

SOUTH MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
February 5, 2024

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 pm by Tony Arnold (President) at the Agricultural Extension Office building. Also present were Deb Siefken (Vice President), Carol Deardorff (Treasurer), Cy Deitz, Kathy Gelner, Judie Hogan, Nancy Locher, Linette Mansberger, Evan Vaeth, and Liz Smith (Secretary). Mike Bertram and Carole Simon were not in attendance.

**President's Report**

After calling his inaugural meeting to order, Tony noted that the slate of Board members (listed below) was voted on and approved at the regular SMAS meeting on January 29, 2024.

President, Tony Arnold; VP, Deb Siefken; Secretary, Liz Smith; Treasurer, Carol Deardorff; Programs, Open; Education, Open; Field Trips, Linette Mansberger; Conservation, Judie Hogan; Webmaster, Mike Bertram; Publicity, Kathy Gelner; At-Large members, Cy Deitz, Nancy Locher, Carole Simon, Evan Vaeth

Tony submitted his letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service about its policy to cull Barred Owls, in January 2024. He has received no acknowledgement. Tony offered to share the final version of the letter with Board members.

The birding trail for visually impaired birders is on hold.

**Vice-President's Report**

Deb asked for volunteers to bring refreshments to the next SMAS regular meeting on March 18. Liz and Kathy volunteered.

**Secretary's Report**

Minutes from the October 4, 2023, meeting were approved, with no corrections.

It was decided that the process of Liz submitting an initial draft of minutes to Tony, Linette, and Deb for approval/corrections before sending out a final version to the rest of the Board will remain in place. Tony will resend minutes with the agenda for the upcoming as a refresher.

**Treasurer's Report**

Carol presented the expenditures report since the last meeting. A question was raised about whether the year-end donations had increased over previous years. Carol will investigate.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Education:**

The chair remains vacant. Linette provided update.

SMAS-sponsored Hershey Zoo America program will take place on March 12, 2024, at Fairfield Elementary. The time of day is to be confirmed. Kathy Gelner will ask the *Gettysburg Times* to take pictures. SMAS will pay HZA directly.

The attendance at Linette's presentation on hummingbirds at the January SMAS meeting was way up. Several people thought Linette's presentation at Lifelong Learning helped generate interest. Also speculated: the placement of the advertisement for the event on the obituary page of the *Gettysburg Times* also helped boost attendance.

Caleb Trimmer from Biglerville will be contacted as a possible candidate for the SMAS scholarship for the 2024 Wildlife Leadership Academy. Linette asked someone on the Board to help fill Caleb in on the next steps in the application process. Deb agreed to do so. The deadline for the application is Feb 28. SMAS has agreed to pay \$300 of the \$600 tuition, but Deb noted that SMAS could contribute a little more money, if needed. Caleb aspires to work for the PA Game Commission.

Melissa Deitz asked the librarian at Bermudian Elementary for a list of books that SMAS can purchase as the annual book donation. The list of ten requested books covers general science topics as well as birds. Melissa will tell the librarian to order the books, and SMAS will pay the school district directly. The Board has also requested photos of the children reading the books. The purchase of the books was approved by the Board (cost \$202.28). The question of SMAS bookplates came up. Mike Bertram may have information.

The Education and Programs chairs remain vacant. Cy will ask Melissa if she would be interested in taking either chair.

### **Upcoming Programs:**

March 18: "Bird Wood Carvings," presented by Bernice Culver

April 15: A program about native communities, forest conservation, and artisan families living in the Peruvian Amazon, presented by Campbell Plowden, executive director of the Center for Amazon Community Ecology (Crafts available for purchase)

May 20/June 17 are still under discussion. Possibilities: Tony giving a talk about the Iberian Peninsula or someone from PA Game Commission to discuss breeding birds or photographer Joe Kosak.

November: Lancaster Bird Club "Feathers" (\$100 honorarium)

Possible: Eric Beck, a counter at Waggoners Gap, on hawks

**Field Trips:** (Notes in red are Linette's.)

## **February**

Saturday, February 10 (9:00) – Strawberry Hill (completed)

Saturday, February 24 (9:00) – Battlefield B&B, Emmitsburg Road (**not confirmed**)

## **March** (Easter is March 31)

Saturday, March 16 (8:00) – Knorr Road/Salisbury wooded property

Thursday, March 21 (10:00) – Geology/Bird Walk at Carbaugh Run near Caledonia – Jeri Jones

Saturday, March 30 (8:00)- Taneytown Road near Mead's HQ, etc. – Cy Deitz – (**pending GNMP permit approval**)

## **April**

Sunday, April 14 (8:00) – Hanover Watershed – Evan Vaeth

Saturday, April 27 (8:00) – Hashawha Environmental Center – Evan Vaeth

## **May** - (May 12 is Mother's Day)

Saturday, May 4 (6:45 meet time in York Springs) – former Harr. State Hospital – Don Gilbert

Sunday, May 5 (7:00) – SGL 230 north of Carlisle – Tony Arnold

Saturday, May 11 (7:00-7:30 gathering time) – International Migratory Bird Day - Spangler's Spring - Don Gilbert - (**pending GNMP permit approval**)

Saturday, May 18 (8:00) - Plum Run Road – Linette will organize, but not lead

**Cy is checking with Pete Bugler about leading a trip at Lily Pons in May. Tony might do an impromptu Knox Road walk. Details closer to the time!**

## **June** - (June 18 is Father's Day)

Saturday, June 1 (7:00) - Devil's Den and surrounding vicinity – Cy Deitz (**pending GNMP permit approval**)

June 7-17 - B4C in Adams County – **not sure of my availability/anyone else interested in running it if I organize it and am not available? It will require eBird reports from each location and keeping folks on a time schedule.**

## **July**

July ??? (7:30) - Dean Schultz property on Rock Creek – **Cy will check availability**

## **August**

Picnic – Monday, August 12??? **Linette will check with Oakside for reservations**

**Shorebird Drive will be scheduled if water levels are appropriate – Evan will organize**

## **September**

Saturday, September 21 – Snyder Farm Loop at GNMP - (**pending GNMP permit approval**)

Saturday, 28 – South Middleton Park – Tony Arnold

**Conservation:**

Judie had no report but asked for ideas about future topics. Suggested: microplastics, glass recycling, and metal water bottles. Judie will attend online conference about night lighting and birds.

**Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

**New Business**

Mike Bertram is interested in finding another Board member to run/tabulate the local sighting competitions. Evan will talk to Mike and consider taking over.

Liz asked the Board to approve the purchase of a portable wireless microphone and speaker for guest speakers and others to use during regular meetings. The Board approved the purchase of Zoweetek Wireless Voice Amplifier with handheld/headset microphone from Amazon for \$59.00.

Deb raised the issue of contacting Adams Electric about bird and other wildlife electrocutions caused by power lines/utility poles on her property. She queried the Board about steps to take to alert AE and to address the problem more widely. The Board made suggestions about whom to contact and how to discuss the issue with the wider community.

Linette informed the Board that application for permit from NPS for walks on the battlefield must be submitted by March 30, 2024. The \$100 fee covers a single application. Linette noted that it's best to apply for walks well in the future on one application, to avoid paying the fee more than once.

Next board meeting – TBD

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Smith on February 11, 2024.