Thunder Bay Audubon Society (TBAS)

Minutes January 15, 2020

19th Hole

Members Present:

Karen Tetzlaff, Artie Charlton, Ned Charlton, Sunday Wagner, Steve Wagner, Roger Witherbee, Chuck Tetzlaff, Arnold Pokorzynski, Barbara Cole, Carol Lewis, Betsy Hale and Judy Kalmanek.

Guests Present:

Chris Engle (Huron Pines), Amy Nowakowski (Huron Pines) and Meagan Schwartz (Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (GLSI)).

Judy Kalmanek introduced the new Huron Pines employees (Chris and Amy) who will work out of the new Alpena Office.

Meagan then gave a presentation about the work of GLSI. They are looking for volunteers to help in schools with specific knowledge like birding. This would be a wonderful way of reaching new birders and beginning an interest that could last a lifetime.

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Tetzlaff at 12:01 PM.

Bird Sightings and Avian Tidbits:

Various members first birds of the year were mentioned with most being the normal backyard birds. Karen and Chuck Tetzlaff showed pictures of and discussed a snowy owl at the Hillman HS football field.

Approval of Secretary’s Report:

Karen had emailed the report to members and asked for any additions or corrections. None were required. Judy Kalmanek moved to approve, and Betsy Hale seconded the motion. Motion carried by vote of the members present.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Presidents Report

1. Karen presented Thank You notes from River Center, Huron Pines and The Alpena County Library.
2. The Presidents Annual Letter was presented with explanations.
3. Results of this past years Christmas Bird Count (CBC) vs. the previous year were handed out with a brief discussion following. There were fewer finches and more crows and Blue Jays this year.
4. Craig Klemens had a family emergency at the last minute and could not run the CBC in the Hubbard Lake area. Karen thanked others who pitched in and some results we obtained.
5. Finally, the 2020 events calendar was presented to membership.

Vice Presidents Report:

Lynn Field was not able to attend so there was no report.

Treasurer’s Report:

Steve Wagner brought members up to date with year end 2019 income and expenses. Generally, income from Riverside Energy and Membership is declining. Expenses for 2019 exceeded Income but we still have assets enough at this rate for a few years.

We then discussed the 2020 budget prepared by Steve and it was changed to eliminate expenses for the Domain Name (only a bi-annual expense) and The Alpena County Library for this year as we are unable to use the library for public events because of construction in 2020.

Artie Charlton moved to accept the 2020 budget as amended. It was seconded by Chuck Tetzlaff and was approved by a vote of members present.

Unfinished Business:

Last meeting Karen asked if we might have interest in sponsoring a Christmas Tree at Besser Museum in 2020 and there was some interest. New member Barbara Cole is donating her Christmas tree to the Museum and will ask that it be used by Thunder Bay Audubon Society. Jan and Jerry Charter have donated the first ornament from their Arizona winter home after learning about our interest in the last meetings Secretary Report. More planning to make this happen to follow.

Carol Lewis reported that she has done some research looking for activities for an informal winter get together. She and Artie Charlton will continue to work on a plan for an event. Again, more to follow.

New Business:

Karen has been contacted by Association of Lifelong Learners (ALL) about someone speaking at one of their meetings and a possible birding field trip. Decided to invite the ALL group to join us at Partridge Point on May 20. Karen and Bill Grigg have a presentation about backyard birds in our area which they gave at the Grand Lake Library last year. It was agreed that she and someone else will work on a time to visit with ALL and add information specific to TBAS which might entice new members.

Next meeting / events:

Backyard bird count – February 14-17 see gbbc.birdcount.org

March 12 – Lincoln Elementary School Wildlife Recovery 6:30 PM open to the public

April 3-5 – Mackinaw Raptor Fest registration is now open

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 PM.

Submitted by Artie Charlton