

PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2021

The PSO Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting with the following members participating: Eli DePaulis, Mike Fialkovich, Vern Gauthier, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Laura Jackson, Chad Kauffman, Wayne Laubscher, Sandy Lockerman, Evan Mann, Holly Merker, Emily Thomas, Linda Wagner, and David Yeany. Evan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes – Roger

Roger distributed the minutes of the July 28, 2020, meeting prior to this meeting.

Fall Meeting – Evan

Evan said that there is a problem with the fall meeting at the Double Tree. The all-new personnel have raised the cost by \$3800 from \$11,000 to \$14,800. He said they will work with us on a cancellation fee. The cancellation fee could be as much as \$3700.

Vern outlined what he feels are our three options:

Move the meeting to 2022 at the Double Tree.

Plan to have a meeting with fewer people in attendance this year at the Double Tree.

See what it would cost to cancel the meeting.

Vern said that he thinks that there is a good chance of poor attendance if we hold the meeting this fall. Frank suggested that we conduct a survey of the membership to see how many will come. It was suggested that there might be too much uncertainty whether people will actually come versus saying they will come. Chad suggested that we move the meeting to 2022 and keep it at the Double Tree because of all the work that everyone has put into it. Greg said that he feels there are too many issues and uncertainties to hold the meeting this fall. Mike questioned if the field trip leaders would want to participate this fall. Possibilities to keep member interest were suggested such as a virtual meeting or having picnics in the western, middle, and eastern sections of the state with birding walks. Also, it was suggested that possibly we may want to consider having a meeting in May of 2022 to have it sooner if we decide to postpone it this fall.

After some additional discussion Vern made a motion to postpone our fall 2021 annual meeting till 2022. David seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Evan called to everyone's attention that since we will not be having a meeting this fall that we will have gone two years without scholarships and awards, both the Conservation and the Earl Poole awards. Also, a number of directors' terms are expiring, as well as the president's and vice-president's terms. He asked for possible solutions to this problem. One suggestion was that we could possibly have a virtual business meeting or have a one-day outdoor meeting to conduct any necessary business. He asked everyone to think about this issue so that we can discuss it at another time, possibly on the Google groups format.

Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation (B4C)– Laura

Laura informed us that the Conservation Committee, composed of Brian Byrnes and Laura, met with Vern via Zoom to discuss the B4C. Eli has also expressed interest in helping. It was decided that PSO would go ahead with the B4C this spring, but the participants will be required to follow the Covid guidelines. The rules will need to be changed with board approval so that an individual may participate alone rather in a group. In addition, some of the other rules need to be simplified. The same format will be kept and the website will be updated with the new dates and the rule changes. Two of the three conservation organizations have agreed to participate with no response as of yet from the third. No prizes will be awarded, but the top teams will be recognized. Vern said that we lost the domain name for our website, so it will have to be changed. We will need to pay \$168 to the hosting site to host our new domain name. It was also decided that some type of

disclaimer should be added to the website saying that PSO is not responsible for someone getting Covid if they participate in the B4C.

Evan said that he will cover both the postponement of the fall meeting and PSO's proceeding with the B4C in his president's article for the March newsletter.

Research Grants – Deb

No one applied last year, probably due to all the uncertainties as the result of Covid, so we will try again this year. Deb will send out a notification that the grant is available from PSO.

Awards – Deb

This will be the second year that we have not awarded the Conservation and Earl Poole awards. Deb questioned if we should go ahead and award them or wait. It was proposed that we consider choosing award winners but not actually make the presentation until we have a meeting.

PORC – Holly

Holly said that she is giving her final report as PORC chairperson. Everything is going well and running smoothly. Tessa Rhinehart is the new secretary and doing a great job. They have revised their bylaws again recently even though they revised them last year. Holly thanked Frank for digitizing 11 boxes of old PORC records. They are adding two new voting members, Dr. Scott Stoleson and Dr. Julia Plummer, making a total of seven members. There is no voting backlog on submitted records.

Treasurer's and Membership Reports – Frank

Frank distributed the treasurer's and membership reports prior to the meeting. He noted that membership is down slightly, possibly due to the coronavirus, but PSO is still in good shape financially. Please see his full reports attached to his email dated January 25, 2021. Chad asked if PSO has lifetime memberships. Frank said that one has never been setup.

General Discussion

Wayne asked if anyone could explain what the Pennsylvania Audubon Council is? Laura gave everyone some background on why the council was formed and how local chapters will fit into the system. What this will hopefully do is allow better communication between local chapters and the state organization and possibly other organizations.

Chad mentioned that some issues have arisen with the Pennsylvania listserv recently, so he was wondering if PSO should try to operate it. Audubon operates it, but no one seems to know who is in charge. They are not very transparent and need to assign a moderator to whom we can talk. Deb will look into this.

Frank is in the process of putting all of the PORC records in a database which he will put on the PSO website. The database will be searchable.

Frank made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mike at 7:26.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary