

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 03/09/2023

- RBC President Mike Donaldson: Call to Order: The in person March meeting of RBC will please come to order, using a gavel. (Time: 7:01pm) at the Park View Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall.

First, Mike said to greet those people around him and meet someone new. After a few minutes of meet and greet, he asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of last meeting minutes with no objections. Mike mentioned that there is a copy always available on the RBC website.

Any new members/visitors?

Hope Getman and daughter Eva just moved to Harrisonburg and it is their first RBC meeting. Also, Blue and her father, Paul Cook, have come for their first meeting.

- **Old Business:** None
- **Recent Bird Sightings**

-Jay Landis: He saw an Eastern Meadowlark in his backyard.
-Hope Getman: She spotted two Red Shouldered Hawks courting at the JMU arboretum.
-Kathy Byers: She saw a Pine Warbler hanging upside down on her backyard suet feeder.
-Debbie Harrison: She observed several Purple Finches at her feeder.

- **Reports from Executive Committee**

Mike Donaldson (President): He mentioned the upcoming May officer election and the need to form a Nominating Committee. The immediate past RBC president, Debbie Harrison, is the head of the committee. She came to the front to introduce herself as well as give additional information on it:

“The Nomination Committee needs to form ASAP to canvas our membership for volunteers! As Past-President, I’m the Chair of the committee and would like to have others join me. You may know me, as I stood up in front for the past couple years, but I may not know you. Please see me after the meeting or contact me through the information in the RBC newsletter. As mentioned in the newsletter, you can find our Club’s Constitution and Bylaws on the website. Elections will take place at the May 2023 meeting. For now, I need two RBC club members to join me. Members of the Nominating Committee typically do not run for office. The committee will prepare a slate of nominees for each of the following positions:

-Officers: President, First Vice President (Programs), Second Vice President (Field Trips), Secretary, and Treasurer (These officers serve one-year terms.)

-Two Members at Large, who serve two year terms and may serve one successive term.

We, the committee, will canvas current Executive Committee members, to see what offices will be open, then turn to our membership for nominees.”

After Debbie stepped down, Mike thanked Sharon and Jay Landis for doing a great job of leading the children’s program at the JMU arboretum for the Great Backyard Bird Count. It was a well-attended event and enjoyed by the families. It’s a great way to generate interest in the club. Mike also thanked Kathy Byers with helping with the outdoor portion of the program led by himself as well as distributing club information. He looks forward to participating again in this event.

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer): She is selling Birds of Rockingham County books. Judi Breeden asked for membership fee information. Audrey stated that it is \$10 for students, \$20 for individuals, and \$30 dollars for families. The membership runs from August-June.

Art Fovargue (Club Historian): He gave a shout out to Clair Mellinger for donating old newsletters pre 1978. It is now possible that a full collection will be going to the JMU archives.

Diane Lepkowski (Vice President of Field Trips): She was not present at the meeting so Kathy Byers gave the report in her place. The Woodcock trip was postponed to later in the month due to the crazy wind. There will be an email with more details. Also, there will be a change of the season afternoon walk at the Hillandale Park on March 20th starting at 4:30pm, led by Tom Mizell. They will look for the last winter birds until 5:24pm, with the beginning of spring. Then, they will look for the first spring birds as long as people are interested.

- **New Business:**

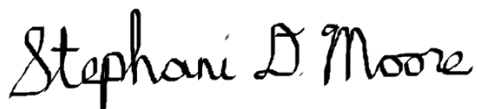
Joy Beaman stood up at the front to give an update on the Bluebird trail at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Nine Bluebird houses have been updated and two houses have been moved behind the gate; and under the tree next to the one by the gate. House #1 needs to be replaced but a local Girl Scout troop will make a new one. We could still use monitors and it's only one hour a month. She emphasized how much fun it is to see eggs and little bluebirds. The bluebird bucket with the necessary materials is kept in the office of the Rockingham Fairground. There's a sign-up sheet by the name tags on the back table. Joy also sent an email to previous monitors and most of them are returning for 2023.

- **Announcements?**

- Our next in person meeting is Thursday April 13th at 7:00pm;
- Anything else to come before the meeting? No
- Adjourn (If there is no objection and no further business to come before the meeting tonight, the meeting will be adjourned.)
- Meeting Adjourned @ 7:16 pm

Kathy Byers introduced our Speaker for this meeting: Sarah Cooperman presenting "Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary."

Total Participants: 51



Stephani D. Moore
March 12, 2023