

GRAND TRAVERSE AUDUBON CLUB  
BOARD MEETING  
3.10.2022 10:00 am  
TADL Thirlby Room

**MINUTES**  
**Approved 4.21.2022**

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes from 1.13.2022 Board Meeting

MOTION: Moved by Leonard Graf, seconded by Kirk Waterstripe to approve the minutes as presented.

Approved without objection

**President Report: Kathy Flegel**

October Dinner meeting: potential speaker: Terry Grabill BIG YEAR TALK  
Mary will follow up with Grabill to get details on his talk, fee, and other information.  
Leonard will contact Chris Neri who he expects to see this month to see if Chris would be the speaker in October.

- Mary raised the issue of revisions to the GTAC Bylaws. We had discussed whether there is a need for amendments at the January Board meeting. The Petosky Regional Audubon Society recently amended their bylaws which added some provisions that took into account situations that arose because of the pandemic.
- Mary agreed to draft some proposed revisions for the Board to review.

**Vice-President Report: Jerry Freels**

**Leonard Graf :**

The walks were reviewed, and the following updates are added.

- **April 24, 2022:** Kirk Waterstripe will lead a bird walk at TADL starting at the Children's Garden. This walk will also be offered to the Senior Center who are interested in a bird walk.
- **May:** Birding at Magee Marsh, Ohio. Kirk will be at Magee Marsh May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. John Mesch will be finalizing his plans at a later date, but he will be going midweek.
- **May 29, 2022:** Kirk Waterstripe will lead a bird walk at TADL starting at the Children's Garden. This walk will also be offered to the Senior Center who are interested in a bird walk.
- **Fall: Detroit Audubon : Bike and Brews on Leelanau Trail to Suttons Bay**
  - Leonard is/will be in touch with Detroit Audubon. We will solicit a few members to be stationed along the trail to answer questions.

- Leonard will contact individuals who responded to the GTAC survey for more walk leaders.

### **Treasurer Report : Ann Kennedy**

Status of accounts: Checking account: \$3784.68; Savings Account(Walter Hastings) \$955.74; Petty cash: \$52.00 Total Assets: \$4792.42

Expenditures: Rack card holders: \$15.87; Checks \$42.74 Total expenditures \$58.61

Status of renewals: 95 memberships for 2022; (family, individual and life members) 20 memberships did not renew.

### **Secretary Report: Mary MacDowell**

- Rack Cards are completed (300 printed)
  - Distribution points: DONE
    - Wild Birds Unlimited: Done
    - TC Visitor Center: Will recontact in May to see if they are open
    - NMU?: Per Kirk, there really is not a place to display the cards
    - Interlochen: Mary Ellen Newport has taken some cards to post on the student center boards.
    - Senior Center: They do not display rack cards, but they are interested in bird walks and/or bird talks. See new business.
    - Sharon Benjey took some cards for the Leelanau Library
    - Kathy Flegel took cards and a rack for the Nature Center.
- Membership Listing  
Delivered to Copy Central on Thursday March 10. They will produce a new membership listing in PDR format.

### **Publicity/Newsletter Kirk Waterstripe**

- Functional emails: [Membership@grandtraverseaudubon.org](mailto:Membership@grandtraverseaudubon.org)
  - Kirk Waterstripe requested that two email addresses be set up in Blue Host; [Newsletter@grandtraverseaudubon.org](mailto:Newsletter@grandtraverseaudubon.org) and membership as above. Kathy indicated that **Don Flegel** can have these emails be routed directly to Kirk and Ann from Bluehost without revealing their personal email addresses.
- Payment of dues online: PayPal: This needs more research. Kirk and Mary will investigate it. Kirk has some familiarity with using PayPal.
  - Cost per transaction
  - Good Idea but are out members likely to use this?
  - Ann, what are your thoughts?
- Presentation in Leelanau: Kirk did this March 10, Bird related plantings
- Newsletter feedback: great newsletter

### **Liaison with Michigan Audubon Society : John Mesch**

- Nothing new to report

### Old Business:

- Blue Bird Houses:
  - This project will be done in 2023.
  - Plan: Put this on the July agenda so that we can plan and seek volunteers to do some of the cutting of the bird house patterns etc.
  - Discussion in July: We still need to flesh out our goals?
    - Goals? : Having kids/parents and adults build for their use? Do we want a good will donation to cover some or all of the cost? Replace boxes on Leelanau? Around Nature Center? New locations?
    - Who will lead the project?
    - Cost of materials: Jerry has a ballpark figure for lumber. \$180 for 25 boxes. Who would lead the construction of the boxes?
    - Partner with Bluebird Society? What are their requirements?
      - We didn't really answer this question.
- Internship for Evan Reister: Perhaps Even would like a project to place, monitor and maintain Blue Bird boxes in an area near his home?
  - Kirk indicated that Evan is busy and is likely more in need of work to save for college. Not pursuing this.
- Discussion of plan for approaching GT County Parks and Rec regarding a mobility dock at Medalie Park
  - Kirk reported that he has been watching the progress of the new bridge over the Boardman River. He will eventually go out and measure the grade to see if it would be accessible for those who may be mobility limited. The new bridge may be a viewing platform of sorts.
  - The idea of the platform at Medalie is still viable but we need to see how it may fit with the new bridge. It may be a great opportunity for folks who could not access the bridge.
- Gourd Purple Martin House System at Grielickville Park.
  - This piece of the Purple Martin House is on hold given that we may have another opportunity for a PM House at the Historic Barns at the Commons.

Do we have sufficient volunteers to manage this project?

- Kirk reported that has been contacted by the folks at the Barns. They have a Purple Martin House that they would like us to take care of. Kirk does have three or four folks that have volunteered to help. He will do more promotion in the May newsletter.
- The Petosky Area Audubon Society has a YouTube video that they showed at their latest meeting. <https://youtu.be/-p2W-upwJBg>
- Sharon Benjey knows a gentleman in her area that did a lot of research to put up Purple Martin Houses in his yard. This sounds like an interesting story. Sharon will interview him for the May newsletter and send a short article to Kirk .

- 2023 GTAC Bird Calendar: Do we want to pursue this project or table it?
  - We really didn't conclude on this project.
- Kirk raised the question as to whether, in addition to Bluebird houses, would this be an opportunity to build some houses for other species? Owls, why isn't there a duck box on the Boardman? We could sell them for a small profit for fund raising.
  - There was some discussion. We are going to stick with the Bluebird Houses for now. This idea may come up in the July meeting when we discuss Bluebird Houses and plan for this project.

**New Business:**

- Bluebird House at the Barns: Kathy Flegel: See Kirk's report
- Boardman River Clean Up: Donation \$100 need to advise them and send letter if we intend to support this.
  - The board did discuss this and agreed to send a \$100 donation to the Boardman River Clean Up funding it from the Walter Hastings Fund. Under the Bylaws, the Board has the discretion to utilize the WHF.
  - A letter of support will also be sent.

MOTION: Motion by Mary MacDowell seconded by Kirk Waterstripe to support the Boardman River Clean Up in the amount of \$100 to be funded by the Walter Hastings Fund and to send a letter of support in the name of GTAC.

All approved.

- Mary sent the letter on March 14<sup>th</sup> and Ann sent the check on the same date

**Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM**