

New York State Ornithological Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
April 8, 2017

The Board of Directors of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) met at the Montezuma Audubon Center in Savannah, NY, on April 8, 2017. The meeting was called to order by President **Joan Collins** at 9:35 AM. Present were **Joan Collins**, Tim Baird, **Kathy Schneider**, Andy Mason, **Shirley Shaw**, and John Kent. Michael DeSha, Shai Mitra, **Dawn O'Neal**, **Carena Pooth**, Berna Lincoln, **Seth Ausubel**, **Peter Capainolo** and Bill Ostrander were present via teleconference.

Summary of Action Items:

- Approved minutes from February 4, 2017 Board meeting
- Approved grant of provisional NYSOA membership to the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development
- Approved appointment of Derek Rogers to NYSARC to replace Chris Wood, who has resigned. This appointment is effective for the remainder of Chris Wood's term, through 12/31/18.

Secretary's Report – John Kent

The draft version of the minutes from the February 4, 2017, Board meeting was presented. Kathy Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Shirley Shaw seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

President's Report – Joan Collins

Joan reports that she sent thank-you letters to 17 members, each of whom renewed at the Kingbird level (\$100 per year) this year. Berna Lincoln reports that two more have come in recently, and she will pass those along to Joan for acknowledgment. Joan mentioned that she has received occasional requests to advertise in *The Kingbird*, so we may want to consider selling ads. Joan also worked with several committees since the last meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Andy Mason

Andy submitted a detailed written report. There is nothing unusual to report. The written report does not reflect about \$5000 in memberships and donations that came in since the report was prepared. With regard to funding, Joan suggested that we might want to consider doing a Big Day event as a fundraiser. Many other organizations have been doing this successfully. Joan will research the issue and discuss it with Shai.

Committee Reports:

Auditing Committee -

Joan Collins reports that she is working on finding a new member for this committee to replace John Cairns.

Annual Meeting – Kathy Schneider

Kathy submitted written minutes of the latest meeting of the Annual Meeting steering committee. Planning is proceeding on schedule. Their next meeting is coming up in mid-April. The committee has obtained a commitment from Paul Guris of See Life Paulagics to be a backup for Neil Hayward, the

planned keynote speaker. Joan Collins reports that Chris Wood has assured her that someone from eBird will be available to do a workshop presentation about the eBird portal that was used to enter data for the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas project. Joan had originally lined up Ian Davies to speak on this topic, but Ian will be unavailable due to travel. Shirley Shaw reports that the steering committee for the 2018 Annual Meeting has scheduled its first meeting for April 20.

Archive – no report

Awards – Bill Ostrander

Bill reports that two NYSOA Certificates of Appreciation will be sent out soon. Carena Pooth has four candidates in mind for this year's Lillian Stoner Award, and is looking into which one(s) will be able to attend the Annual Meeting. An announcement will be in the next *New York Birders* seeking any other nominations for the Stoner award. The committee will be discussing possible recipients of the Meade Award soon.

Bylaws – Berna Lincoln

Berna suggests that everyone read and become familiar with the bylaws, otherwise she has nothing new to report. Mike DeSha had a question about the term of the NYSARC chair. Berna clarified that the bylaws do not specify a term for the chair; only that the chair must be a current member of NYSARC. The chair's term can be terminated at any time by the president, unlike the terms of NYSARC members.

Conservation – Andy Mason

Andy reports that he recently wrote to the new Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife at NYSDEC, Anthony Wilkinson, to request a meeting. He hasn't yet heard back. Andy wrote a conservation column for the upcoming *New York Birders* about the implications of the proposed federal budget. Joan provided an update about the pending classification of the Boreas Ponds tract of land. She has heard that Governor Cuomo is in favor of development of campgrounds and recreational facilities on the land, despite the fact that the vast majority of the comments the state received were in favor of keeping the land as wilderness.

County Listing – Carena Pooth

Carena reports that 112 county listing reports were received, and she plans to have the report compiled in time for inclusion in the April issue of *New York Birders*. Participation levels in the county listing program remain stable.

Finance – Mike DeSha

Mike has nothing new to report.

Marketing/Publicity -

Joan reports that a chair is still needed for this committee. Tim Baird says there is money in the budget to provide Annual Meeting attendees with a giveaway item, such as the NYSOA hats and water bottles of the past two years. Several suggestions were brought up for this year's item. Tim will research the costs of the various items that were suggested.

Facebook – Greg Lawrence

Greg was not present, but has reported to Joan that he is working on ideas for a monthly post on the Facebook page. Joan will be sending Greg a photo of the Oswego Clark's Grebe to post, and Mary Beth Warburton's report on the Oswego field trip may also be posted.

Field Trips – Mary Beth Warburton

Mary Beth was unavailable, but sent a written report. The Oswego field trip in February was a great success, with the highlight being the Clark's Grebe that was present on Oswego Harbor. Mary Magistro of Oswego kept tabs on the grebe the entire time it was present, and helped many birders to find it. It was suggested that Mary be sent a NYSOA Certificate of Appreciation. Kathy Schneider reported that the fall field trip is being planned for August 26-27, headquartered at Montezuma Audubon Center (MAC). She has a commitment from Kevin McGowan to speak on Saturday afternoon, and hopes that he will also be available to lead the field trip on Sunday morning. Kathy will look into the possibility of a group dinner at an area restaurant. Carena mentioned that Greg Lawrence had already committed to lead a Young Birders Club field trip to Montezuma in August, so it was decided that it would be a good idea to have the events on the same weekend. This would enable the young birders to attend the Saturday afternoon workshop. The field trips will be run separately. MAC offered the use of the facilities without charge, but NYSOA will make a \$50 donation to MAC from the field trip budget.

Membership/Circulation – Berna Lincoln

Berna submitted a written membership report. A new circulation manager is still needed. Work on moving our membership database from a spreadsheet format to Wild Apricot's online membership management system continues. It is expected that the new system will be ready for a demonstration at the July Board of Directors meeting. This system should make the circulation manager's job much easier, so it is hoped that we will be able to find a volunteer once the new system is in place.

Kathy Schneider moved to grant the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development provisional NYSOA membership. Shirley Shaw seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Permanent membership for the Center will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. The Catskill Center sponsors the "*Taking Flight – Birding in the Catskills*" event in June.

Nominating -

Bob Adamo was not present. Joan reports that Michael DeSha has accepted a nomination as the next president of NYSOA. There are no other updates to report.

Young Birders Club – Carena Pooth

Carena supplied a written report. There are currently 47 youth members. Elections were recently held. Carena pointed out that the Young Birders Club does more than just run field trips. The club puts a strong focus on helping members take leadership positions. Carena also frequently writes recommendations for members who are applying for summer programs, college applications, scholarships, and the like. This serves as a motivation for the members to run for office within the club. Two of the young birders have also volunteered to lead field trips for the club this year. Carena is still seeking a volunteer to lead a field trip in October.

NYSARC -

Joan reports that Chris Wood has resigned as a NYSARC member, since he has too many demands on his time. His term was scheduled to run through December 31, 2018. Joan appointed Derek Rogers of Bayport to fill the remainder of Chris's term. Kathy Schneider moved to approve the appointment. Carena Pooth seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Kathy has been in contact with Willie D'Anna, and she reports that good progress is being made to address NYSARC's considerable backlog.

Organizational Handbook – Mike DeSha

Nothing to report.

Publications – Seth Ausubel

Shai Mitra reports that he is now on spring break and expects to have time to catch up on *The Kingbird*. Volume 66 No. 3 is finished and going to print. He is currently working on Vol. 66 No. 4 and Vol. 67 No. 1, and has the needed material in hand. He plans to send Vol. 66 No. 4 to Pat by April 15, and Vol. 67 No. 1 by May 1. Shai hopes to have Vol. 67 No. 2 finished by June 15. The committee plans to have a conference call during the first week in May. A regional editor for *The Kingbird* is still needed for region 7.

Joan Collins reports that she is currently working on the April issue of *New York Birders*. She is still awaiting submission of some expected articles. The July issue is expected to be ready in late July and will include the information for the Annual Meeting. The October issue will be held until after the Annual Meeting in November.

Research – Greg Lawrence

Greg was unable to be present, but has been in regular contact with Joan about research issues. Joan reports that Dan Rosenblatt of NYSDEC expects their federal research grant for the third Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA III) to be approved in the next two months, which will enable planning work to move forward. Dan hopes to be able to reconvene the BBA III steering committee within the next 2 to 3 months. A workshop about the use of the eBird portal for BBA III is planned at the Annual Meeting.

Website and Information Services – Carena Pooth

Carena submitted a written report on the status of the NYSOA and Young Birders Club websites. Another year's issues have been added to the online archive of *The Kingbird*. Carena also reported that she will set up an account with UberConference, a less expensive service for hosting conference calls than the service we are currently using. UberConference offers a flat monthly rate with unlimited usage, whereas the current service charges per minute of usage.

DEC –

No report was submitted.

New Business

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is holding a Big Day on May 12 for birding on TNC properties. Derek Rogers is coordinating this event for New York, and is seeking volunteers to cover TNC properties.

The July NYSOA Board of Directors meeting at Beaver Lake is being rescheduled to July 22.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
John Kent
Recording Secretary