

Hampton Roads Bird Club
Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting
18 August 2016

1. The EXCOM met at Sandy Bottom Nature Park. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.
2. Attendance:
 - a. EXCOM Members and Committee Chairpersons Present:
President: Shawn Dash
Field Trip Committee: Jason Strickland and Andy Hawkins
Vice President – Brenda Gervais
Secretary – Bill Boeh
Publicity Committee: Jessica Ausura
Programs Committee (Brenda Gervais)
Publication Committee (Tom Charlock)
Directors; Pete Peterman (2014-2017); Andy Hawkins (2015-2018); Dave Youker (2016-2019)
Host: Jane Frigo and Wendy Maxey
 - b. Non-Committee Members in Attendance: none
 - c. EXCOM Members and Committee Chairpersons not Present:
Treasurer – John Adair
Membership Committee (Gwen Harris)
3. Board member reports/topics for discussion:
 - a. The President brought up the following topics for discussion:
 - i. Topic: 2016-17 budget
 1. Discussion: The President polled those present to determine if anyone had any issues with the budget submitted via email by the Treasurer. The President inquired as to if or how the Club could support a student this year. Dave gave a brief history of the students the Club had supported in the recent past. Last year the Club had helped fund the MOTUS Project which is a radio receiver site to be installed at Craney to record migrating birds that had been tagged with micro-transmitters. Dave recommended that the Club support the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas (VBBA) for this year. The President also inquired as to whether sufficient funds were earmarked for speakers; discussion yielded no strong rationale for changing the current outlay, but the issue could certainly be raised for future EXCOM consideration. The President noted that sometimes speakers at club meetings were difficult to hear, and suggested that the Club procure a wireless microphone for speakers' presentations to the

club. Finally, The President noted that the website was not very dynamic and rather old fashioned. Jessica suggested hiring someone to upgrade the site, possibly using Wordpress.

2. Resolution: The EXCOMM concurred with the proposed budget outlays. Additionally, the speaker's microphone and an upgrade to the website were determined as potentially worthy expenditures
 3. Action: . Jessica will research the cost to have the website upgraded. The President will query Marc Nichols to determine what kind of sound system the Conference Room uses and pass that information to Brenda, who will research the purchase of the microphone.
- ii. Topic: Bird blind at Newport News Park. The President suggested setting up a blind with bird feeders at Newport News Park to spark interest in observing birds. The President further suggested a donation box might be placed there to collect funds for Park programs. Discussion ensued regarding the location of the blind, accessibility, and other issues.
1. Resolution: None; action pending further discussion.
- iii. Topic. Procurement of items to facilitate field trips. The President suggested procurement of laser pointers and/or field radios for use during field trips.
1. Discussion: The EXCOMM discussed the pros and cons of using laser pointers. Andy Hawkins related that the club had purchased and used walkie-talkies in the past and that they did not work well. Jessica Ausura advised that there was a free smart phone application (Zello) that enabled smart phones to be used like a walkie-talkie.
 2. Resolution: No consensus was reached regarding the laser pointers. All agreed that the club should recommend use of the smart phone application rather than procure walkie-talkies.
 3. Action: Jessica will recommend use of the Zello application to club membership.
- iv. Topic: Western Marshes Important Bird Area (IBA).
1. Discussion. The EXCOM revisited the idea of the club conducting activities to support the Audubon Western Marshes Important Bird Area (IBA). Dave Youker noted that he had tried to garner interest in the project multiple times and the club membership had seemed interested, but few members actually participated beyond himself. Club members signed up to conduct quarterly surveys of various sites in 2015, but few were actually done. Dave stated that the project needed someone to remind volunteers to conduct the surveys, record them, etc. Dave offered to

conduct training for those unfamiliar with how a proper survey should be conducted. A discussion of how the data would be collected ensued; ultimately it was agreed that eBird was the best option for collecting any data; a "WSMIBA" account could be established on eBird for data collection. The President suggested that some of the field trips might be used to visit IBA sites; the Field Trip Committee agreed that that idea should be explored.

2. Resolution: None; EXCOM will continue to determine the Club's level of interest and how the Club might support the IBA. Jessica will include questions about the IBA on the member survey to help gauge interest.
 3. Action: EXCOM will determine positive actions to take on this topic at a future meeting.
- v. Topic: Recognition of Club members.
1. The President inquired as to if or how the Club might recognize members for service to the Club. Dave advised that this same discussion had been held the previous year without resolution. Jane Frigo suggested making personal phone calls to new members or visitors.
 2. Resolution: None. Topic will be revisited as needed.
- vi. Topic: Presenters for the September meeting (and beyond).
1. Discussion: A number of good candidates as presenters was provided to Brenda. Subsequently the EXCOM discussed options for the September meeting, and decided that committee chairs should provide a brief overview of Club activities for the upcoming year.
 2. Resolution/Action: Committees will provide an overview of intended activities for the upcoming year at the September meeting.
- vii. Topic: Field Trips.
1. The President asked what trips the Club should take this year. Various options, including overnight trips, were discussed. Hog Island was selected for the September field trip since the birding is so good there at this time of year. The Eastern Shore, Pleasure House Road, and a boat trip were suggested for future trips.
 2. Resolution/Action: The Field Trip Committee will research locations for future trips and report back to the EXCOM; Jessica will develop a survey for the membership to determine their preferences.

viii. Topic: Snacks for the September Club meeting. Jane reminded the EXCOM that the EXCOM traditionally provides the snacks for the September meeting.

1. Action: The EXCOM will provide snacks for the September meeting.

4. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

5. Next Club meeting will be Thursday, September 8, 2016, 6:30 PM, Sandy Bottom Park.