

Grand Traverse Audubon Club

Board Meeting Minutes

Jan 11, 2024

Attendees

Kathy Flegel, Kirk Waterstripe, Kathie Wiley, John Imboden, Sharon Benjey
Jared Gugnitz

1. Meeting called to order at 5:03 pm by John Imboden
2. Roll Call
 - a. Present: Kathy Flegel, Kirk Waterstripe, Kathie Wiley, John Imboden, Sharon Benjey Jared Gugnitz
3. Approval of November meeting minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Kirk Waterstripe, seconded by Kathie Wiley. Unanimously approved.
4. Agenda
 - a. Additional Items:
 - i. Nominating Committee – committee should be formed to locate and persuade new board members. Must have at least one person from the board. Kathy Flegel will be the board representative for this committee. At the regular membership meeting, we will solicit other members.
 - ii. Participation in Green Elk Rapids
 - iii. Kathie motioned to approve the agenda, Sharon seconded. Unanimously approved
5. Introductory Comments
 - a. New President John Imboden talked about the things he will be focusing on during his presidency.
 - b. What will the future of this organization be? This will be the core question for the immediate future.
 - c. Must make sure we follow the proper process and modify bylaws for any changes we want to make.
 - d. Sharon would like to see our focus spread to nature in general, not just birds. Further discussions to be had on this topic.
 - e. 501(c)(3) status – we are not currently an official non-profit organization. Do we want to be? More discussions to be had on this topic.

- ii. Bird-a-thon – going to omit this for this year’s budget, and see how much income it generates (if we do it), and what we want to spend the money on
 - iii. Mailing supplies raised from \$50 to \$100
 - iv. Publicity amount is higher this year to allow us to have a banner created for events
 - v. Remove Web Hosting line item in Donations
 - vi. Moved all donations under the Donations heading with 2 subheaders: Recurring, Non-recurring
 - vii. Motion by Kirk Waterstripe to approve the draft budget (with discussed amendments) for presentation to the general member meeting. Seconded by Kathie Wiley. Unanimously approved.
9. Speakers for member meetings
- a. One of the three planned speakers for April cannot make it in April. Brian Allen and Nate Crane might be able to cover it. **Kirk to contact them and confirm.**
 - b. If the speakers for April fall through (or maybe at an open meeting in the fall), Sharon would like to see if MSU could come and talk about insects at one of our meetings. **Sharon to follow up on this.**
 - c. Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy: Might be able to get them to come and do a session at one of the membership meetings in exchange for members helping with bird audits on their property. **Kirk to follow up on this.**
10. Secretarial Duties – Jared Gugnitz
- a. Jared has not put together a list of secretarial duties. **Jared to send list to board members for consideration at the next meeting.**
11. Update on Website
- a. Kathie Wiley has learned how to update the website, and has updated the board members
 - b. **Kathie to update the website with upcoming events.** Board discussed which upcoming events to add to the website.
12. TADL Library Booth – Makerfest 4/20/24 10AM – 2PM
- a. Need to get volunteers to sit at the table.
 - b. **John to look into a table skirt with our name and logo**
 - c. We could have bird box kits at our table. Need to research costs and getting someone to make the kits.

