

13 Feb 25

Present: John Imboden, Kathie Wiley, ME Newport, Kathy Wiley Kathy Flegel; Absent: Jenny Young, Kirk Waterstripe

1. Call to order by John 6:06.
2. Approval of January minutes – Kathie moved to accept, ME seconded
3. Review agenda
4. Intro comments
 - a. 5013c update. John will look into this more. We have clearly stated goals, so we have a good start. John and ME to get examples of articles of incorporation, so we can have a specific meeting to talk about this in March. If we move in this direction, we could potentially participate in Friday Night Live.
5. Treasurer's report – Kathie Wiley
 - a. Account Totals
 - i. Main bank account \$4920.56
 - ii. Hastings \$1680.96
 - iii. CD 2075.19
 - iv. Total \$8676.71**
 - b. Kathie submitted sales tax to State of Michigan and the check was cashed
 - c. Recurring donations will be sent out next week
 - d. Back pack was \$115.19 so far. Inserts have been printed but need to be laminated. ME to handle this and will have them printed on card stock.
 - e. We had a surplus from last year of \$1600. Kathie proposed that the backpack could come out of that fund. Also the loon platform could be payed from that surplus.
 - f. Upcoming expenses:
 - i. Dongle for the laptop
 - ii. Supplies for the trade shows (treats, shrink art supplies)
 - g. ME motion to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Kathy
 - h. Membership –
 - i. Today 123 current paid members; 19 past due, 3 of which are likely to pay soon.
 - ii. We have grown in the last 10 years, and even 2 new in the past month
 - iii. Recurring memberships
 1. We do not have the capability to do automated yearly recurring charges
6. Old business
 - a. Speakers
 - i. April – Ecuador trip, Jenny Young
 - ii. September – Kirtland Warbler, Steve Roels
 - iii. November – Bugs or Reptiles (Kathie to clarify), Sharon Benjey
 - iv. Nate Crane – Oct or November, TBD
 - v. Digiscope, date TBD

- b. Field trips
 - i. April 19 - Arcadia Marsh, led by Jenny
 - ii. May 3 - Curt Hofer Sportsmans Park
 - iii. May 16-17 Tawas Kirk Waterstripe
 - iv. May 18 – Shumsky with MEN
 - v. May 24 – Bring your own kayak, led by MEN (2 spots left)
 - vi. June 8 – Detroit Bird Alliance Birds and Bikes
 - vii. August 16 Houghton Lake Sewage Ponds – Curt Hofer
 - viii. Fall – bird migration parabolic mic monitoring
 - ix. 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 – MEN to get supplies for this
 - 2. Tables and electric are required
 - ii. Nature fest
 - 1. Planning to do a birding event before this
 - iii. Up north lake and cottage show, April 4-6
 - 1. We're invited to be a vendor for \$275.
 - 2. Board decided not to do this
 - iv. TADL trip to Arcadia marsh – not sure if this is happening this year, but if so, perhaps a representative from GTAC could attend to offer knowledge and information
- d. Rough Legged Hawk Project
 - i. Meeting with Neil Paprocki – Several board members attended
 - ii. Scenario 1
 - 1. Support Neil in data analysis for existing transmitters
 - iii. Scenario 2
 - 1. There are 2 transmitters available near the Straits. We could work with Nick to tag a hawk up in that area.
 - iv. Scenario 3
 - 1. A New Transmitter would be \$13-1600. With this we could tag a hawk in the Grand Traverse area. If Neil came out for this, we'd have to pay for his expenses. Maybe Nick from MSU could handle this instead of Neil.
 - 2. We may be able to partner with other local organizations to fund this.
 - 3. This would tie in with our young birders initiative.
 - 4. Further discussions will be had at the next board meeting.
- e. Project Snowstorm
 - i. Project to tag Snowy Owls. This could be another option if the RLHP doesn't work out.
- f. Loon platform

- i. Kathie talked to the City and they agreed that they own the land near the site. They granted permission to proceed with the application for a permit for the buoys.
 - ii. Kathie has submitted the application to the DNR, and it is going through the approval process.
 - iii. Kathie reached out to Peg Comfort to get guidance on how to install the platform.
 - iv. Kathie will investigate adding another signage buoy.
 - v. We need to find someone with a trailer who could help deploy this and remove it in the winter. Kathie to put a call out to the membership at the appropriate time.
- g. Bird City Designation
 - i. John recommends that we not pursue this because of the bureaucracy involved. The board supports this decision.
- h. Interlochen P Library backpack – We have the pack, binoculars, and several books. MEN to add laminated local maps, guides, and content list. Also add some GTAC brochures. Christy Tompkins is the contact at IPL. MEN to
- i. Website upgrade
 - i. Kathie asked if we could use the designer for the Benzie county site, and she is not interested
- j. Conservation Committee: Tabled until next month
- k. Membership meeting agendas
 - i. Do we need to read the Treasurer’s report every month? We’ll move ahead with only doing the Treasurer’s report at the September meeting and the budget report in January.
 - ii. We will further condense the minutes recap
- l. Updated Website
 - i. Kathie made some updates to streamline the Contact Us process
- m. Recommendations from Youth Initiatives call with Indiana Audubon
 - i. Emphasis was to get involved with local schools to provide bird related science content
 - ii. Facebook ads – these are fairly cheap, but we should probably increase the use of our facebook page, or maybe add a tiktok or Instagram account. We should ask Kirk to see if there’s anyone at NMC who would want some intern experience managing and optimizing our social accounts. Maybe a web design instructor or marketing class?
 - iii. Engage with local parks depts and nature centers – Maybe we could supply a birding expert when a nature walk happens. Vince C is scheduled to do a piping plover talk. We will ask him about the possibility of working together in the future.
 - iv. Use discord to remind people about upcoming meetings
 - v. Reaching out to top ebirders in the area, to engage with them
 - vi. Focus on field trips. Young people are more likely to come to an introductory field trip. \$5 sign up fee helps drive commitment

- vii. Target summer meetings to summer populations. Northern Express, postings at resorts
 - viii. SWAG – t shirts, hats, stickers
 - ix. Call the monthly meetings Monthly Programs, instead of meetings. Less business, more content.
 - x. Change to March-November program schedule to include summer folks
 - xi. Field trips should include invertebrate, reptiles, plants, etc. not just birds.
 - xii. Need to come up with metrics to gauge success of youth initiatives
 - xiii. TADL is willing to cohost a young birders event. Children come with their parents, meet at the library, and bird in the area.
7. Agenda for next meeting March 13 at TADL. April meeting April 8th at 6PM at Jenny Young's. May meeting date TBD at John's house.
8. Kathie moved to adjourn, MEN seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.