

# 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
    - i. 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 of 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-at-large 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

