

14 Jan 25

Present: Sharon Benjay, Kirk Waterstripe, Kathy Flegel, Kathie Wiley, Kirk Waterstripe, ME Newport; Jenny Young, Jared Gugnitz absent-

1. Side note: article about Walter Hastings
2. Call to order by John.
3. Roll call, noted above. Attempts to include Jenny Young via phone did not succeed!
4. Approval of 12 Dec 24 mins – Kathie moved to accept, Kirk seconded
5. Review agenda
6. Intro comments
  - a. John: John has conflict with board meeting dates. J leaves Jan 21.
  - b. Board meeting dates
    - i. Move Feb meeting to **Feb. 13** at TADL. Jenny and John out of town. Everyone else is good for Feb. 13.
    - ii. General meeting in Feb; Kathie has code since John won't be there.
  - c. 5013c update. John's neighbor will help with legalities. Articles of Incorporation are key. John will look for model articles / application. Any other MI models? Benzie.
  - d. Michigan Audubon interview for Chapter Spotlight. Send input to John with historical stuff asap. Kirk has pictures from Sunday birdwalks, will send to John.
7. Treasurer's report
  - a. Main bank account \$4706.01
  - b. Hastings \$1645.89
  - c. CD 2067.45
  - d. Total \$8419.35**
  - e. Membership –
    - i. 9 folks responded to Kirk's "cough it up" in newsletter
    - ii. Today 113 current paid members, 41 unpaid.
    - iii. Cancel 5/41 who are not likely to pay up. Leaves 36, KW will send final warning in Feb and delete them from BirdAlerts.
    - iv. Sharon moved, John seconded Treasurer's report.
8. Budget approval. Kathie handed out 2025 Budget Proposal. Discussion.
  - a. Added honorarium for Stephen R (Kirtland warbler).
  - b. Buy dongle to connect computers / chromebook to projector.
  - c. Eliminate names for non-recurring donations, move CBC to recurring.
  - d. Kirk moved, Kathy seconded budget approval; approved.
9. Old business
  - a. Speaker roster
    - i. Jenny as April standby for presentation (Ecuador)
    - ii. January – Botany for Birders (Kirk, Kathy); birdalert will signal change in program
      1. Five people showed up for Polar Plumage

- iii. January 29 – IPR-sponsored conversation about the state bird gathering at Rare Bird Pub
- iv. February – Skegemog Raptor Center
- v. March – Piping plover update Vince Cavalieri (NPS)
- vi. April – ~~Kirtland warbler~~ / Ecuador/ Jenny Young
- vii. September for Kirtland warbler Stephen Roels
- viii. October /Nov – Nate Crane, Scott Sneed travel
- ix. November / Oct - Birds in India – Sharon Benjay

b. Field trips

- i. Jan 11 Polar Plumage – five brave souls showed up
- ii. UP trip led by Jenny
- iii. Digiscoping – ~~April 26??~~ Date now TBD. Jeremiah Oden
- iv. May 3 Curt Hofer Sportsmans Park
- v. May 16-17 Tawas Kirk Waterstripe
- vi. May 18 – Shumsky with MEN
- vii. June 8 – Detroit Bird Alliance Birds and Bikes
- viii. August 16 Houghton Lake Sewage Ponds – Curt Hofer
- ix. Fall – bird migration parabolic mic monitoring
- x. September – Sharon Bug Night
- xi. September - bird banding demo by Kirk behind YMCA possible

c. Other events

- i. Maker Fest – no conflict with Digiscoping April 26
  - 1. Shrink art table added

d. Loon platform

- i. Kathie has been dealing w Lt. Morgan.
- ii. EGLE does not do the permit because it is not permanent; DNR does the permitting instead, but needs property owner's permission.
- iii. Kathie had to document TC ownership of shoreline to TC. Local news shows interest! Sheriff excited, might borrow their boat. Sheriff's Auxiliary can also drive the boat!
- iv. We can't enforce requirement to stay away; Tom Comfort's wife might know about loon buoys.

e. Interlochen P Library – backpack. Money dedicated; they already have one! Not from us, they have cheap pair of bins. Would be happy to accept one from us. Cost \$200, 300max. Hastings? ME will check out what condition stuff is in with their current backpack in their "Library of Things."

f. Website upgrade – Kirk sent out examples; let's identify templates we like, maybe put in budget for next year. Kirk to ask Benzie Audubon about their recent re-design.

g. Conservation Cmte of One: is there anyone fond of tracking legislation, going to commission meetings, someone dedicated to be a presence on behalf of our board. Reach out to Holly Bird? Connect with GTB for a program?

- i. Three-county representative? GT, Leelanau, Antrim;

- ii. MAS has been reaching out, they probably have a state-level person
- h. Bird City update. Ain't cheap. John, Kirk and ME attended. Team-based approach with local govts. Not sure what we would get out of it. Designation as Bird City. Talk to someone in MI who has gone through it. "Buzzword bingo." It might be beneficial if we could establish a path / or attraction.
- i. Rough-legged Hawk Project – MEN, Jared G and John I attended Neil Paprocki talk on RLHA. Kirk will follow up with Motus tower. ME will get back to Neil with our interest and his ideas. We are interested in linking up down west coast. OK for ME to continue to pursue. Connect with NPS / Vince? ME to follow up with Kirk about MOTUS towers, connections with other clubs, etc.
- j. Young folks meeting
- k. MI Birds – GL Audubon. To Kathy W. Shareable pamphlet. They might have door prize-type items. Not sure they would be interested in RLHA Project or not.
- l. IPR State Bird thing on Jan 29 at Rare Bird.

10. Agenda for next meeting. Feb 13 at TADL.

11. Kirk moved to adjourn, John seconded. Meeting adjourned.