

SOUTH MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
October 4, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 pm by Deb Siefken (President) at the Agricultural Extension Office building. Also present were Tony Arnold (Vice President), Mike Bertram, Carol Deardorff (Treasurer), Judie Hogan, Nancy Locher, Linette Mansberger, Carole Simon, Evan Vaeth, and Liz Smith (Secretary).

**President's Report**

Hospitality — Deb asked for volunteers to bring refreshments to October and November SMAS meetings.

**Vice-President's Report**

Tony reported that the grant from Strawberry Hill for building a birding trail for the visually impaired has stalled and likely will not move forward. Tony asked the Board for help in identifying other local resources (such as NPS) for ideas/help.

**Secretary's Report**

Minutes from the June 20, 2023, meeting were approved, with no corrections.

**Treasurer's Report**

Carol presented the expenditures report since the last meeting and the new annual budget, which was approved by motion. She revisited the issue of moving a CD to get the highest interest rate, which may require changing banks. Nancy Locher recommended paying the penalty at ACNB to get a better rate elsewhere. The Board agreed with Carol not to change the process of renewing/paying SMAS P.O. Box fee to online.

**Committee Reports**

**Education:**

Update on Bryce McGlaughlin, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Gettysburg Area High School, whom SMAS paid to attend the Wildlife Leadership Academy. The gift has still not been acknowledged, but it has been confirmed that Bryce attended the academy. Bryce no longer is enrolled at GAHS. We have no way to contact him, so he will not be giving a talk at a SMAS meeting about his experiences.

The Board agreed to continue sponsorship for Hershey Zoo America program for students at a local elementary school, as it is a budgeted item. Board members suggested schools in the area, including Fairfield Area School District, New Oxford, and Littlestown. Tony agreed to make contact with FASD.

The Board discussed ideas for library book donations. As with HZA (above), the Board wishes to donate to different schools each year. Ideas were suggested, including Bermudian Springs and FASD.

**Upcoming Programs:**

October 16: “Birding the Seasons” presented by Evan Vaeth

November 20: “Biodiversity in PA,” presented by West Shore Wildlife Center (with live critters!)

January 29, 2024: Hummingbird program, presented by Linette Mansberger

March 18: “Bird Wood Carvings,” presented by Bernice Culver

April 15: A program about native communities, forest conservation, and artisan families living in the Peruvian Amazon, presented by Campbell Plowden, executive director of the Center for Amazon Community Ecology (Crafts available for purchase)

May 20: TBD

June 17: TBD

**Field Trips:**

October

Friday, 13 – South Middleton Township Park – with Tony – meet 7-7:30 a.m.

Saturday, 21 – Plum Run Road — with Jeri Jones – meet 9 a.m.

Last week of October –Hawk Mountain overnight excursion – Details still to come; 8 people have agreed so far

November

Saturday, 11 — Eisenhower Farm (rescheduled from Sept.) — meet 8 a.m.

December

Saturday, 2 — Duck Drive

Saturday, 16 – Christmas Bird Count (Evan will coordinate)

January 2024

Saturday, 13 — Big Spring winter walk with Tony Arnold — meet 9 a.m.

**Conservation:**

Judie will be taking an online course about the effects of plastics on the environment for a future conservation minute.

**Old Business**

The board agreed there was no need to make a donation to the Land Conservancy for the Rock Creek walk this year

## **New Business**

The Election of Officers will take place at the January 2024 SMAS meeting.

President, Tony Arnold

VP, Deb Siefken

Secretary, Liz Smith

Treasurer, Carol Deardorff

Programs, Open

Education, Open

Field Trips, Linette Mansberger

Conservation, Judie Hogan

Webmaster, Mike Bertram

Publicity, Kathy Gelner

At-Large members, Cy Dietz, Nancy Locher, Carole Simon, Evan Vaeth

Mike Bertram reported a problem with email/spam blocker when inviting a new member to the birding competition email chain.

Annual appeal letter will be sent out to SMAS members around Thanksgiving, with a reminder to follow.

The question of adding SMAS to Adams County Community Foundation (Giving Spree) was raised. Several members pointed out that the ACCF requirements were too burdensome.

Next board meeting – to be determined by Tony Arnold, new SMAS president in January

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8: 00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Smith

**Amendment to the Minutes of 10/04/23:**

On November 20, 2023, the South Mountain Audubon Society Board voted unanimously to open an account with Members 1st Credit Union, for the purpose of moving three Certificates of Deposit from ACNB to Members 1st Credit Union. The three Board members who will be authorized on the account are Carol Louise Deardorff, Tony James Arnold, and Debra Ann Siefken.

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