

New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

November 15, 2014, 9:30 AM

Wagon House Education Center at Olana Historic Site, 5720 State Route 9G, Hudson, NY

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at the Olana Historic Site in Hudson, NY on November 15, 2014. The Meeting was called to order by President Katherine Schneider at 9:30 AM.

Present were **Kathy Schneider, Carena Pooth**, Andy Mason, **Bill Ostrander, Derek Rogers**, Celeste Morien, **Seth Ausubel, Tim Baird, Derek Rogers, Mike DeSha**, Bob Spahn, Barbara Butler and Pat, Aitken.

Attending by teleconference were Shia Mitra, **Jeff Bolsinger, Kevin Griffith, Greg Lawrence**, Berna Lincoln and Joan Collins.

Summary of Action Items:

- Approved the July 19, 2014, Board meeting minutes as amended. (Item 1)
 - Approved the September 19-21, 2014, 67th Annual meeting minutes as amended. (Item 1)
 - Approved the Corporate Resolution motion to open a Certificate of Deposit. (Item 2)
 - Approved the actions of the Executive Committee Report. (Item 3)
 - Approved a Finance Committee motion to move funds given in memory of Manny Levine from the general operating fund to the memorial fund. (Item 6 Finance)
 - Approved a Finance Committee motion to increase member club dues. (Item 6 Finance)
 - Approved a member club grant to provide Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society with \$345.00 to disseminate information on safe alternatives to lead ammunition. (Item 6 Awards)
1. **Approval of Minutes:** After discussion Carena Pooth made a motion to approve the July 19, 2014, Board meeting minutes as amended. Seth Ausubel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Tim Baird made a motion to approve the September 20, 2014, 67th Annual Meeting minutes as amended. Kevin Griffith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 2. **Treasurer's Report:** On a personal note, Andy Mason thanked the Board for the Meade Award. Andy provided Balance Sheets, Statements of Fund Activity and Balances and Detailed Statements of General Operation Fund Activity through September 30, 2014. Andy shared with the Board a required Corporate Resolution form from First Internet Bank of Indiana authorizing himself and Carena Pooth to open a Certificate of Deposit. He is moving the funds from a CD to a bank that has online services that are not offered by our current institution. The Corporate Resolution was moved by Kathy Schneider and seconded by Mike DeSha, and approved by the board. Andy also reported that the Auditing Committee is working on the 2013-2014 audit and this should be finished by year's end.
 3. **Executive Committee Report:** Kathy Schneider reported on the actions of the Executive Committee, which included slates for the 2014-2015 Nominating and Auditing Committees to be

elected at the Annual Meeting and a loan of \$500 to the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club for the 2015 annual meeting. These slates consist of :

Nominating Committee

Seth Ausubel- Chair

Joan Collins

Jeremy Kirchman

Auditing Committee

John Cairns-Chair

Irving Cantor

Peter Capainolo

Seth Ausubel made a motion for the board to approve the actions of the Executive Committee. Tim Baird seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Seth Ausubel made a motion to elect the 2014-2015 Executive Committee Members Kathy Schneider, Carena Pooth and Mike DeSha. Bill Ostrander seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **President's Report:** Kathy Schneider gave the report, leading a discussion on the revisions to the NYSOA, Inc. Officers, Directors and Committee Members draft of November 2014. Kathy noted that Celeste Morien will be updating the NYSOA Directory and asked for those present to make additions and corrections during the meeting. Kathy emphasized that conference calls can be easily arranged for Committee Members to communicate between meetings on issues of importance. Anyone wanting to moderate a conference call should contact her for instructions. Kathy has completed membership renewal letters and revised the membership form. Berna Lincoln indicated she had changes that she would add to the membership form. Kathy reported that a condolence note was sent to Ed Treacy's daughter, Katherine Mannon. Ed passed away shortly before the Annual Meeting. He had written over 100 Kingbird regional reports for Region 9 over 25 years.

