Grand Traverse Audubon Club

Board Meeting Minutes

Oct 1, 2024

- 1. Meeting called to order at 5:58 pm by John Imboden
- 2. Roll Call
 - a. Present: Kathy Flegel, Kathie Wiley, John Imboden, Jared Gugnitz, Kirk Waterstripe, Jenny Young
 - b. Absent: Sharon Benjey, Tom Comfort
- 3. Approval of August meeting minutes
 - a. John motioned to approve the Aug minutes. Seconded by Kathie. Approved unanimously
- 4. Agenda
 - a. Additional Items:
 - i. Old Business:
 - ii. New Business: Loon Platform Next Steps
 - iii. Agenda Approved by all
- 5. Introductory Comments John Imboden
 - a. none
- 6. Treasurer's Report Kathie Wiley
 - a. Balances
 - i. General \$ 3,481.73
 - ii. Walter Hastings \$ 1,780.67
 - iii. CD \$2,044.88
 - iv. Total \$7,207.28
 - b. Outstanding expenses
 - i. \$29.67 for bag for the loon platform cover approved unanimously
 - ii. \$100 for Duke Elsner
 - c. Budget Status
 - i. We currently have a surplus of about \$300 past the \$5000 limit that was set by the board
 - ii. Additional membership dues of about \$1000 are expected before the end of the year
 - d. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by John, seconded by Kathy. Unanimously approved
- 7. Old Business
 - a. Bylaw revisions
 - i. John will send revisions to Michigan Audubon
 - ii. Final copy with revision date has been uploaded to GTAC website by Kathie
- 8. New Business
 - a. Budget surplus donation ideas
 - Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy is looking for donations to stop development on a plot near Elberta (Elberta

- Waterfront Community Conservation Project). The board feels that an earmarked contribution would not be appropriate, but a general donation to GTRLC is a possibility in the future.
- ii. Whitefish Point Bird Observatory has had to suspend owl banding operations, in part due to lack to funds to pay the staff. Would they possibly benefit from a donation? Funds donated might just go to Michigan Audubon. This feels a little complicated
- iii. Mackinaw Straits Raptor watch
- iv. National Audubon (to support the Christmas bird count)
- v. Scholarship to the Michigan Young Birders camp
- vi. Scholarship to National Audubon Summer Camp on Hog Island in Maine
- vii. Decision on selected donations deferred to November meeting
- b. Upcoming Speakers
 - i. October Kirk will send John a short bio of the speaker for the introduction
 - ii. November Bird trivia night run by Kirk
 - iii. December member photos and stories
 - iv. Future ideas
 - 1. Gull ID workshop
 - 2. Mackinaw straits raptor watch
 - 3. monarch butterfly tagging
 - 4. botany for birders (IDing trees and plants to better give directions when spotting birds)
 - 5. digi-scoping workshop
 - 6. GTRLC speaker
 - 7. Skegemog Raptor Sanctuary (\$300 fee)
 - 8. Michigan Audubon Society speakers
 - 9. Jenny Young has several contacts in Indiana Audubon that might be willing to present via Zoom
 - 10. Logan Clark spends summers on North Manitou
 - 11. Alltrails primer
- c. Nominee Slate
 - i. Jenny Young is willing to step in to whatever role is needed (VP)
 - ii. Kathy will talk to Mary Ellen to gauge her interest in the member-atlarge position, as Sharon will be stepping down
- d. Alternative Venues for board and member meetings
 - i. Oryana West the room is a bit noisy, compared to the library
 - ii. TADL good option, but it fills up quickly, so sometimes it isn't available
 - iii. Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy on 3 mile they have a space, but they ask you to plan out many months in advance. But it is a potential option for larger meetings
 - iv. Grand Traverse Senior Center has space, and will be opening over the winter
- e. Audubon Great Lakes

i. Kirk is wondering if we should reach out to this organization and see who they are and what they do. They appear to be based out of Chicago, but they do some activities in this area.

f. Conservation Committee

- i. Kirk is proposing a subcommittee to keep an ear out for conservation projects, and gather volunteers to participate in conservation-based efforts. We need to make sure any participation reinforces the club's focus of birds, birders, and bird habitat.
- g. Birders guide to the Traverse City Area
 - Kirk would like this to be hosted online, and would incur a recurring cost for web hosting
- h. Web hosting cost
 - i. Our current contract has a higher recurring cost every 3rd year, so we need to make sure we're keeping room in the budget for this as it may be coming up next year
- i. Loon Platform
 - i. Loon Platform has found a storage location.
 - ii. We need to get the permission of the landowner, but NMC is reevaluating their land use strategy
 - iii. We also need permits from the DNR. One for the moorings, and one for the signage to tell people to stay away
 - iv. It's possible we could look for another location. Maybe the city would let us moor it off of Hull Park
- 9. Date for future meetings
 - a. Nov 25 at 6PM at Oryana West (Nov 20th alternate date at TADL, but Kathy can't make it)
 - b. We're going to try for a recurring schedule for board meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6-8pm
 - c. Next year membership meetings will be on the $3^{\rm rd}$ Thursday of the month
- 10. Adjournment
 - a. Motion made by Kathie Wiley to adjourn. Seconded by Kirk Waterstripe.
 - b. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM