. That is the only response she had had so far (Franklin later also said they were interested as well). She suggested that she contact VIDA and possibly the Montessori School to see if they would be interested in having books donated to their library. If any school wants to add books to their library, Jon would be in touch with the librarians and ask them to submit a list and we'd decide which ones to approve.

We also discussed the possibility of SMAS sponsoring a visit from the Hershey Zoo America to a Bermudian Springs school, which would cost \$450. It was suggested that Melissa Dietz, who teaches in that district, be asked for a contact there.

Beginning in the new year, we will begin looking into identifying one or two local students to attend the Audubon Wildlife Leadership Academy next summer.

Competitions - The Fall Migration contest, which Mike is running, is in progress and will end November 22 so winners can be announced at the meeting that evening.

Meetings -

November 22 – Bonnie Portzline – “Birds with a Gettysburg Address” 7 pm at the Rec Park Sterner Center. No refreshments will be served.

Saturday, December 18 – Christmas Bird Count - Tally Rally at The Pike. Linette will make the reservations and SMAS will pay for appetizers.

January 24 – Linette – “Borneo: Land Below the Wind” place and time TBD

No meeting in February

Other suggestions for 2022 -

Reschedule Rob Ferguson for Mayan presentation

Jim Henry's suggestion – Falconer

Cindy Ross – Walking Toward Peace

Carole Bergmann (Kathy's cousin's wife) – Native Plants or Invasive Species - spring

Brandon Pentz from Nixon Park – hawks prior to a hawk watch in the fall of 2022

Field Trips -

November 27 - meet at 8 am at Quarry Pond, Gettysburg College - Duck Drive [later changed to 9 am]

December 2 - Conowingo Dam – to see Eagles. Pre-registration will be necessary.

December 18 – Annual Christmas Bird Count

January 15 - National Cemetery of GNMP - 9 AM

February 19 – Saturday (alternate date Sunday, 20th) [Presidents' Day Weekend] – Great Backyard Bird Count - Willoughby Run [old country club], GB - 9 AM (confirming with Dafna)

Old Business – Old and new SMAS patches to be sold at \$5 – available at meetings and at walks

Donation for Dean Shultz – \$50 for last walk

New Business

2021 Fundraiser – End of year appeal to members. Linette will send out email. Deb moved and seconded and the proposal passed unanimously.

Resolved that: the end of year appeal to members is approved by the board.

Proposed Slate for 2022 Officers:

President – Deb Siefken

Vice President – Linette Mansberger

Secretary and Publicity – Kathy Gelner

Treasurer – Carol Deardorff

4 Members at Large – Nancy Locher, Cy Dietz, Carole Simon, Evan Vaeth

Education Co-chairs – Betsy and Jon Griffiths

Webmaster – Mike Bertram

Suggestion - Continue to share field trip and program responsibilities

Next board meeting – Tuesday, February 1, 4 pm at the Ag Center, if possible (depending on Covid restrictions at that time). If Evan Vaeth has joined the Board, we would need to have an evening meeting.

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn L. Gelner, Secretary