

Rockingham Bird Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: 5/09/2024

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

There being no objections, they dispensed with the reading of the minutes. A copy is available on our website.

Old Business:

- None

New members/visitors:

- Tom and Susan Gallager, friends of the evening's presenter, were visiting from Fulks Run.
- Nancy Banks is from San Antonio and was visiting her parents.

Recent Bird Sightings:

- Zach Perdue saw a Northern Parula at Hillandale Park.
- Julie Longenecker saw a Cedar Waxwing in an oak tree.

Reports from Executive Committee:

Mike Donaldson (President):

- Mike gave the floor to Andrew Troyer to present a slate of nominees for Club Elections. All current position holders were up for reelection, with the exception of Andrew Troyer who is in his first of two years as a Member at Large. Herb Myers and Diane Lepkowski were unable to attend the meeting but up for reelection. Andrew read the following script:
"In early April, the current members of the Executive Committee that were eligible for reelection agreed by email to serve another term. Therefore, the following persons make up the slate of nominees for today's election:

"Please stand and remain standing as I call your name.

President	Mike Donaldson
First Vice President (programs)	Kathy Byers
Second Vice President (field trips)	Diane Lepkowski
Secretary	Allie Sawyer
Treasurer	Audrey Shenk
Member-at-Large:	Herb Myers

Thank you please be seated.

Thanks to all the nominees for their willingness to serve. This concludes the report of the Nominating Committee."

- After the conclusion of the Nominating Committee's report, Andrew moved to begin voting. Tim Hulings motioned to vote for all positions simultaneously. The ayes had it and unanimously approved the slate of nominees.

Kathy Byers (Vice President of Programs):

- There will be one more meeting for the club year on June 13. It is the carry-in dinner. She gave a reminder that it is a peanut free facility so please do not bring anything with nuts. Mark Adams will present on Butterflies in a program that was rescheduled from February.

Diane Lepkowski (Vice President of Field Trips):

- Diane was unable to attend so Mike made announcements on her behalf.
- There are two upcoming trips, both are listed in the May Newsletter. Saturday, May 11 is a trip to Paul State Forest led by Greg Moyers. Tuesday, May 14 is a Hillandale trip led by Tom Mizell and Kathy Byers. Please refer to the May newsletter for further information.

Allie Sawyer (Secretary):

- Mike recognized Allie

Audrey Shenk (Treasurer):

- Nothing to report

Art Fovargue (Club Historian):

- Nothing to report

Bill Benish (Christmas Bird Count Coordinator):

- Unable to attend the meeting due to being out of town

Denise Hoodock (Newsletter Editor):

- Nothing to report
- Mike recognized her great work on the newsletter.

Members at Large:

- Herb Myers and Andrew Troyer
- Good people to talk to if you have questions or concerns

New Business/Announcements:

- Mike recognized field trip leaders for their outstanding work:
 - Tom Mizell has lead fantastic monthly Hillandale walks, with additional walks on each equinox and solstice.
 - Kathy Byers for her enthusiastic coleading of the Hillandale walks.
 - Greg Moyers for his trips at Madison Run and Paul State Forest.
 - Diane Lepkowski with her successful outing on Ore Bank Rd to see American Woodcocks.
 - Randy Cline for leading the Bald Eagle trip to the Lost River area in West Virginia, being the farthest trip of the Club year.
 - William Leigh for his very adventurous outing up Briery Branch Rd on Shenandoah Mountain.
- Art had an update on a nesting box he built last year that was inspired by a presentation on bluebird box constructions at a 2022 RBC meeting. The one he built had a security camera above a false ceiling and a downsized hole to preclude House Sparrows. There was no successful nesting in 2023, but this year some Carolina Chickadees found it fit for their needs. They began nesting around March 12. On April 11, there were 8 eggs. On April 25, there were 2 chicks and now there are 4. They will be fledglings soon.
- Mike announced that Kathy Byers will be concluding her tenure as Bird Seed Sale Coordinator after the 2024-2025 Club year, after what has been a seven year run. Consequently, we are putting out an open call for someone to fill the role of directing the sale. The sale is the Club's primary fundraiser each year. Kathy offered to serve as a mentor for someone during the fall 2024 Bird Seed Sale so finding a volunteer as soon as possible is vital.

The sale typically happens around the second Saturday in November, so soliciting orders from the public and ordering the seeds from the seed company happen significantly prior to November. Given that Kathy has the process down to a science and is offering to show a new person how to do it, I think many of our Club members would be able to step into this role and do a fine job. This is an important job and our appreciation will be genuine and deep toward whoever steps up to fill this role.

Please contact Kathy or anyone on the executive committee to express your interest in this position.

- Mike then reminded everyone that our next in-person Club meeting is at 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 13 at the same location.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:18 pm

Kathy Byers introduced the evening's presenter Marshall Faintich, who presented on The Birds of England and Scotland.

Total Participants: 39

Minutes recorder: Allie Sawyer
May 09, 2024