

Hampton Roads Bird Club
Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting
13 August 2015

1. The EXCOM met at Sandy Bottom Nature Park. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Attendance:
 - a. EXCOM Members and Committee Chairpersons Present:
President (Dave Youker)
Vice President – Brenda Gervais
Treasurer – John Adair
Secretary – Bill Boeh
Directors: Pete Peterman (2014-2017); Andy Hawkins(2015-2018)
Programs Committee (Brenda Gervais)
Publication Committee (Tom Charlock)
Field Trip Committee (Stuart Sweetman)
Membership Committee (Gwen Harris)
Host (Katrina Weber)
 - b. Non-Committee Members in Attendance: Meredith Bell
 - c. EXCOM Members and Committee Chairpersons Absent:
Directors: Elisa Enders (2013-2016)
Publicity Committee (Jessica Ausura)
3. Board member reports/topics for discussion:
 - a. The President brought up the following topics for discussion:
 - i. Conservation. The President revisited his advocacy that the club do more to support efforts for conservancy and the preservation of birds. Dave noted that the club currently contributes to conservation organizations (e.g., the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO) and maintains Bluebird Trails. The President solicited for ideas from the attendees. The following ideas were discussed:
 1. Stuart repeated his suggestion to “adopt” a portion of a local roadway, as well as suggesting that club members put up Martin houses.
 2. Newport News City Farm. Tom Charlock had contacted the City of Newport News, requesting access to the City Farm property to do some birding. The city declined his request. Tom recommended the club conduct outreach to other local organizations concerning the land now occupied by the City Farm, with the aim of repurposing the land as a city park rather than offering it up for development. Board members

discussed various options, such as a petition on Change.org (Brenda) and coordinating an effort with the Virginia Master Naturalists (Bill).

Action: Tom will coordinate club efforts to advocate that the City of Newport News maintain the land as a public park; Brenda and Bill will support Tom's effort.

3. The President revisited the idea of the club conducting surveys of the Western Marshes Important Bird Area (IBA). Dave noted that he had initiated the project several years earlier and the club membership had seemed interested at the time; however, the net result was that Dave ended up conducting all but 2 of the over 40 surveys conducted, and decided that given the other conservancy efforts he was involved in he could no longer be solely responsible for supporting the program. Brenda offered to spearhead a new effort to gain support for the program; Bill Boeh agreed to assist.

Action: Brenda will lead an effort to rejuvenate and maintain an IBA survey program; Bill will assist, and Dave will provide advice.

ii. Club Records.

1. The President advised that the University of Virginia (UVA) will accept and store key records from birding organizations, to include the HRBC. UVA will store key records, such as newsletters, meeting minutes, budgets, records of bird walks, field trips, etc. "Miscellaneous" records would not be accepted for storage. All stored records would be available to club members to review as desired. The board agreed that this was the most viable solution to the records issue. The President recommended that the board review and sort the records currently being stored at the home of Mary Copeland. The board agreed to assist the President in sorting the records in preparation for their transfer to UVA.

Action: The President will advise the board as to when their assistance will be required.

- b. Treasurer's report: Currently the Club has 93 memberships in good standing; 50 single memberships and 43 family memberships. The Treasurer provided a budget summary, which included the 2014-15 budget and a proposed 2015-16 budget (copies of the budget report will be available to club members on request). The board discussed proposed 2015-16 budget outlays, and proposed the following changes:

- i. Increase the outlay for speakers from \$500 to \$700 per the Vice President's request.
- ii. Increase outlays for donations conservation organizations

- iii. Initiate an outlay for bird rehabilitation organization(s)
- iv. Initiate an outlay to defray costs to repair/replace club-maintained Bluebird Trail next boxes.

Action: No changes to the budget were approved at this time, but may be reconsidered later in the fiscal year.

4. Committee Chair Reports:

- a. Field Trips. Trips were discussed and the following tentative schedule was developed:

- i. September 19: Hog Island
- ii. October 17: Kiptopeke
- iii. November 14: Mattaponi Loop
- iv. January 16: Back Bay
- v. February 13: CBBT
- vi. March: (date/location TBD)
- vii. April (date TBD): Great Dismal Swamp
- viii. May 7: Richmond

- b. Programs:

- i. Brenda advised that planned speakers so far were Pete Peterman (September) and Karen Roberts, a local bird rehabilitator (October). She also requested membership support in developing the topic/speaker schedule for the remainder of the year.

Action: Katrina advised that Shawn has a colleague, Ashley Kennedy, from the University of Delaware that might be able to provide an interesting talk; Ashley is investigating bird insect-prey preferences by collecting pictures from birders and photographers. Bill suggested Sacred Friends, a bird rehabilitation organization based in Norfolk. All members agreed to provide Brenda with suggestions.

- ii. Brenda requested additional funding to enable her to pay up to \$100 in fees per speaker; she requested an increase in outlay from the \$500 provided for 2014-15 to \$700 for 2015-16.

Action: The board requested that the Programs Chair develop a spend plan reflecting the expected costs for scheduled speakers. If the spend plan indicated a need to increase the outlay for Programs, the board would revisit the issue.

5. Open Discussion:

- a. The President advised that the CVWO had requested that local bird clubs provide a member to serve on the CVWO board in an effort to increase awareness of, and participation in CVWO initiatives, by local bird club membership.

Action: After board discussion, Andy Hawkins agreed to volunteer as HRBC's representative to the CVWO board.

- b. Bill had advised the board via email that Mr. Tom Olexa, the Joint Base Langley-Eustis (JBLE) Natural Resources Director, was leaving his position at JBLE for another position at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station. Tom had coordinated access to Langley property for several club spring/fall bird counts (and had participated in some of the counts). Bill requested the board consider providing Tom with a token of appreciation for his support. The board discussed the idea, but decided that determining who should or should not be recognized by the club could be a contentious topic, and that members who wanted to recognize support to the club could procure a club patch to present to supporters.
- c. The President requested the board consider whether the club should obtain coffee mugs or t-shirts emblazoned with the club's logo, both for members to purchase and to offer as tokens of appreciation when applicable (e.g., for program speakers). The board took no action, agreeing to discuss the matter further.

6. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

7. Next Club meeting will be Thursday, September 10, 2015, 6:00 PM, Sandy Bottom Park.