

Grand Traverse Audubon Club

Board Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2023

Attendees: Kathy Flegel, Leonard Graf, Kirk Waterstripe, Sharon Benjay,
Kathie Wiley

Kathy called the meeting to order at 6:05.

The first order of business was a discussion of the annual contract that the board received from Grand Traverse Conservation District / Boardman River Nature Center.

The Conservation District was looking to find a second person of contact with our club, other than the residing president, Kathy Flegel. Kirk Waterstripe volunteered to be that person.

Also, within the contract, it was stipulated that the club was to provide a minimum of 40 hrs. of service work in exchange for the room rental for our monthly meetings. We will let them know that this is acceptable and that we will primarily hold our meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month, with some exceptions when the meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday. Kathie has a list of current volunteer hours that she has worked thus far this year, and she alone has 34 hours for submission. With Don Flegel's hours, we far exceed the minimum requirement for this year.

They were also looking to find out if we had a club mailing address.

Currently, the club is using Kathie Wiley's home address as this is the address the bank, the IRS, etc. is using and we will provide the Conservation District with this address.

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The next order of business was the discussion of the By Laws changes that we entertained throughout the year. There were some changes that the board had already agreed to and some were carried in this meeting such as:

By Laws changes can be brought to a membership vote after 10 days review by the membership. *The review can be in writing or electronic communication.* (Kathy made motion, Sharon 2nd)

The name of the position on the Board of Newsletter to Publisist. (Sharon mad the motion, Kathy 2nd)

A motion that email can be used to conduct business for time sensitive business or in the event of a meeting cancellation. (Kathie made the motion, Kirk 2nd)

These changes and the changes Board approved of earlier in the year need to go to the membership for review and then subsequent vote. (with at least 10 days in between)

It was decided that we will try to get the Board approved changes to the By Laws in a written or electronic communication, with highlighted changes, to the membership soon for review and then put the changes to a vote the subsequent membership meeting.

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We discussed the possibility of hybrid in-person and Zoom meetings to be held in the future for our Membership Meetings for issues such as weather. Kirk suggested we consider including the implementation of this remote adaptation in our next year's budget.

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Kathy brought up a discussion of the Nomination Committee referred to in the By Laws. She felt we hadn't been adhering to its stipulations in quite some time. Kirk let us know that sometimes, the Nomination Committee in the past has been a party of one. We decided moving forward we will be implementing the Nomination Committee as it is outlined in the By Laws.

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Kathie brought up the secretarial vacancy and Kathy pointed out that we do have a procedure for filling vacancies within our By Laws.

Also, due to the vacancy, Kathie will get with our secretary from two years ago, Mary MacDowell, and see if she wouldn't mind mentoring the newly appointed secretary for 2024.

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We talked about the Liaison position between our club and the Michigan Audubon Society, of which we are a chapter. No one present was sure of exactly what that position entailed. Leonard shared that in the past, the Liaison would periodically go to the Michigan Audubon meetings and was considered part of the acting board. Things have changed and it appears the role is less active. In discussion of what the benefits of being a chapter of the MAS, Kirk explained that one decidedly important benefit is our having Liability Insurance through them.

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Kathie brought up the Lifetime Memberships that the club currently have in place for 5 accounts. Leonard explained that there was a previous Board decision that if you were a club member for more than 40 years, then you were given this allowance. Kirk mentioned that Tom Ford had been given a LM due to his artistic contribution of our current Chickadee Logo. Instead of creating a new By Law stipulating how to acquire a LM, Kirk suggested that perhaps we could benefit from a Policies and Procedures implementation. That would prove to be beneficial for this situation as well as others, instead of revising By Laws.

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We discussed the job descriptions of the current Board positions. In lieu of the upcoming officer nominations / installations, we decided that the current board members write a self-describing list of their duties. We'll try to get this done by the Annual Dinner Meeting.

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Kirk let us know about some projects he's working on.

Kirk addressed the letter the Board received from Phil with Green Spire about wanting to get his students involved with birding projects. Kirk made contact with Phil and suggested some projects the students could do such as repair current Purple Martin houses around town, make nest boxes,

monitor a loon platform that may be installed in Boardman Lake. We might also do some youth bird walks with them in the future. Kirk will keep in touch with Phil about these suggestions.

Kirk mentioned doing a future event with Norte and he'll be working on that. (Bird and Bike)

He is also working on promoting the Christmas Bird Count.

He is planning on soliciting a Record Eagle article.

Birding with a newspaper reporter ride-along

Holding a Christmas Bird Count Practice event on November 18th.

Finding permission to bird on a large track of land.

IPR – possible Points North interview / birding ride-along

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We discussed details about the upcoming Annual Dinner Meeting and who is bringing what. Leonard said that the building would be opened at 5:00

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50.