5. **DEC Report:** Dan Rosenblatt outlined three issues. A new outbreak of Type E Botulism has emerged in Lake Erie. Thirty-five Common Loons were collected along a section of monitored shoreline. This is considered an abnormal spike and is predictive of a Common Loon die-off of 500. On further questioning from Joan Collins, Dan reported these loons were collected over a one week survey in early November 2014. Local birdwatchers provide the DEC with shoreline input as well. Seth Ausubel asked whether this outbreak date is trending later in the season and Dan answered yes. Andy Mason asked about the disposal procedures for recovered birds. Dan reported that local burial is the encouraged method. On a positive note, the DEC has had approval for hiring a new Biologist, the first in eight years. This Biologist will focus on working with private groups on the State Young Forest Initiative addressing the need for mid-stage successional forest and early successional habitat for breeding bird species such as Golden-winged Warbler. Based on public comments, the DEC has rewritten their policy on management of Mute Swan populations. The revised plan will be made public before December 25. The main change in the plan will be in addressing the Long Island populations, which have been present longer than those in other parts of the state, will be treated differently, and with greater emphasis on non-lethal management options. There will be no mandatory requirements to remove Mute Swans.

6. Committee Reports:

Website and Information Services: Carena Pooth presented a list of updates made to the NYSOA and NYSYBC websites since the last meeting (report posted on the boardplus page). The membership page and membership forms (both online and pdf) have been updated to reflect the dues changes that were approved at the July board meeting. Carena reported that web hosting fees were slated to increase, but in consideration of our non-profit status, they will remain the same for 3 more years and are paid through October 2017. Carena also circulated copies of the new award certificate designs she created for this year's annual meeting. Templates for future awards are available in PowerPoint format.

Research: Kevin Griffith noted that a major focus of the Research Committee will be the 2020-2025 Breeding Bird Atlas. A discussion of an eBird Summit meeting followed. Derek Rogers volunteered to discuss this proposed meeting with Angus Wilson. Barbara Butler and Bob Spahn would like to be included in this meeting. Bill Ostrander reported that all the Waterfowl Count data are compiled except for Region 9.

Publications:

The Kingbird- Shai Mitra reported the September issue is ready to go to the printer. He expects to have proofs next week and the December issue is also edited with front matter in hand. NYSARC report length in this issue necessitated saving out some articles for later. Shai reported that Pat Lindsay is willing to take on the production portion of creating *The Kingbird*, while he would continue to handle the editing. Pat will handle the production informally at this time. Shai proposed changing the wording of our handbook to reflect such a change and presenting a formal proposal at the next Board meeting. Berna Lincoln suggested "Managing Editor" would be an appropriate title for Pat's role.

A suggestion was made by Shai that Manny Levine's memorial funds might be a source of revenue to fund *The Kingbird* when other funds are lacking. Another idea he suggested for such funding was an outreach to our life members.

Berna Lincoln suggested that the funds and the Elliot Fund name, established in 1964 have run their course and that NYSOA put any memorial money from this fund into the fund in memory of Manny Levine and further rename it The Emmanuel Levine Fund. The board will consider a formal proposal on these funds at a future meeting.

Kingbird Regional Reports - Bob Spahn discussed the difficulty in knowing how and when to approach regional editors who may wish to complete fewer regional reports or wish to be replaced. Shai Mitra agreed that each region needs to be handled differently and that we should communicate more broadly to find those who could step in. Shai will work to revise the guidelines to regional editors to include what to do if there are problems in finding regional editors or to help editors to find support if needed to meet their deadlines. He will copy the Board on such changes. Berna Lincoln pointed out shared responsibility for the four issues per year reduces the work load on one regional editor. Andy Mason suggested Bob renew group communications with the regional editors by sending a generic email. Carena Pooth suggested adding regional editor biographies to the *NYBirders* newsletter to be included on a regular basis, to make note of their underappreciated work. Berna Lincoln suggested these could be in interview format. Joan Collins agreed to take the lead on these articles.

NYBirders and eNYB- Joan Collins, the new editor, will be using Publisher on her desktop to produce the newsletter. Carena Pooth and Kathy Schneider will proofread the draft for

Joan. The January issue usually contains the Speaker's Bureau which will need to be updated.

NYS Checklist- Carena Pooth reported that the NYS checklist has been updated with this year's NYSARC and AOU changes and 500 copies have been printed. Price of the checklist was briefly discussed and will remain at \$2.00 retail for a single copy.

Organizational Handbook: Mike DeSha reported that the edits to date are complete and he has added Barbara Butler's section on the duties of the circulation and membership managers. Mike and Berna Lincoln will be collaborating on a finance committee section of the handbook and Kathy will revise and update the Awards Committee.

