

# Grand Traverse Audubon Club

## Board Meeting Minutes

Nov 25, 2024

1. Meeting called to order at 5:59 pm by John Imboden
2. Roll Call
  - a. Present: Kathy Flegel, Kathie Wiley, John Imboden, Kirk Waterstripe, Jenny Young, MaryEllen Newport
  - b. Absent: Jared Gugnitz
3. Approval of October meeting minutes
  - a. Approved unanimously
4. Consideration of Agenda
5. Introductory Comments – John Imboden
  - a. Bird City – zoom meeting Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm; Kirk and Maryellyn interested
  - b. Bylaws acknowledged by MAS
  - c. John has signed the contract with the Nature Center for 2025
  - d. John would like to reassess non-profit status; he may be able to get free legal consult from neighbor to help with this
6. Treasurer's Report – Kathie Wiley
  - a. As of 11/25:
    - i. \$4,111.43 (main account)
    - ii. Walter Hastings account: \$1,915.75
    - iii. CD: \$2,059.98
    - iv. Total \$8,087.16
    - v. Kathie will be sending out dues reminders to members who have not yet paid for 2025
    - vi. 141 members, 67 current, 74 still outstanding
      1. Can pay with PayPal or credit card
    - vii. Received a recent \$100 donation to Walter Hastings account
  - b. Balance vis a vis \$5k limit – need to start considering donations we will make to bring us back down to \$5,000 (we're over \$6,000 between the CD and main account)

- i. WhiteFish Point – not at this time; need to understand a little better how this org works and relationship to MI Audubon
- ii. Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch - \$100
- iii. Christmas Bird Count (national to Cornell) - \$50
- iv. Grand Traverse Land Conservancy - \$100
- v. Leelanau Conservancy - \$100
- vi. ARK (bird rescue that takes song birds) near Houghton Lake - \$100
- vii. Northside Rescue (raptor rescue) – \$100
  - 1. In the future consider alternating between ARK, Northsky Raptor Sanctuary (Interlochen) and Skegemog Rescue Center
- viii. MI Audubon Young Birders Camp (donation through Birdathon in the spring)
- ix. Potentially Sleeping Bear Dunes (future consideration)

## 7. Old Business

- a. Pat O’Conner donating laptop (will use for member programs vs Kirk using his own)
  - i. Kirk will let Jenny know what programs we can accept from speakers
- b. Alternate venues for member meetings (April)?
  - i. Kathie working with Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy on 3 mile to secure their room
- c. Loon Platform – need to discuss at next meeting

## 8. New Business

- a. Speakers
  - i. Digiscoping– Jeremiah Oden; will plan as \$100 stipend for gas; last weekend in April as target. Jenny will confirm timing with Jeremiah
  - ii. Me to follow-up with Skegemog Rescue Center for availability to come to member meeting (Feb/Mar?)
  - iii. Botany for Birders (Kirk) – March?
  - iv. Nate, Brian Allen, Matt – Columbia (Jan or Feb)...Jenny to contact them
  - v. Kathy to follow-up with Steve Roels about Kirtland Warbler conservation – in person or zoom? (April?)

- vi. Scott Sneed – Gull ID (Jan or Feb)...Jenny to contact him
  - vii. Piping Plover Project at Sleeping Bear – MaryEllen to contact Vince (March?)
  - viii. Birds of North Manitou – Alice VanZoern (timing dependent on outcome of above contacts)
  - ix. Others
- b. Field Trips
- i. Jan 11<sup>th</sup> GTCD's Polar Plumage – Kirk
  - ii. U.P. Trip – Jenny (target 31<sup>st</sup> January/1<sup>st</sup> February)
  - iii. Tawas Birding Festival (May 16/17<sup>th</sup>)
    - 1. MaryEllen to lead Shumsky Rd on May 18<sup>th</sup> while Kirk out of town
  - iv. Detroit Bird Alliance Birds & Bikes coming here (June 8<sup>th</sup>) – bike around Boardman Lake; may be open to GTAC
  - v. Sportsman's Park (East Jordan area in Charlevoix County) Target Date: Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Kurt)
  - vi. Houghton Lake Sewage Ponds - Target Date: Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> (Kurt)
- c. Audubon Great Lakes – Kathy
- i. Based in Chicago; running MIBird Ambassador – coordinate between MI DNR, Audubon and birders
  - ii. They would like to do programs on DNR property
  - iii. Provide some funding (help with events, provide trinkets, volunteers, etc)
  - iv. Potentially partner with them for some of the events (like Maker Fest, etc)
  - v. Kathy will try to get more info on what they do
- d. Young Birder Recruitment – Jenny
- i. Potentially put together additional backpack with binocs, ID pamphlets, maps for additional libraries such as Interlochen (have 2 at TADL, 1 at Leland and 1 at Glen Lake)
  - ii. Potentially kids bird club? Work through the school? Ask for kid/parent to avoid any 1:1 child contact
  - iii. Leverage nature center website
  - iv. Consider Instagram; other social media?
  - v. Jenny to speak to Whitney at IAS to get more ideas

- e. Web page updates: Board members, newsletters, 2025 events
  - i. Everyone who has contacts for field trips/speakers should provide Kathie a paragraph describing what the focus of the field trip / talk will be
- f. Bird Survey – Kirk will send out electronic survey to gather ideas for the state bird
- g. 2025 Goals and Priorities – defer to next meeting
  - i. One year and longer – John
  - ii. Initial budget discussion to address these
- 9. Agenda and date for next board meeting
  - a. Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at Library in Thirlby Room, 6 pm
- 10. Adjournment
  - a. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM