

GRAND TRAVERSE AUDUBON BOARD MEETING
March 9, 2023
THIRLBY ROOM TADL

Attendees: Kathy Flegel, Kirk Waterstripe, Leonard Graf, Kathie Wiley, Sharon Benjay, Evan Reister, and Karen Casebeer

President Flegel called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Minutes

Minutes from the January 19, 2023 Board Meeting were approved as sent after a motion by Leonard Graf and a second by Kathie Wiley. An approved copy will be sent to Curt Hofer for the website.

Karen will bring 3 printed copies of the minutes and printed copies of the agenda for everyone to each meeting.

Treasurer Report

Kathie Wiley reported a balance of \$4,475.94 in the G.T. Audubon Main Account and \$1,236.25 in the Walter Hastings Account for a Grand Total of \$5,712.19.

The Proposed 2023 Budget GTAC was approved after a motion by Kathie Wiley and a second by Kathy Flegel.

Kathie will contact Bird Alert members with unpaid dues and if still unpaid by the end of next week, they will be removed from Bird Alert.

The board agreed to add PayPal and Venmo as options for how members can pay for their dues. Kathie will set this up.

The board continues to gather information on applying for tax-exempt/nonprofit status for GTAC. Kathie reported that our sister counties already have tax-exempt status. The decision was tabled until our next meeting so Evan can get information from State/National Audubon and he can talk to Benzie Audubon Club too.

Other Business

The by-law amendments discussion was tabled until the next meeting so people can all have the same document to work from. Karen will bring copies from Mary's January 24 email.

GTAC will wait another year for a workshop on bluebird box kits.

Evan volunteered to become the social media person for GTAC. He will set up Instagram, Twitter, and a new Facebook page.

The board decided to publicize the Grand Traverse Conservation District's ideas for a Spring Bioblitz and a Global Big Day, but they cannot participate due to other commitments.

The board went into a brainstorming session to come up with new ideas for membership meetings and other outreach. One idea was a game night playing such games as Wingspan, The Birding Game, and Bird Identity Charades. Other outreach ideas included having a presence at the Cherry Festival or Friday Night Lights, such as coordinating with other clubs, walks (owl, shore birds, bugs). Evan will make contact with the Cherry Festival. Kirk also suggested we track attendance at meetings. He also proposed a Lake Watch on September 16 to try spotting Jaeger Gulls. To implement these ideas, a Planning Meeting will be held April 13 at 7 pm. The meeting will be open to the whole membership, not just the board. Kathy will check with the Nature Center about reserving space for the meeting.

A motion (Kathie, second by Evan) to adjourn at noon was approved.