

Grand Traverse Audubon Club Board Meeting  
June 29, 2023

Attendance: Kirk / Kathy / Leonard / Kathie

The meeting opened at 1:00

### **Planning Events Discussion**

Discussion ensued surrounding events already scheduled and possibilities for new events.

- August 5<sup>th</sup>, Houghton Lake Sewage Ponds field trip, information on website
- August 6<sup>th</sup>, Kirk to take 4H to Boardman Lake to bird. (Not GTAC event)
- August 15: Bird walks to begin again on Sundays led by Kirk
- TBD: Detroit Audubon Bird and Bike Event / end of summer/beginning of fall
- September 16: Jaeger Watch, collaboration with Benzie Audubon- Info on website
- September 28: Mary Ellen (this is her rescheduled presentation that had to be postponed due to weather), will see if she is available
- October 21 (Saturday) (\*Annual Meeting) "What's this bird?" submissions from avid bird-photographers, cool birds, possibly slightly out of focus for a challenging game.
  - Teaching opportunity
  - Prizes possibly
  - Kirk will send out info and solicitations.
  - Board to set up meeting at 5:00, meeting/potluck at 6:00
- November 16: Brian Allen, Kathie to invite him to speak about Ebird / Discord
- November 18: Kirk to hold a practice bird count event
- December 16 (Saturday) Christmas Bird Count.
  - ( Antrim: Dec. 15 (Friday)
  - Leelanau: Dec. 20 (Wednesday)
  - Benzie: TBD)
- December 21: TBD

### 2024

\*Leonard shared with us a possible speaker, Dale Giddings, that would speak to us about "Wind Hill Farm and Bird Sanctuary". The board will discuss possibly adding him to our fall/winter meetings as a presenter.

March: Approach Scott Sneed about doing a presentation like the one he did at Wild Birds Unlimited this last spring.

### **Nomination Committee Discussion**

Kirk will encourage members to step forward and consider joining the board in the upcoming newsletters.

Kathie will encourage folks that attend the bird walks to get involved at the board level.

### **Petobego Dam Removal Input**

Kirk gave us an update on the DNR discussions surrounding the possible removal of the dam at Petobego Marsh. He let us know that he had heard that the possible removal decision had been pushed to a public comment possibly in July. We will be watching for this and see that our members are informed about the issue and when the public comment event will be held. Our contact for information about this is Damon McCormick.

### **Loon Nest Platform Update**

Kirk and Kathie let Kathy know that they were not contacted back about helping with the platform this last spring and there is no evidence it was put up. We tabled a discussion about our constructing our own for Boardman Lake next spring with member Nate Crane's advice.

### **Pink Footed Goose sighting location Patronage**

Kathie suggested a Bird Alert email to our members to remind them to get summer strawberries for the farm that allowed birders access to view the Pink Footed Goose. Kirk provided Kathie with the information for the Berry Flats Fruit Farms and Kathy will send the email.

### **Treasurers Report**

Kathie provided the following from the last Treasurer's report March 16, 2023

#### **CHECKING**

New Members: \$ 205.50

Outgoing fees: \$ 316.09

Beginning Balance: \$ 4299.94

Ending Balance: \$ 4189.35

#### **WALTER HASTINGS FUND**

Donations and Dividends: \$ 15.15

Beginning Balance: \$ 1241.08

Ending Balance: \$ 1256.23

GRAND TOTAL BANK BALANCES: **\$5445.58**

The board reviewed the annual budget to see that we were on track with our finances. We are accomplishing our budget goals that were approved by the membership at the beginning of the year.

### **Bird Books Donation to the Traverse Area District Library**

Kirk and Kathy decided it would be prudent to double check the TADL library inventory for the title of the books we are contemplating donating, so we don't duplicate what they already have. We'll look to provide a donation possibly this September.

### **Member email bounce back**

Kathie let the board know that after double checking that an email of a member was correctly input in our group email (Bird Alert), an email was still getting bounced back. Kirk suggested that there was some type of filter on the members end of things within their email settings. (Kathie contacted the member after this suggestion, and the member was able to adjust their settings and are now receiving Bird Alerts)

### **Logo Patches / Hats**

Kathie wanted to know the board's opinion on whether to proceed with the proposal she received from Alfie Embroidery for patches and hats with our chickadee logo. The would be sublimated, not embroidered, due to the complicated detail of our logo. Kathy said that she thought that there was already at least a small inventory of our logo on patches that were actually embroidered. She will attempt to locate them for us to see. In the meantime, Kathie will:

- Provide the board with an update to the bottom line of a minimum order.
- Provide the lead time for a minimum order.

### **Purple Martin House Check (Botanic Gardens)**

Kathie contacted the Botanic Gardens to see about mowing the grass to the birdhouse so that we could do our checks. This was done by Kurt Schmidt, one of the managers and founders of the Botanic Gardens. Kathie cleaned out the house and it's ready for a possible second brood of birds.

### **Christmas Cards/List Update**

We will add Berry Flats Fruit Farms to our Christmas Card list. Kathie mentioned trying to find Christmas Cards that benefit a birding cause.

### **Venmo Snag**

Kathie let the board know that a successful payment/membership sign up happened earlier in the week with PayPal. However, in trying to create an account with Venmo for membership convenience, there was an issue in that Kathie's phone number is already linked to her personal Venmo account and cannot be used for a business account. The

only work around, she thought, was to get a cheaper phone just for GT Audubon Club use. This seemed a bit more complicated than we feel we need to tackle at this time.

### **Master Username / Password List**

It was decided that the Treasurer and the President would have access to a complete list of complied access information.

Kathie has a working list and will submit to Kathy, as president, when complete.

We'll add our Boardman River Nature Center cabinet combination to this list as well as our Instagram account information.

We still need to work around the issues with our club Facebook page being tied to a previous board member's personal account.

### **Non-Profit Interest Update**

Kathie let the board know that she learned a lot in the 'So You Want To Start a Non-Profit' class. She let the board know that we are on track in most areas concerning steps to becoming a non-profit. Unfortunately, there are two major hurdles to overcome. One is that we are considerably late in applying for non-profit status after becoming a formal social club with an EIN number. The second is that we need to create and submit an Articles of Corporation form. The form is long and complicated and will take considerable time to complete and many decisions have to be made in doing so. It has been suggested that we ensure that our club mission is a charitable one and we demonstrate this in order to be approved as a 501-C3 charitable organization.

At 2:50, Kathy made a motion to adjourn and Leonard 2<sup>nd</sup>.