

GRAND TRAVERSE AUDUBON CLUB
BOARD MEETING
7.21.2022 1:00 pm
TADL Thirlby Room

MINUTES

Present: Kathy Flegel, Leonard Graf, Kirk Waterstripe, Mary MacDowel
Absent: John Mesch, Sharon Benjey, Jerry Freels, Ann Kennedy

Call to Order : Meeting called to order at 1:10 p

Approval of Minutes from 4.21.22 Board Meeting: Minutes approved without exception.

President Report: Kathy Flegel

- MI bird Ambassador: Bird and Brew: Leonard provided update
- Blue Bird Houses
 - Discussion: Set tentative target date for building the bird houses: Saturday November 5th.
 - Need the supply list to cost out : wood, hardware, poles any other supplies:
 - Once we have costs someone should contact Home Depot to see if they will donate the supplies or provide a discount.
 - At the last meeting, Jerry Freels indicated that his friend would do all the cutting of the wood.
 - It was suggested that the club provide an opportunity for participants to make a good will donation to offset the costs if necessary.
 - Jerry Freels had indicated at the last meeting that he had contacted the Blue Bird Society to arrange a short presentation for the participants
 - **Kathy will contact Jerry to discuss the project and the needed follow up.**
- October Meeting:
 - Tentative dates set for Saturday October 22 or Saturday October 29th depending on availability of the Church and/or availability of the speaker.
 - Kirk had reached out to the director of the Botanical Gardens but has not yet heard back.
 - If the Director of the Botanical Garden cannot speak, we will reach out to Terry Grabill who offered to do a talk on his Big Year.
 - Once the speaker is settled on and the date Leonard will be advised.
 - **Leonard will make arrangements with the church once the date is set.**

Vice-President Report: Jerry Freels

Past President Leonard Graf

Board Nominations: Leonard will seek nominees for the club Board for 2023.

- Update Bike and Brew
 - Leonard Graf confirmed that the Detroit Audubon club Bike and Brew is scheduled for September 18th. @ 9:00am. They will start in Sutton's Bay and ride south to DeYoung Nature Preserve. We will need a few people to be stationed at strategic points, namely the ponds. Leonard will contact the Detroit club to confirm the details. He will follow up on Volunteers
 - Leonard will follow up with the Church once Kirk hears back from the speaker.

Treasurer Report : Ann Kennedy

Birding Backpacks: Ann has been keeping the spreadsheet of the donations. We have \$950 in donations from the club. These are in checking account.

Secretary Report: Mary MacDowell

4H update:

- To date Kathy Flegel and Barb Semak have volunteered to participate in the 4 H program.
- We will ask Emily Kotz to attend the September meeting and give a short presentation and answer questions regarding the program, what it entails and who will prepare the materials for the presentation. This seems to be a point of confusion.
- Mary will contact Emily Kotz and ask her to attend.
- Proposed Bylaw changes (sent to board members with agenda) Mary
 - Brief discussion no action taken

Publicity/Newsletter Kirk Waterstripe

Library Backpacks update:

- Kirk has all elements for the backpacks covered and he will begin to make purchases and assemble them.
- Kirk reached out to the Friends of the Library coordinator to see if they would discuss the project and, perhaps, obtain some donations.
- Kirk is preparing more targeted birding spots to include in the back packs so that the participants can become familiar with areas closer to home. Good idea.
- It was mentioned that one of the contributors suggested that the Kingsley Library be included. While we are proceeding with four at this time, Kathy will discuss this with the Friends of the Library there to see if they might be receptive to support. This may have to be in the next wave of this project.
 - **MOTION BY Mary MacDowell seconded by Leonard Graf that Kirk Waterstripe proceed to order the necessary binoculars for the four birding backpacks in order to obtain the offered 20% discount.**

Purple Martin Houses:

- No activity of any sort at this house. Kirk will continue to work with his contact at the Botanical Garden.

Commons survey update. Kirk is working up the data.

Library Walks:

- Kirk reported that the library walks were very successful with about 30 participants the first time and 20 on the second walk.

Liaison with Michigan Audubon Society : John Mesch

Old Business:

New Business:

- Member Kathy W has arranged a trip to the Houghton Lake Waste Water Treatment plant. Kirk will lead the walk.
- Kirk Waterstripe indicated that he spoke with folks at the Northport Marina where the boat Perception is docked. They do take small groups out. Kirk proposed that he investigate a trip to Gull Island in June of 2023.
- Kirk indicated that there is a Loon Nesting Platform on the Boardman. Not quite sure who owns it but it is believed to be up on the shore near NMC campus. He and Nate Crane discussed the possibility of taking it out into the lake.
- Kirk and Mary Ellen Newport will be doing the September meeting. Mary Ellen will bring her parabolic dish that amplifies bird songs. Kirk indicated that the meeting should start later in the evening as the birds will become active after 9:00 or so.
 - **Kathy and Kirk need to discuss and make a decision and advise the members and Emily Kotz if she can attend the meeting to discuss the 4H birding project.**

Adjournment : Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm