

GRAND TRAVERSE AUDUBN CLUB
Board meeting
Thirlby Room 10am :TADL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APPROVED
10.21.2021

Call to Order 10:05

Board members present: Leonard Graf, Shirley Mesch, John Mesch, Kathy Flegel, Kirk Waterstripe, Ann Kennedy, Jerry Freels, Mary MacDowell

Approval of minutes of September 21,2021: APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

Reports

- President
 - New board member at large position will take office in January.
 - Discussion of 2021 GTAC Presidency: vacancy
The board discussed and agreed to the appointment of Kathy Flegel to office of Presidency with her agreement. This appointment will be presented to the membership for approval at the next monthly meeting.
- Vice President:
 - After discussion the board agreed to the appointment of Jerry Freels to the office of Vice-President with his agreement. This appointment will be presented to the membership for approval at the next monthly meeting.
 - The duties of scheduling and following up on Programing and Bird Walks are time consuming.
 - A volunteer, Sharon Joy, has been recruited.
 - Additionally, the board agreed that all members of the board assist in these task as assigned.
 - Additionally, members of the club who expressed a willingness to either present a Programs or lead a Bird Walk via the GTAC Survey should be personally contacted for follow up.
 - Jerry and Kathy will coordinate, and Jerry will recruit board assistance as needed.
- Treasurer: Status of checking and Walter Hastings Fund
 - Checking \$2740.29
 - Walter Hastings: \$ \$845.54
 - \$40 in petty cash
 - A check for \$60 is to be issued to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church for use of their room for the Annual Meeting.

- Secretary
 - GTAC Survey: Board Member summary:
 - Discussion occurred regarding the need to grow the club and bring in new and younger members if the club is to survive.
 - Discussion occurred regarding the need to give current members more opportunity to assist in activities of the club.
 - For both current and new members, more personal contact will be made by the board to recruit members to assist in activities.
 - GTAC Survey: Club member summary : to be sent to the members
 - Kirk Waterstripe will send this out as part of his responsibilities.
- Publicity/Newsletter Report
 - Kirk Waterstripe discussed several good ideas for increased publicity to expand the reach of GTAC.
 - Kirk has recruited Evan Resister (MAS Young Birder Leader) to assist him with social media.
 - Kirk has committed to producing a newsletter three times a year.
 - Discussion followed regarding publicity and how that could be used to increase GTAC presence for birders of all ages, particularly young birders to increase interest and membership.
 - Kirk Waterstripe sees Instagram as a vehicle to reach younger birders.
 - It was noted that expanding social media also requires that members be groomed to assist in these efforts and to eventually, step in to take over these tasks.
 - Noted that using social media does have some potential challenges.
 - **MOTION: MOVED BY MARY MACDOWELL, SECONDED BY ANN KENNEDY THAT GTAC ESTABLISH AN INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT.**
 - Discussion followed:
 - **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
 - Kirk Waterstripe will publicize the monthly programs and the Bird Walks as part of his duties.
 - Thank you letters acknowledging donations for the Annual Meeting need to be sent to Wild Birds Unlimited and Rare Bird Brewery. Mary MacDowell will do this.
- Michigan Audubon Society Liaison Report:
 - John Mesch reported that he contacted Michigan Audubon for a list of possible presenters. The list was comprised of folks south of M46 and East of I 75. This may be of limited use to us.

- Member At Large Report:
 - Jerry Freels agreed to assume the Vice President position, upon club approval.
 - Sharon Benjey was elected as Member at Large for 2021.

New Business:

- Brainstorming programs for 2022.
 - Kathy Flegel discussed the duties of program chair which fall to the Vice President. The primary duties are monthly programs, bird walks and the Annual meeting programs. While the board brainstorms for programs and presenters, the follow-up contacts and scheduling are time consuming.
 - Sharon Joy will assist the Vice President (Freels) with these program contacts. Kathy will also contact Sharon Benjey for assistance as needed.
 - Leonard Graf volunteered to coordinate the Bird Walks.
 - Jerry Freels will assume the VP position with club approval, and he will work to coordinate these activities and tasks.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Tentative list : 2021

January: Kathy Flegel : The Archangel Greenhouse
 February Kirk Waterstripe: Bird Biology at NMC
 March Evan Resister : MAS Young Birder Group: Kirk Waterstripe will contact Evan.
 April North Sky Raptor Rescue (<https://www.northskyraptor.org>) Kirk will make contact.

June: Potential Christmas Bird Count in July Kirk Waterstripe

September: TBD

October: Annual Meeting

November: TBD

December: Member show and tell

- Discussion of recruitment for Bird Walk Leaders for 2022:
 - Leonard Graf will coordinate the Bird walks for 2022
 - This list contains commitment for walks and potential walks.
 - Sunday Walks: Kirk Waterstripe April-June Mid-August TBD
 - Leonard and Barb Graf: Sault Ste Marie Trip
 - Kirk Waterstripe: Great Horned Owls
 - Leonard and Barb Graf: Arcadia Marsh
 - Leonard and Barb Graf: Tawas Trip; Informal meet ups.
 - Shirley and John Mesch: Magee Marsh: Board walk meet up
 - TBD: Kevin Breen: Would Kevin do a South Manitou Island trip. Leonard to contact Kevin.
 - TBD: Mary Ellen Newport: Night Migration with a Parabolic dish:

Kirk Waterstripe to follow up

- Leonard will contact individuals who responded to the GTAC survey for more walk leaders.
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- Confirmation of the Annual Sault Ste Marie Trip: Leonard Graf confirmed
- Confirmation of the Arcadia Dunes Field Trip: Leonard Graf confirmed
- Christmas Bird Count:
 - Leonard Graf provided information to date:
 - Leelanau County: December 15th Nate Crane
 - Antrim County: December 17th Curt Hofer
 - Grand traverse County : December 18th Leonard Graf
 - Benzie County : TBD

Old Business: None

Next meeting: November 11, 2021 10:00 am TADL Thirlby Room

Adjournment: