

GRAND TRAVERSE AUDUBON CLUB  
BOARD MEETING  
4.21.2022 10:00 am  
TADL Thirlby Room

**Minutes**  
**Approved 7.21.2022**

Call to Order

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

Absent: Leonard Graf, Sharon Benjey

**Approval of Minutes from 3.10.21 Board Meeting**

Approved without objection

**President Report: Kathy Flegel**

- Kathy gave an overview of her discussions with Great Lakes Audubon representative Izabella Grobelna. GLA is interested in promoting bird activity throughout the Great Lakes area. See training information at
  - <https://audubon.zoom.us/rec/share/zCQvP3hJ4WGA8-rKefJBpw7p0t7xNvB190koqggTk2ie5UteQeo2V6zZDx7TuciD.jN7HDXtpxK2jLuOU> Passcode: z\*Ajry=1
- GLA is encouraging GTAC ( and other Audubon Clubs) to sponsor one or more activities in their area to promote birding. These can be events that we are already scheduled to hold. GLA is willing to provide some support for these events but we're not totally clear on how that would work.
- Curt Hofer is involved with GLA.
  - It is somewhat unclear as to what the GLA is working toward beyond an increase in birding interest. Through discussion it was suggested that they this may be a way to gather more support for birding or support to be able to support protections of the environment.
  - Jerry mentioned that, on the topic of environmental support, Duck stamps are a good way to support environmental causes and many of our members may not be aware of this.
  - Kathy mentioned that there is a Piping Plover event at the Dunes May 20 and May 21.
  - Kathy suggested that we use the Detroit Audubon Bike and Brew event in the fall as possibly one of these events. She will touch base with Leonard.
  - This was tabled and Kathy suggested that we look at the presentation that was provided to her. Kathy provided the zoom link. (above)
  - This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

**Vice-President Report: Jerry Freels**

- Jerry discussed the Blue Bird House project. He is willing to be the lead on this

- aspect of the project. He has done much of the initial work.
- The building of the houses should take place in late summer or early fall so that the houses can be set out in place before the bad weather.
- He had provided the cost for 26 houses @ \$180 but noted that with escalating lumber costs that is likely to increase. There is some cost for hardware and possibly PVC poles.
- Jerry has recruited a friend to cut all the lumber for the project.
- It may be possible to obtain sponsorship for the required lumber from Home Depot.
- Jerry had contacted the Blue Bird Society and they indicated that they would be amenable to giving a short presentation on where to put the houses and how to take care of them.
- Need a volunteer to approach Home Depot or another materials provider.
- This will be discussed in July at which time more details will be planned.

### **Past President Leonard Graf / information per Kathy Flegel**

October speaker: Any update from Leonard on Chris Neri?

- Kathy reported in Leonard's absence that Chis Neri is not available.
- Kirk Waterstripe suggested approaching the newly appointed director of the Botanical Gardens which is at the Historic Barns. Kirk suggested that this would be an opportunity for a talk on Native Plants. Kirk will contact him.
- We still have Terry Grabill who is interested in giving his BIG YEAR talk.

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

Status of accounts:

Checking Account: \$3816.08;

Walter Hastings \$885.78;

Petty cash \$53.00

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

Membership list sent via Bird Alert on 4.19.2022

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

- Update on Sunday walks: Kirk has had 7 to 10 participants on the walks despite that cold weather.
- Kirk is working on a program for senior walks. He is working with the program person at the Senior Center.

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

- John has not had any report from MAS.

### **Old Business:**

- October Annual meeting speaker: Discussed above
- Blue Bird Houses: Revisit in July GTAC Board Meeting.
  - See Jerry's report

- Discussion of plan for approaching GT County Parks and Rec regarding a dock for mobility challenged persons at Medalie Park.
  - Kirk indicated that he would reach out to the Disability Network to see if they see this as a need for mobility challenged individuals. If so, he will ask if they would be interested in pursuing this.
- Purple Martin House at the Historic Barns.:
  - Kirk has three volunteers to watch the houses to determine if non-Martins are trying to nest there. Each volunteer watches the house for 15 to 20 minutes three days in their assigned week. Kirk will instruct the volunteers.
- 2023 GTAC Bird Calendar:
  - Kirk did investigate this further and reported that it is more costly than originally thought. This idea will not be pursued.

### **New Business:**

- 4-H program, how to get started. Kirk and Mary
  - Mary will contact Emily Kotz 4H rep at the extension service for more clarification on how this program would work. Then the membership will be surveyed.
- Library backpacks
  - Kirk investigated the cost of binoculars for youth and adult that would be suitable for the backpack project. The youth binoculars run about \$60 to \$70; a reasonably decent pair of binos for adults are at about \$140 to \$150. He also has costs on two or three books for the backpack. The projected cost of each pack would be around \$250 for each pack. He's looking at 4 back packs now; two for TADL, one for Leelanau Library and one for Glenn Lake library. (Kirk is this information correct?)
  - It was moved by Mary seconded by Ann to proceed with making one prototype to get a firm cost. Then this will come back to the board.
- Commons survey update. Kirk
  - Kirk has divided the area into four zones and recruited some expert birders to conduct the survey.
- Proposed Bylaw changes (sent to board members with agenda) Mary Tabled

### **Adjournment**