Nominating Committee: Seth Ausubel said there was nothing new to report. Kathy Schneider indicated Bob Adamo was anxious to be involved and that she has a list of NYSOA members that might be interested in serving NYSOA.

NYS Young Birders Club: Carena Pooth reported that the NYSYBC had 44 youth, 33 adult and 21 partner memberships for 2014. In fundraising, the club raised less money by children but more through adults which included significant contributions (report posted on the boardplus page). The club went on nine field trips and attended the Annual NYSOA Meeting, where two youth members presented papers on research they had conducted, while raising their own visibility in the birding community. Marc Katz, age 17, was awarded the Lillian C. Stoner Award by NYSOA. The 2015 Kickoff will be a field trip/mini-conference at Muscoot Farm in Westchester County. At the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch field trip on November 8, NBC Learn came to film young birders in action for an upcoming educational video.

NYSARC: Angus Wilson was absent so there was no report. Kathy noted that she had notified Angus that two NYSARC members have terms expiring at the end of the year.

Membership: Tim Baird volunteered to chair the Membership Committee. Circulation Manager Pat Aitken reported that gains are needed in membership due to net losses in small numbers each year (report posted on the boardplus page). Membership Manager Berna Lincoln reported that renewal notices will go out in early December.

Marketing and Publicity: Kathy Schneider passed out NYSOA business cards and postcards to Board members to share with the public. Website advertising and sponsorship: Seth Ausubel discussed meeting with Corey Finger in regard to ads that can generate income for NYSOA on the website. Possibilities with Meopta and Mike Cooper are being investigated. There was discussion about whether ads should appear on just the home page and the NYSARC page which already have sidebars, or every page, which would involve significant redesign of many pages. Field Trips: Jeff Bolsinger asks that anyone who has advice or wants to lead a field trip contact him. Kathy reported that Gerry Smith is willing to lead a spring raptor trip and Seth Ausubel volunteered to lead a fall Long Island weekend trip.

Finance Committee: Mike DeSha made a motion that the designated memorial gifts in Manny Levine's name be transferred from the general operating fund into the Memorial Fund until such time as a suitable use is determined for them. Kathy Schneider seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mike made a motion that dues for member organizations be increased as recommended by the Finance Committee (report posted on the boardplus page). Kathy Schneider seconded and the motion was carried unanimously. Mike requested that committees send in their budgetary requests for 2014-2015 now.

Conservation: Andy Mason discussed three issues: 1. Regarding a trail corridor in the Adirondacks with a revised DEC unit management plan, the committee feels there would probably be no impact on wildlife with the changes proposed. 2. The committee will send a letter encouraging the Environmental Protection Agency to include small wetlands in their protection of wetlands because a recent Supreme Court decision excluded wetlands of 12.4 acres or less. 3. The Seneca Army Depot issue will be addressed by the Conservation Committee with the deadline being December 17, 2014.

Awards: An application was received for a Member Club Grant from Delaware Otsego Audubon Society (posted to boardplus page)- After discussion, Tim Baird moved that NYSOA provide Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society with \$345.00 to disseminate information on safe alternatives to lead ammunition. The motion was seconded by Carena Pooth and passed unanimously.

Certificates of Appreciation- Kathy Schneider requested that Board members watch the list- serves for homeowners who host birds of note on their property.

Annual Meetings: Kathy Schneider reported on locations for future Annual meetings and solicited input for 2016. Seth agreed to approach NYC Audubon.

2015- Albany October 2-4, 2015
2016- TBD
2017- likely in Buffalo
2018- likely in Rochester

7. Old Business: None

8. **New Business:** Kathy Schneider asked if any Board members were planning to attend the American Birding Association Mid-Atlantic Bird Club Conference in Delaware City, Delaware on Saturday, February 7, 2015. Andy Mason expressed interest. Regarding an inquiry about using NYSOA membership list for public input to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the Board decided we could conduct a survey for them with our membership or we could encourage our membership to participate but we will not share our membership lists directly.

Board Meeting Dates and Tentative locations were set for 2015.

February 21, 2015: Norrie Point, Staatsburg, NY
April 25, 2015: Montezuma Audubon Center, Savannah, NY
July 25, 2015: Beaver Lake Nature Center, Baldwinsville, NY
November 7, 2015 Olana Historic Site, Hudson, NY

9. **Adjournment:** Carena Pooth made a motion to adjourn; Tim Baird seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste Morien
11/15/14