

GRAND TRAVERSE AUDUBON CLUB

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2021

Thirlby Room Traverse Area District Library

APPROVED

Board Members Present: Leonard Graf, Kathy Flegel, Ann Kennedy, John Mesch, Jerry Freels, Mary MacDowell

Absent: Shirley Mesch, Barb Graf

Approval of Minutes: Board Minutes of August 18, 2020, were approved with unanimous consent

Minutes of Technology discussion of January 4, 2021 were noted

Leonard Graf opened the meeting at 12:05 pm

1. FUTURE MEETINGS (on July 20, Leonard confirmed reservations at the Nature Center for these dates)
 - Remaining meetings for 2021:
 - August 21: (Saturday) Ancient Tree tour 10am in Copemish
 - September 23: Nature Center: Insects You Have Know and Loved:
 - November 18: Nature Center: Lake Michigan Ever Changing
 - December 16: Nature Center: Annual Holiday Meeting with Member photos
 - Annual Meeting: Potluck October 16th (Saturday) at 6 PM
 - Location: Leonard will contact the Church to see if the room is available
 - Speaker: Leonard will contact Caleb Putman to see if he would speak; or Chris Neri if Caleb is not available.
 - Potluck details to be determined. Club may furnish the meat.
2. Election of Officers and discussion of Board Positions
 - THE SITTING BOARD ALL INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD SERVE ONE MORE YEAR DUE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES RESULTING FROM

THE PANDEMIC. However, there may be nominations from the floor, and we need to have clearer descriptions of the position duties.

- Position Descriptions are needed for each board position that clarify duties.
- Position Descriptions are to be sent to Mary MacDowell by August 1. Mary will compile and recirculate to board for comments
- Position Descriptions are needed for the Annual meeting to distribute to the members in the event of nominations from the floor.

3. Programs

- Kathy has the programs for the rest of the regular meetings set. She discussed some presenter options for the Annual Meeting.
 - Speaker: Leonard will contact Caleb Putman to see if he would speak; or Chris Neri if Caleb is not available.
- Kathy Flegel indicated that, as the Program Chair, there is a lot of work to find speakers, schedule them (particularly with Zoom). She also is responsible for setting up the Spring walks. These responsibilities need to be distributed.
 - Ann Kennedy will recruit a new member with whom she is acquainted. She thinks this person would be willing to help.
- There was discussion about changing the Bylaws to eliminate the Newsletter position, which has been subsumed into the Secretary position, into an At Large position. This would allow the board/president to delegate duties to this position. This would add some flexibility depending on what support is needed by a board member. This needs follow up.
- Don Flegel is working with Joe Brooks to assume the Web Master duties. Don will be invited to attend future Board Meetings as this will be important in his duties as Web Master.
- Kathy has done a great job, particularly under the restrictions related to the pandemic, the board thanks her for her diligence.

4. Newsletter: Barb Graf has resigned from the Board. The Board thanks Barb for her years of stellar support of the Club board. She has earned her retirement, but we will miss her. However, we still expect her to be as active as ever on the Bird Walks.

- We still need to periodically provide a “newsletter” of information to the members. This should be short but designed to report on and pique interest in the club and club activities.
- A survey will be developed to reach out to members to ask for suggestions for programs, walks and other topics of interest.

Mary MacDowell will develop the survey questions and circulate to the Board for comment.

5. Treasurer Report

- Ann Kennedy reported the following
 - \$2586.28 in the checking account
 - \$815.45 in the Walter Hastings Fund
- Ann also requested that the club adopt Square (a software program) to manage membership renewals. This computer application sends out renewals, tracks payment, allows for renewal on line by credit card and follows up with non-renewed members based on parameters. The renewal fees are deposited directly into the GTAC bank account once the member renews. Members can renew by check also.
 - ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Audio visual equipment:

- Discussion was held regarding the in-person meetings at the Nature Center. We need to have a much better understanding of the audio visual equipment.
- All board members will attend an Audio Visual 101 session at the Nature Center on August 24th at 11:00 am. Joe Brooks and Don Flegel will be invited to attend. Joe and John Mesch seem to have the best understanding to the procedure on how to operate the AV equipment.
- On July 20, 2021, Leonard confirmed that he reserved the room for this session.

Meeting adjourned