

Grand Traverse Audubon Club

Board Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2024

1. Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by John Imboden
2. Roll Call
 - a. Present: Kathy Flegel, Kathie Wiley, John Imboden, Jared Gugnitz, Kirk Waterstripe
 - b. Absent: Tom Comfort, Sharon Benjey
3. Approval of April meeting minutes
 - a. John motioned to approve the April minutes. Unanimously approved
4. Agenda
 - a. Additional Items:
 - i. none
5. Introductory Comments – John Imboden
 - a. none
6. Old Business
 - a. Finish revision of by-laws
 - i. Discussion about changes to the by-laws. **John will publish revised by-laws for the review and approval of the board members. Then it will be voted on by the members at the September membership meeting.**
 - ii. Nominating committee – **Kirk to put a call for members to participate in this committee in the next newsletter.**
 - iii. Dinner Meeting - Since we're not going to do the annual dinner at the church, and instead will have a normal membership meeting during which we will elect board members, **Kathie will contact the Nature Center to see if October 24th at 7PM is available for us to meet.**
 - iv. Do we need the approval of the Michigan Audubon to modify our by-laws, or just need to inform them? **John to follow up on this.**
7. Treasurer's Report – Kathie Wiley
 - a. Birdathon
 - i. Discussion about the role of birdathon funds in the annual budget. General concept is that the funds raised will be distributed immediately and not impact the budget.
 - b. Balances
 - i. General - \$3,685.12
 - ii. Walter Hastings - \$1,342.58
 - iii. CD – \$2,014.77
 - iv. Total - \$7,042.47
 - c. Taxes
 - i. Sales tax – there is no minimum, so we need to pay sales tax on every sale (hats, for example)

- ii. Income – \$5000 minimum, so we only have to pay income tax if we have greater than \$5000 income in a given year.
 - d. Motion to approve the Treasurer’s report made by John, seconded by Jared. Unanimously approved
 - 8. New Business
 - a. Relationship with Michigan Audubon
 - i. John has initiated discussion with Michigan Audubon about the benefits of being a chapter of Michigan Audubon. Currently there doesn’t seem to be a lot but discussions are continuing
 - ii. Ideas for more interaction include:
 - 1. Providing speakers for our membership meetings
 - 2. Guidance on events, scholarships, taxes, liability insurance, becoming a non-profit
 - b. Fall Speakers
 - i. Duke Elsner with MSU said he would do a presentation at the September meeting.
 - ii. Brian Allen and Nate Crane are willing to do a presentation, but we haven’t had a chance to finalize details.
 - iii. Still need an October and November speaker.
 - c. Power Island Bird Audit – We will meet at the DNR boat launch at Bower’s Harbor in the morning, time TBD. Kirk is working with the Park Ranger to finalize details and will communicate to the membership when decided.
 - d. Modification of the membership meeting schedule - Kirk Proposed that we move our general membership meetings to the 3rd Thursday of the month, rather than the 4th Thursday. Unanimously approved. This will be changed for next calendar year.
 - e. Friday Night Live
 - i. Participation in this is not an option since we’re not a 501c3
 - f. Field trip to Detroit
 - i. Kirk is following up on this, possibly the 3rd week of September.
 - g. Owl Prowl at the headwaters of the boardman
 - i. This will be the Sunday bird walk on Sept 28th.
 - h. New Sound System
 - i. Kathie would like to sell our sound system and use the proceeds to purchase a new one. Motion unanimously approved.
 - 9. Date for next board meeting
 - a. Sept 16 at 6PM
 - 10. Adjournment
 - a. Motion made by Kathy Flegel to adjourn. Seconded by Kathie Wiley.
 - b. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM