

SOUTH MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 20, 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), Carol Deardorff (Treasurer), Cy Deitz, Kathy Gelner, Nancy Locher, Linette Mansberger, Evan Vaeth, and Liz Smith (Secretary). Sarah Fretz, Judie Hogan, and Carole Simon were not in attendance.

President's Report

Deb had nothing to report.

Vice-President's Report

Tony reported a conversation with Amanda Markle from Strawberry Hill about the grant application for building a birding trail for the visually impaired. Grant process is underway, but will take at least a year. Tony offered to attend Strawberry Hill board meetings.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the March 14, 2023, meeting were approved, with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report

Carol presented the expenditures report since the last meeting. She noted that one year-end donation came through in May. She asked about reinvesting a mature CD to get the highest interest rate. Board recommended that Carol research to get the best deal. Deb queried about the remaining budget for presentation expenses. We have spent \$350 of the \$1000 budget. The Treasurer's report was approved, as presented.

Committee Reports

Education:

Sarah Fretz has relocated to another state and will no longer attend board meetings. A new education committee chair is needed.

SMAS paid total cost of \$600 for Bryce McGlaughlin, a 10th grader at Gettysburg Area High School, to attend the Wildlife Leadership Academy. The gift has not been acknowledged. Bryce will give a presentation about what he learned, at a monthly SMAS meeting, TBD.

SMAS paid for sponsorship for Hershey Zoo America program for students at Lincoln Elementary. The event did take place. SMAS eventually received a formal acknowledgment after Linette's prompting by email.

Upcoming Programs:

July 17: SMAS summer picnic from 4-8 p.m. at Oakside Park, Pavilion #1. (Potluck to share; bring your own utensils; "adult beverages" permitted; weather cancellation notice to post on SMAS web site and an email will be sent to those on our mailing list.)

September 18: "Colombia and Ecuador" by Tony Arnold

October 16: Hawk Identification (further info TBD)

November 20: TBD

Ideas for future programs:

West Shore Wildlife Center on PA Biodiversity, 50 minutes with animals, \$295

Randy Phillips @ Rocky Ridge Hawk Watch

Owl banding programs

Field Trips:

The following list of upcoming field trips reflects changes Linette made after the Board meeting.

July

Saturday, 15 - Rock Creek – Cy – 7:30

Monday, 17 - Picnic 4-8 PM / Pavilion #1

Saturday, 22 – Oakside Park – Mike – 7:30

August

Saturday, 26 - Tony and Evan will work on a shorebird drive schedule

September

Sunday, 10 (due to hunting) – Shephard Myers Hanover Watershed WMA – Evan – 7:30 a.m. (hilly walk)

Saturday, 23 – Eisenhower Farm – 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, 30 – Devil's Den area – with Cy – park at corner of Sedgwick and Wheatfield with possible carpooling/shuttling to Devil's Den area – 7:30 a.m.

October

Saturday, 7 – Harrisburg State Hospital Grounds – with Don – meet at Don's house at 7 a.m.

Saturday, 14 – South Middleton Park, Boiling Springs – with Tony – gather between 7 and 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, 21 – Geology/Bird Walk at Plum Run with Jeri Jones – 9 a.m.

Last full week in October – Hawk Watch – Hawk Mountain/overnight for one night – Details to be determined closer to the date

November

Saturday, 4 and/or Saturday, 18 – Monterey Pass and/or other new location?/– Knorr Road forested area offered by Cynthia Salisbury/ Emmitsburg Road – Battlefield B&B/Pine Hill Recreation Area near Waynesboro
Duck Drive to be added after October board meeting

December

Saturday, 16 – Christmas Bird Count – Evan will coordinate the CBC. Linette will reserve the Tally Rally room.

Conservation:

Due to Judie's absence there was no conservation report. Judie will give a five-minute presentation on a conservation issue during each SMAS meeting.

Old Business

Efforts to reprint the South Mountain Birding brochure have been dropped. At the end of the meeting, Evan circled back to discuss the possibility of creating an online version of a local birding trail map for SMAS website.

South Mountain Partnership has been dropped because of lack of interest.

No SMAS members have participated in Michaux State Forest Bird Monitoring. Involvement is very casual; post reports on e-bird. For info, contact John and Sue Greer at birdsplusmore@gmail.com or 443-255-8871.

New Business

Evan reported on his attendance at the Audubon Mid-Atlantic Chapter gathering on June 11 at Olewine Nature Center in Harrisburg, PA. He shared a brochure with the national organization's goals (conservation, climate change, increased diversity of members).

Next board meeting – Wednesday, October 4 at 7 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8: 20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Smith