Hampton Roads Bird Club  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 23, 2022

1. The Executive Committee (EXCOM) met at the President's residence and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.
   1. EXCOM Members and Committee Chairpersons Present:

President - Dr. Shawn T. Dash

Vice President – Mark Sopko

Secretary - Bill Boeh

Treasurer - John Adair

Board (7/21-6/24): Katrina Dash

Board (7/22-6/25): Michael Meyer

Board (7/20-6/23): Walter Harris

Website Editors - Ellis and Wendy Maxey

Field Trip Coordinator - James Abbott

Hospitality - Jane Frigo

Publicity - Vacant

Leader, Sunday Newport News Walks - Jane Frigo

Compiler, Christmas and Spring Bird Counts - Bill Boeh

* 1. EXCOM Members and Committee Chairpersons Absent:

Newsletter Editor - Tom Charlock

Membership - Gwen Harris

* 1. A quorum of EXCOM members was present. There were no non-EXCOM Members in Attendance.

1. Issues for discussion:
   1. Budget
      1. Discussion:
         1. Proposed budget reviewed.
         2. A new line item was presented for consideration: Virginia Society of Ornithology funding request to support the 2nd Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas project.
            1. The VSO sent an email to the President requesting a pledge to donate $300 per year for four years in support of the 2nd Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas project. The support is needed to publish the results of the Atlas on a website. The letter states that “the Hampton Roads Bird Club can help by sponsoring your mascot, the Laughing Gull, with a pledge of $300 per year for four years, 2022 through 2025, totaling $1,200. By donating your pledge amount for all four years, the published Atlas species account will state that the Laughing Gull was fully sponsored by the Hampton Roads Bird Club. We will also include your club in the list of Atlas donors on the VSO website.”
            2. The EXCOM consensus was that the club has more than ample savings to support the request; it was also noted that the club has provided monetary support for the Atlas in the past.
         3. Speaker’s Program fees were discussed; estimate was revised to reflect for 5 paid speakers at $120 each for a total $600.
         4. Estimated expenses were validated by committee chairs.
      2. Action:
         1. A $300 line item will be added to budget to fulfill VSO’s request.
         2. Speaker’s Program line item will be updated to reflect new total of $600.
         3. The proposed budget will be submitted for membership approval at the September meeting.
   2. Club Meetings
      1. Thematic approach: The President would like to implement a thematic approach to meetings. E.g., for spring migration, the bird ID quiz and speaker would cover warblers. There was no dissenting opinion.
      2. Programs: Programs will include speakers to cover general birding topics, travel logs, educational development, as well as video presentations. Katie Foster, the club’s sponsored graduate student, should be available in January or February to speak about her project.
      3. Hospitality:
         1. The Hospitality chair would like three volunteers to bring snacks/drinks for each meeting. EXCOM members will cover the first meeting. Hospitality chair will put out signup sheet for subsequent meetings.
         2. 2022 Holiday Party: The EXCOM discussed the party, and the consensus was to have a pot-luck dinner similar to those that took place before the COVID pandemic.
      4. Conduct In-person meetings or Zoom hybrid. The President recommended the club cease broadcasting the meetings via Zoom, but to continue to use Zoom for program speakers if applicable.
         1. Discussion: The EXCOM agreed with this recommendation.
         2. Action: Treasurer will highlight the fact that the meetings will not be broadcast via Zoom in his annual email reminding the membership to pay dues. The website will be updated as well.
   3. Club Constitution and Bylaws. Over the summer, an effort was undertaken by several EXCOM members (who informally acted as an ad hoc committee) to update the club’s Constitution and Bylaws.
      1. Discussion: The EXCOM discussed the effort and what the desired outcome was. The President recommended that the document address liability issues and diversity, and that the document be ready for member vote by March 2023. The EXCOM concurred with those recommendations.
      2. Action: The Secretary will lead the effort, forming a Constitution and Bylaws Committee to develop a draft document. The committee will have five members. Three members will be EXCOM members who were on the informal committee, and the remaining two will be club members at large. The Secretary will solicit volunteers to serve on the committee, with the goals of finalizing the committee membership by Sept 30 and preparing a draft document for membership vote in March, 2023.
   4. Club activities
      1. Fall Big Day: Dave Youker will coordinate this event.
      2. Monthly Photo Contest: Michael Meyer will coordinate this activity.
      3. Club Outreach: The President advised that he Dash and Bill Boeh are representing the club at the Paw Paw Festival August 27th. He also advised that the club has been invited for the Mariners Museum Fall festival in November; he will ask the club for volunteers before committing the club to attend.
      4. Bird Counts:
         1. Bill Boeh advised that this year’s Christmas Bird Count will be on December 17th.
         2. The Spring Bird Count date was discussed. Normally the count is held the last Saturday in April, but in 2023 the last Saturday is the 29th, which will likely conflict with the VSO annual meeting (as happened in 2022). After discussion it was decided that Saturday, May 6 would be the date for the Spring count.
      5. Field Trips. James Abbott discussed the current slate of planned trips for the upcoming year:
         * + September 3rd - Back Bay (subsequent email changed to September 10th)
           + October 16th - Eastern Shore
           + November 13th - Grandview Beach
           + December 11th - Dutch Gap Richmond
           + January 8th - York River Colonial Parkway
           + February 12th - Back Bay Tram
           + March 19th - Hog Island WMA
           + April 23rd - Dismal Swamp
           + May 7th - James River Parks Richmond
         1. James is looking for input on locations. A Piney Grove trip could be arranged if desired. Additionally, James may be able to obtain permission for a driving tour of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel islands in January instead of York R. A visit to Craney Island remains very difficult to arrange; he is still trying. James is also working to arrange a boat trip to Fort Wool in spring using the James River Association’s deadrise boat.
         2. The current list will be posted on the website.
2. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Approved by: Shawn Dash, President