

PSO Board of Directors' Meeting

Boalsburg

October 25, 2008

The board of directors met at Duffy's Tavern in Boalsburg with the following members present: Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Rudy Keller, Arlene Koch, Sandy Lockerman, Geoff Malosh, Mark McConaughy, and Jack Solomon. The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Arlene.

The minutes of the previous board meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The minutes were accepted as received.

Frank gave the treasurer's report and reported that we have money. A mailing was conducted using the names and addresses from the ABA list exchange and produced 16 new members. Mark moved that the report be accepted and Jack seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Jack suggested that we check with Audubon to see if we could use their list to conduct a mailing. Frank said that Carmen was planning to do that.

Margaret needs articles for the *PSO Pileated*. Arlene's articles have received good comments. Rudy will write a book review and Jack will compose an article about the joint spring meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society and the Association of Field Ornithologists in Pittsburgh. All other articles are welcome.

Old Business

Heintzelman is in poor health.

Arlene brought up the topic of wind power and whether PSO has ever taken a position on the subject. Greg Grove wrote a letter in 2005 stating our position. Other organizations that have positions are Hawk Mountain on their website and Audubon.

A motion that a copy of all letters that are mailed be forwarded to the secretary to be archived was made by Shonah and seconded by Mark. The motion passed unanimously.

The board decided that any request for money should be decided by the entire board on a case by case basis.

Methods to increase membership were discussed. Geoff feels that an increased presence on the web will help. Frank commented that local bird club members mainly want to bird in their local areas and it is difficult to get them to go elsewhere; therefore there is a limited number of birders who are interested in birding the entire state. PSO had achieved a maximum membership of about 700 which slowly declined from this point. Frank thinks that this is due to people trying something new and then dropping out when they find out it is not for them. Rob Blye volunteered several meetings ago to seek possible ways to

increase membership. Arlene said that she would write a letter to the local bird clubs for which she can find contact information to encourage their members to join PSO. Mark suggested that we get the governor to declare "Birding Week" in the state. It was suggested that we check with Greg Grove to see if he might be able to help make this happen.

Geoff commented that Dan Brauning suggested that *PA Birds* have an editorial board. The board would solicit articles for publication in our journal by contacting university professors with undergraduate students who have done bird-related research and need an outlet in which to publish it. The board would also find other sources for articles. It was decided after discussing several options that Geoff will be the chairman of the Editorial Board Committee. The PSO board should submit names of possible candidates to Geoff for his consideration. Geoff will write a mission statement for the editorial board.

The sale of T-shirts has been slow. Only four orders have been placed over the past several months.

New Business

The youth scholarship was discussed. It was noted that no one has applied for the scholarship in the last two years. Rudy made a motion that the age of the student scholarship recipient be changed to include any undergraduate college age student. The motion was seconded by Mark and passed unanimously. A notice of this change is to be placed in this newsletter.

Arlene informed the board that Bob Curry informed her that the AOU convention will be held in Philadelphia in 2009. He wants to know if PSO would like to have a table at the meeting. The board decided that we need more information about the cost and other details.

2009 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held May 15, 16, and 17. Shonah informed the board that Diamond Ridge Camp is not an option for the meeting this year. She was informed by the camp manager that there is a 75 percent chance that there will be construction at the camp during our meeting dates. The Bucks County Bird Club is no longer interested in hosting the meeting. We have entered into a contract with the Hampton Inn at Warrington for a block of rooms which Shonah thinks will not be a problem to cancel. The board decided to try to keep the meeting in Bucks County by moving it to the Quakertown area. Shonah will contact the Holiday Inn and the Hampton Inn to see if arrangements can be made for the meeting. It will be necessary to find a meeting room at a reasonable price which may be a problem. Room prices are between \$120 and \$130 per night. If arrangements can be made in this area, Bucks County Bird Club will have a very limited involvement with the meeting. If the Quakertown area doesn't work, then we will try to move the meeting to Lehigh Valley near Fogelsville. Should we encounter problems with arrangements in this area, then Frank suggested that we try Morgantown again. He thinks that he can make all the necessary arrangements there if we decide soon. He will be the contact for the meeting if it is moved there.

A few names of possible speakers for the meeting wherever it is held are Steve Saffier,

Laurie Goodrich, Bill Etter, and others.

Tom was informed that he is chairman of the awards committee and will need to contact other persons to serve. Any nominations for the Poole award or the conservation award should be sent to Tom. A newsletter article for the December newsletter will be needed to promote the submission of nominations for of the awards.

If the meeting is held in Bucks County, the Lesser Black-backed Gull would be an appropriate bird to be placed on the county pin.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary

Addendum 02-26-09

Because of problems with the Bucks County meeting site, it was suggested that the annual meeting be moved to Morgantown in Berks County. A vote of board members was conducted by email to decide if the meeting should be moved. All members who voted were in favor of moving the meeting. Two members did not vote.