Thunder Bay Audubon Society (TBAS)

Minutes October 27, 2021

Annual Meeting via Zoom from Grace Lutheran Church

Members Present:

Artie Charlton, Ned Charlton, Jan Charter, Jerry Charter, Barb Cole, Lynn Field, Betsy Hale, Dana Howard, Judy Kalmanek, Tom Orth, Chuck Tetzlaff, Karen Tetzlaff, Steve Wagner, Sunday Wagner, Shauna Field.

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Tetzlaff at 2:02 pm.

Bird Sightings and Avian Tidbits:

Several types of scoters – Surf Scoters, White-Winged Scoters, and Black Scoters – were reported. Also reported were American Coots and a Willet. 31 kestrel chicks have been banded by Arnie Pokorzynski with Ed Pike and Nick Alioto.

Secretary’s Report was accepted without change.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President’s Report:

On December 7, 2021, TBAS will make a presentation on the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) through the Association of Lifelong Learners (ALL). Since this is right before the CBC, we hope to interest some new feeder counters.

On October 19, 2021, Barb Cole and Karen Tetzlaff gave a presentation on the birds of Squaw Bay through ALL.

The TBAS $100 donation to Huron Pines earlier in the year was doubled through a matching gift.

Because the National Audubon Society (for CBC) is no longer able to accept donations via checks, Karen Tetzlaff made a donation via credit card.

The Wildlife Recovery Association program TBAS had previously paid for was cancelled due to Covid. It was the consensus of the membership to try again to have the program in the coming year, perhaps at the newly renovated Alpena Library since this might attract a greater audience.

There was discussion of the TBAS property on the old Long Lake Road, including the inability of TBAS to make this accessible to the public and potential liability issues. Judy Kalmanek moved that Karen Tetzlaff be authorized to pursue disposal of the Long Lake Property to a non-profit organization with an environmental purpose, and Dana Howard seconded the motion. Motion carried by vote of the members present. It was suggested we check first with The Nature Conservancy.

Vice President’s Report:

Bill Grigg has taken charge of the Hubbard Lake CBC for 50 years and would like to hand that off to someone else. Lynn Field, with help from Erica and Mark Jones, will take over organizing it, and Dana Howard will take care of reporting.

Treasurer’s Report:

Steve Wagner reported that TBAS has kept their finances at mBank, Alpena, which recently was changed to Nicolet Bank whose home base is in Wisconsin. There were some account issues with the change-over. After discussion, Dana Howard moved that Steve look into transferring our accounts to a local credit union. Barb Cole seconded. Motion carried by vote of the members present.

Steve Wagner discussed actual income and expenses for 2021 versus projected. His general comments on income were that membership is up somewhat from last year, donations are down somewhat, and the income from Riverside Energy is higher than last year. As for expenses, $50 was donated to the Little Traverse Conservancy because they did a program. This had not been specifically budgeted, and it’s things like this that explain why Steve recommends including a line item for “unplanned expense.” The Treasurer’s Report for 2021 was accepted as printed, without objection.

As for the proposed 2022 budget, the membership decided to add some donations, bringing the total from $1150 to $1300 ($50 to Au Sable Valley Migration Event and $100 to Wildlife Recovery Association). We may also give $100 to the Alpena Public Library if we decide to hold a program there. Chuck Tetzlaff moved that the proposed 2022 budget, as discussed, be approved. Lynn Field seconded the motion. Motion carried by vote of the members present.

(See attached budgets)

Unfinished Business:

Barb Cole is in charge of decorating a TBAS-sponsored Christmas Tree at the Besser Museum. This will take place either on Sunday November 7 or November 14 from Noon to 4 pm. Decoration donations are still needed. If you have items to donate or can volunteer, contact Barb at 239-770-1338.

New Business:

President Karen Tetzlaff presented a slate of officers for 2022:

President – Karen Tetzlaff

Vice President – Lynn Field

Secretary – Jan Charter

Treasurer – Dana Howard

A motion to elect this slate was made by Judy Kalmanek and seconded by Barb Cole. A vote of members present elected the slate of new officers.

Karen reported the support positions of Barb Cole for publicity and Betsy Hale for event brochures remain the same. Other appointed support positions will be announced later.

The State of Michigan requires TBAS to file a report that names the President, Treasurer, and four directors. Directors proposed were vice-president and secretary (this year: Lynn Field, Jan Charter), Judy Kalmanek, and Steve Wagner. Dana Howard moved to approved these proposed directors. Steve Wagner seconded the motion. Motion was carried by vote of the members present.

There was discussion of events for 2022, which will continue informally.

At this point, it is thought that there is no need for a November meeting. Steve Wagner will send around a treasurer’s report closing out the year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Charter

Secretary