

GRAND TRAVERSE AUDUBON CLUB
BOARD MEETING
1.13.2022 10 am
TADL Thirlby Room

Minutes Approved 3.10.2022

Call to Order 10:05

Present: Kathy Flegel, Jerry Freels, Ann Kennedy, Mary MacDowell, Kirk Waterstripe, John Mesch, Leonard Graf

Absent: Sharon Benjey

Approval of Minutes from 12.9.2021 Board Meeting
Minutes approved without objection

President Report: Kathy Flegel

Bylaws: Discussion on the 2022 Nominating Committee. Leonard Graf will be the Board representative. Leonard will recruit 2 members to be part of the committee. He will provide that information to the board for approval.

Discussion took place about the need to clarify or amend the bylaws to address the unusual circumstances related to the pandemic.

- Define “meeting” : should this definition include Zoom meetings?
- Provide for required “approvals” for business actions utilizing electronic methods i.e. email, telephone, Zoom meetings or other acceptable electronic means.
- Create flexibility for certain required actions such as approval of the yearly budget by the membership.
- Ability to have proxy votes
- Other? These items should be discussed in an upcoming Board meeting.

Nature Center: Kathy will be signing the MOU with the Nature Center. The current MOU requires 36 hours of volunteer time in exchange for using the facility. Current Don Flegel volunteers 3 hours a week when the Center is open. We believe that the volunteer time has been reduced due to the limited hours the center is open at this time. If we volunteer other services or if other members volunteer at the Center, the number of hours volunteered has to be tracked and provided to the Center.

Kathy confirmed that the Center is filling the bird feeders. We have allocated a donation of \$100 for bird seed to be paid to the Center.

2022 Budget: Finalize 2022 budget :

- Leonard Graf developed the draft budget from the December 2021 Board Meeting. He has included the Web Site hosting costs as was discussed at the December meeting.
- **MOTION** BY Kirk Waterstripe seconded by John Mesch to recommend the finalized budget to the membership for approval. All Approved.
- **Membership Approval:** see below

Current Covid surge: Discussion of whether we should have in-person meetings

- There was discussion as to how to ensure that the budget gets before the members for approval which was part of the discussion on whether we should hold the January 27 monthly meeting. Given the current omicron surge, there is concern about the safety of the membership. We did not have a quorum in November, the December meeting was cancelled. It is recognized that one of the prime benefits of our monthly meetings is to have fellowship other members. Leonard pointed out his concern that once entities start using Zoom, it seems that becomes the norm with loss of real exchanges between members of these groups.
- **We will monitor the current situation to see if it is prudent to have the January meeting. Kathy indicated that she could do the presentation via Zoom if necessary.**
- Membership approval of the Budget: There was much discussion on how to obtain approval of the 2022 Budget. The concern is that if we don't have the meeting or don't have a quorum then the budget will not be approved.
- **MOTION** BY Mary MacDowell, seconded by Ann Kennedy to send an email containing the 2022 Budget to the membership for approval. The email should include the changes in the composition of the board. AYES 6 NAYS 1
 - Motion passed

Vice-President Report: Jerry Freels

Kathy presented a summary of the Programs and Walks for 2022 that the board had developed. Additionally, she provided a listing of all the suggested programs and walks with the names of the suggesters. This list will be utilized for future development of our events. SEE ATTACHED

Treasurer Report : Ann Kennedy

Status of accounts: Checking	\$2125.29;
Walter Hastings Account	\$ 905.66
Petty Cash	\$ 75.00
Distributions:	\$ 35.00 (Rack Cards)

Status of renewals: Total paid memberships to date 50; 26 Family, 19 Individuals, 5 Lifetime members

- Soft deadline for renewals is January 20th for inclusion in the Membership Listing

2022 Budget: Vote by membership at January monthly meeting: See above Motion to send budget via email and request reply from members.

Secretary Report: Mary MacDowell

- Rack Cards are completed (300 printed)
 - Distribution points
 - Wild Birds Unlimited
 - TC Visitor Center
 - Nature Center
 - Sleeping Bear Dunes/ and SBD Birding Trail
 - McGough's (Kirk will handle)
 - Senior Center
 - Local State Parks and local campgrounds
 - Mary will begin the contacts
- Membership Listing
 - This will be done at the end of January after all renewals are processed

Publicity/Newsletter Kirk Waterstripe

- Discussion of plan for approaching GT County Parks and Rec regarding a mobility dock at Medalie Park: No action yet. New bridge is going in as part of Tart Trail.
- Gourd Purple Martin House System at Grielickville Park
 - Kirk followed up with the company that makes these. For the 18 Gourd model with collapsible pole the cost is \$1200.
 - Before we proceed to any discussion with the Park Commission, we need to have GTAC volunteers to clean and maintain the bird houses. Kirk will ask for volunteers.
- Follow up on Blue Bird Houses: Discussion about holding a build a Blue Bird House event. This might fit with volunteer activities at Boardman Nature Center or improvements along the Leelanau Trail. There is also potential to have these bird houses, which could host more than bluebirds, along Lone Pine Trail, and other spots.
 - Contact will be made with past participants. Kathy will contact Ed Moelle, and also look at the TC Blue Bird Society as they given grants for boxes. Kirk will contact Tom Ford and Jerry will contact Marty Kline and report back to Kathy Flegel to see if this is feasible.
 - Given that these bird houses should be set out in March, we may be getting a late start.

- 2023 GTAC Bird Calendar: Kirk has done some initial review with various websites that create these calendars. There are some logistics that need to be considered if we proceed with the project:
 - How to order: a club email address ie. Info@ GTAC.org or shop@ GTAC.org
 - How to pay: PayPal may be an option but there may be some IRS requirements that may complicate this. What is the PayPal fee?
 - Kirk will continue his research.
- Kirk mentioned the Big Sit which is a national event to be held on October 8 & 9th. He will gather more information.
- Birds and Bikes: Kirk had contacted Merry Vanderlindin. She will discuss with Norte. This also fits with the discussion of the MAS BBB event on Leelanau Trail.

Liaison with Michigan Audubon Society : John Mesch

- Status of Events sponsored by MAS: The Spring Fling at Whitefish Point is cancelled for 2022; MAS is having a UP Birding Field Trip in January 29 and 30th. The trip will be limited to 12 individuals in their own autos. Cost is \$100 per car.
 - No lodging or meals are included.
- Leonard Graf indicated that Michigan Audubon Society contacted him for assistance on a future Birds, Bikes and Brews event that they are considering. They plan on a bike ride on the Leelanau Trail. They would like us to identify some good stops along the trail for birding. Kirk volunteered to be the contact for MAS on this project. This also fits with Kirk's suggestion about a Birding and Biking event for GTAC. Leonard will provide the MAS contact with Kirk's name.

Old Business:

- New board composition presentation to membership: to be sent via email
- Christmas Bird Count: Leonard Graf: Sharon Benjey has assumed this task.

New Business:

Kathy asked if we wanted to link the GTAC website with Facebook or Instagram. Kirk is working with Shirley Mesch to assume the current Facebook page administrative rights. We do have an Instagram account. We need to clarify if we want to do this or not.

Next Meeting: President Flegel will call the next meeting as needed.

Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn at Noon.