

PSO Board of Directors Meeting

Boalsburg, PA

February 25, 2012

The PSO Board of Directors met with the following members present: Tom Kuehl, Mark McConaughy, Frank Haas, Carmen Santasania, Geoff Malosh, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Mike Fialkovich, Scott Stolson, and John Fedak. Wayne Laubscher was also present to discuss the field trips for the annual meeting. Tom called the meeting to order at 11:50 am.

Minutes

The minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. No corrections or additions were noted. Carmen moved and Mark seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Frank reported that there is \$7361.91 in our account as of February 24, 2012. The use of Pay Pal was discussed as a way of encouraging people to renew their memberships. Many people prefer to use electronic forms of payment, so this could possibly help renewal numbers. Frank said that it would be no problem to add a Pay Pal button to the website. He said that the cost would be \$0.30 and 2.2% per transaction or about \$0.92 total. There was general agreement that this is something that we should try. A suggestion was made that we may want to increase our membership dues due to an increase in postage and the use of Pay Pal. Frank said that there has been no increase in fees since PaBirds and PSO merged. PaBirds and the newsletter result in approximately 90% of our costs. A discussion of an increase in membership fees resulted in agreement that fees should be raised to individual \$30.00, family \$40.00, and sustaining to \$45.00. Mark made a motion that the fees be increased as suggested and Carmen seconded the motion. The motion was approved. There was further discussion about membership fees and a student rate for membership was suggested at \$25.00. Mark made a motion to institute a student rate of \$25.00. Scott seconded the motion and it was approved. Frank commented that we do make a profit from the sale of PSO items. Mark moved and Shonah seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report.

Frank also mentioned that the pin for the annual meeting will be an American Kestrel.

Newsletter

Margaret encouraged board members to contribute articles for the newsletter as articles are always needed.

Certificates of Appreciation

John reported that there were 15 new COAs. This is an increase from 58 to 75 certificates that have been awarded. Mark made a motion and Shonah seconded it to approve the COAs.

Awards Committee

John reported that Laurie Goodrich was selected to be the Poole Award recipient while the Northwest Pennsylvania Conservancy was selected to receive the conservation award. Mark moved and Frank seconded a motion to approve the nominations. The motion passed.

PaBirds

Geoff reported that the magazine is doing well. There has been no action taken yet on the survey of the county compilers that was taken. There was a discussion of the use of ebird by the compilers in addition to the possibility of making PSO responsible for ebird. Doug and Dan need to be contacted regarding this. It was the feeling of the board that the game commission will still want to remain in charge of ebird.

New Board Members

There was a discussion of the possibility of expanding the number of board members. Persons suggested were:

Joe DeMarco - Former public relations manager at Protor and Gamble and more recently retired chairman of the board of Pennsylvania Audubon and presently a board member of National Audubon.

Keith Russell - Ornithologist employed by PA Audubon.

Flo McGuire - Former board member and member of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society

Cory DeStein - Young birder and county compiler for Lawrence County.

Emily Thomas - Young ornithologist with MS from PSU employed by the U.S. Forest Service.

Marjorie Howard -Atlas project coordinator from Greene County.

Wayne Laubscher - Clinton County compiler and presently working for the game commission.

John suggested that it would be a good idea to give the board members some additional responsibilities by forming committees to work on different projects. The addition of new board members would seem to be necessary after a discussion of the possible committees that could be useful to fulfill the PSO mission statement. We decided to discuss, on line, what committees to form and then meet.

Mark made a motion to ask the above people if they would consider serving on the board and Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be at Lock Haven University's Sieg Conference Center. Shonah said that the buffet would be catered at a cost of \$25 per person. There are several motels nearby or participants can stay at the conference center dorms for free on a first come first served basis.

Wayne discussed the field trips that have been arranged.

Possible vendors for the meeting are Aden Troyer, a potter, PSO t-shirts, and a wildlife artist.

Alternate dates for the annual meeting next year were discussed with the first week in June being selected. The dates would be May 31 through June 2, 2013.

New Business

After considering the position of vice-president Carmen declined. Mike said that he would consider it.

PARBA - There was an email discussion concerning PARBA and further discussion at the meeting. The final outcome was that Frank and other board members think that we should help by sponsoring it which could gain us some additional recognition in the state birding community. Frank will add a line on the membership form for contributions. He will also talk to Tom Johnson, the owner of the service to see if he still needs the financial help.

The welcome centers on the PA Turnpike would like a brochure with information on where to go birding in PA.

John would like a link on the website for beginning birders to help them get started by directing them to appropriate resources.

Geoff informed the board that Ramsay told him that PORC is out of money. They need money for the for their general business expenses and they have traditionally paid their secretary a stipend because of the amount of work associated with the position. During the discussion it was suggested that possibly PORC could become part of PSO and the Chairman of PORC would become a board member. Frank suggested to Geoff that PORC draft a letter and send it to Tom Keuhl requesting that PORC become part of PSO with an estimate of their operating costs.

John sent a message to the PABirds server to try and determine how many users are members of PSO. He got about 50 responses back.

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary