Thunder Bay Audubon Society (TBAS)

Minutes November 24, 2020

Meeting via Zoom

Members Present:

Nate Blury (for Cow Island discussion only), Artie Charlton, Ned Charlton, Jan Charter, Jerry Charter, Barbara Cole, Lynn Field, Betsy Hale, Dana Howard, Judy Kalmanek, Chuck Tetzlaff, Karen Tetzlaff, Steve Wagner, Roger Witherbee

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Tetzlaff at 2:03 pm.

The order of discussion in the agenda was changed to begin with Cow Island so that Nate Blury could be present for that. Karen reviewed the discussion of this issue at the TBAS October 28, 2020 meeting, and mentioned that the proposed warranty deed had been distributed to the Executive Committee (Karen Tetzlaff, Lynn Field, Jan Charter, and Steve Wagner), as well as Judy Kalmanek who has had some experience with this sort of thing. We will transfer ownership to three of the Cow Island residents for $1, but those residents will make a $1500 donation to the Thunder Bay River Center. The warranty deed includes a stipulation that no structures may be built on the property except for things like bird feeder stations and bird houses, and that TBAS members will continue to have access to the property. A question was raised about why the financial aspect of the sale was structured in this way. Steve responded that problems can arise from a 501(c)(3) corporation being involved in the sale of property. A motion authorizing Karen (as TBAS president) and Jan (as TBAS secretary) to sign the warranty deed once the corrections discussed above are made was made by Lynn Field and seconded by Artie Charlton. Motion carried by vote of the members present.

Approval of Secretary’s Report:

Karen had emailed the report to members and asked for any additions or corrections. Two additions were suggested – the fact that life memberships are no longer sold and that the life members should be contacted to ask them for some financial support. Dana Howard moved that the report be approved, as amended, and Chuck Tetzlaff seconded the motion. Motion carried by vote of the members present.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President’s Report

Karen received a thank-you note from the Friends of Rockport for the TBAS $50 contribution.

Although we are not going to participate in the Besser tree decorating this year, Barb Cole will collect bird-related ornament contributions from us for next year.

Vice President’s Report:

Lynn Field reported on his trip to the Gypsum property in Alabaster Township on November 7. The trip was made as a favor to Huron Pines who was considering purchasing the property and wanted someone from TBAS to walk through it with them. Unfortunately, there weren’t many birds out that day, but it has great potential for migration.

Treasurer’s Report:

Steve Wagner presented the proposed budget for 2021. The income from memberships reflects the fact that one person sent in dues for a lifetime membership, which was then converted to numerous annual memberships since life memberships are no longer sold. Because many of the donations during 2020 were remembrances, the projected donations for 2021 are less than those for 2020. The bottom line is that projected expenses are about $900 more than projected income, but there is enough money in TBAS bank accounts to cover this loss. Karen suggested zeroing out the Alpena Country Library contribution for 2021 since we are not having in-person meetings there right now, but to keep this as a line item. Steve mentioned that, although they are not doing the raptor fest this year, MSRW is still very active in doing bird migration counts, hence their inclusion for a donation. There were no other comments on the report. Lynn Field moved to approve the report, as amended to remove the donation to the Alpena County Library. Dana Howard seconded the motion. The motion carried by vote of the members present.

Unfinished Business:

TBAS will do both the Alpena and Hubbard Lake bird counts this year. Bill Grigg needs additional people to help at Hubbard Lake.

Karen said that she’s not sure if we need an annual meeting in January. Steve Wagner wants to do an annual summary of 2020 expenses, however, which he will send to Karen, and Karen will put it on the website and email it to members.

The remaining agenda items were cut short due to the Zoom time limitation, but Karen will appoint a committee to work on the 2021 events.

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Charter