

PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2019

The PSO Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting with the following members participating: Eli DePaulis, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Vern Gauthier, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Laura Jackson, Chad Kauffman, Wayne Laubscher, Sandy Lockerman, Evan Mann, Emily Thomas, Carole Winslow, and David Yeany. Evan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes – Roger distributed the minutes prior to the meeting. Sandy made a motion to accept the minutes which Laura seconded. The motion passed.

Committees – Evan

Evan discussed the present committee structure. A discussion followed concerning whether committee members should be PSO members. It was pointed out that if they can't spend \$30 then they are not committed to PSO. This was countered by a suggestion that they may join once they are on the committee. One example is that not all of the field trip leaders at our annual meeting were members. It was then questioned if other organizations allow this. There was no final resolution.

The following are the current active committees:

Annual Meeting – Chairperson Vern – The list of committee members is OK.

Awards and Nominations – Deb – The member list is good, but Jane Earle may not be listed on the committee.

Bylaws – This is an ad hoc committee that will disband once the bylaws are revised.

Citizen Science – Vern and Doug Gross, Co-chairs – David and Eli would like to join the committee. Greg mentioned that he wants to push nightjar surveys. It was suggested that a tab be added to the website listing what opportunities are available.

Conservation – Laura – Members listed are correct.

Education – Holly Merker – Member list is OK.

Events and Field Trips – Chad and Evan, Co-chairs

Finance, Website, and Membership – Frank Haas – There was a short discussion and a general consensus that Frank should have a backup. Vern suggested that the website be changed to “drag and drop” rather than coding.

Journal – Greg – This committee is for the production of the journal only.

Membership and Outreach – Evan, Chad, and Carole – The goal of the committee is to grow the membership.

Newsletter – Margaret – Members include Flo and Jim McGuire and Roger Higbee.

Records – Holly – Chairperson of PORC

Emily said that it was OK for the committees to use Zoom for their meetings.

2020 Annual Meeting Update – Vern

“PSO 2020 All Things Bird” is an attempt to get away from calling it the annual meeting. He reported that things are moving along well for the meeting.

Conservation Committee

A combined Birding Blitz and Birdathon to raise money for a yet to be determined specific project is scheduled. This will occur June 12 through 15 making it a four-day event. A discussion ensued concerning whether this project should be included on the PSO website or if it should have its own domain. Sites exist that offer free domains, so the final consensus was that we should have a separate domain for this project. Vern has already been creating pages to be placed on the new website, and he will share them with the board.

Other Business

Eli discussed an organization called the “Pennsylvania Plant Conservation Network.” This organization actively manages native plants both on public and private property by educating the public. He would like permission to discuss the possibility of PSO’s partnering with them. This would come under the Conservation Committee. The board agreed that it would be OK for Eli to talk to them.

Evan wants to have one face-to-face meeting during the coming year.

Laura contacted Alice Fetterman about the Motus project. She suggested that PSO could donate money to fund the Motus project, fund the location of a tower, or check with Powdermill for what help we can provide for existing towers.

Sandy explained to the new board members the COAs and how the project works.

With no further business to conduct, David moved to adjourn; Emily seconded the motion which passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary

Three motions were made and votes taken after the November board meeting. They follow:

1. Vern informed the board that he could upgrade the Blitz for Conservation website to commercial free for \$102 for a year. Laura made a motion that Vern pay \$102 for the Blitz site and get reimbursed by PSO. The motion was seconded by Deb. The motion passed.
2. Holly asked the board to consider reimbursing Ian Gardner for his expenses as PORC secretary. Much debate concerned stipends for Ian Gardner and Wendy Jo Shemansky. Emily made a motion that Ian, or the person in his role on PORC, be reimbursed for all costs incurred related to work for PORC, but that he not be given additional compensation in the form of a

stipend. Vern seconded the motion which passed. The stipend for Wendy Jo will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

3. Laura informed the board that Doug Raybuck, who is doing research for his PhD on Cerulean Warblers in Columbia, was on his way home and was mugged. He lost his backpack which contained the last of his data. This part of the research will have to be repeated, costing about \$1500. It was pointed out that Ceruleans breed in Pennsylvania and this research may have an impact on them. Laura made a motion which Vern seconded that PSO send \$500 to the IUP-Research Institute to help Doug Raybuck complete his research on Cerulean Warblers. The motion passed.

4. Although no motion was made, Laura asked permission to sign PSO as a signatory to the letter supporting the Migratory Bird Protection Act, HB 5552. Fourteen board members responded positively to her request. She reported that she signed PSO as a signatory to the letter supporting the Migratory Bird Protection Act.