

## **DOAS Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date: January 15, 2019; Time: 6:30 pm; Location: Home of Charlie Scheim**

Meeting called to order: 6:37pm

In attendance: Jane Bachman, Kathryn Davino, Andy Mason, Susan O'Handley, Pam Peters, Tom Salo, Charlie Scheim, Rod Sutton

Not in attendance: Becky Gretton, Dorian Huneke, Janet Potter

Approval of previous meeting's Minutes: tabled until final draft distributed. Add Dorian to list of those in attendance.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Treasurer's report submitted by Charlie. Charlie reviewed latest report. Tom moved to accept, Andy seconded. Carried.
- 2019 Budget
  - Charlie reviewed proposed 2019 budget with input based on last meeting's discussion.
  - Charlie distributed a financial activity Income and Expense report for the 2018 FY and current balance sheet. Good financial position. Charlie suggested we investigate putting CDs, when they come due, in a bank with higher interest rate, or ask NBT to match competing rates.
  - Additional GE research money has been received. It may be enough to cover spring surveys for Bluestone Project without intervenor funding; would still need funds if we hire Trish Miller. Bird seed income was higher than previously reported.
  - Budget does not reflect increase in printing costs if we went to color just for Sept edition (as discussed at Dec meeting). Board needs to officially approve that decision.
  - Adequate funds in reserve to pay for improvements in sanctuary signs if we decide to proceed. Susan suggested asking O'Connor Foundation for grant to help with signage.

- o Agree to keep the field trips led by Chris budgeted at \$600 as a pilot. Ask Chris to develop two local walks and possibly plan a trip to Montezuma (best in the spring). Some local walk ideas: Emmons Bog, Pine Lake. Future field trips include Weaver Lake and Bashakill (both requiring boats). Wildflower walk is of interest, though we have someone already capable of doing that.
- o Tom moved to approve budget presented by Charlie with changes for bird seed income; Rod seconded. Carried.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 2019 Nominating Committee: Jane B. (Chair), Kathryn D., Jeff O, and Janice D. Jane emailed Janice and she agreed to join. Need someone to fill Bob's vacancy. Potential board candidates discussed. Andy will send the Committee a list of current members to scour for potential candidates.
- Conservation:
  - o GE Follow-up (Tom):
  - o Bluestone Wind Project (Tom, Andy, Rod): Bluestone wind project (see Tom's notes submitted by email today for discussion). Kyle and Pam can do all the surveying for spring (late Feb/March). Intervenor funding would come almost too late to get money for surveys, and we have enough in donations to pay for this spring. Intervenor funds could be used, however, to pay Trish Miller for research and analysis on the project. May need additional work done with spreadsheets; if Trish can't do it, Charlie is available. Kyle still working on maps to more accurately plot eagle paths against turbine location. Energy company is fighting the idea from DOAS that there are wintering Golden Eagles in the wind project area. Tom plans to attend Windsor town board meetings for public hearings in Windsor, dates TBD - possibly January 29 & 30. Pete Fauth may be willing to attend as he has knowledge about risk assessment models. Pam offered to carpool/help drive with Tom

- Non-lead Ammo: Researcher at Cornell U in touch with Tom. She wants to test venison from food banks. There may be a source for her research; Tom is giving her some leads.
  - Coyote Contests:
  - Invasive Species Control:
- Education (Susan):
  - EEE grant: Susan working on grant materials to publicize teachers to apply.
  - Camp: staff working on budgets; dates received-- July 15-18 (3rd & 4th gr); July 19-Aug 1 (5th & 6th), Aug 19-23 at OWL for 1st & 2nd grades, 9am-12n for that session.
  - Internship:
- Field Trips: Waterfowl Count trip upcoming (1/19-20). CBCs and Eagle trips will be written up in February BK. Eagle trip successful. 20 attendees with 4 new members signed up. 2019 Trips using paid contractor - Trial in Winter/Spring (Montezuma, Bashakill, Other) COVERED EARLIER
- Hawkwatch (Andy/Tom/Becky): Tom will talk with Becky about getting gift gas cards for counters.
- Historian (Rod): Rod has started digitizing materials and uploading photographs to the Cloud storage area.
- Hospitality (Kathryn):
  - Charter Dinner: Kathryn reported that she contacted the event planner at Quality Inn about changes to the menu (dropping appetizers to reduce cost). They are willing to drop room rental charge and we can keep appetizers and have more room to tweak the menu. Kathryn signed new contract for 2019 Charter Dinner. It's not too early to start looking for art objects for the silent auction. Need to have items before Open House so we can prepare for selling tickets and promotion. Discussed ways to solicit works for the auction.
  - Program hosts: January - Jane; February - Charlie. See earlier discussion. All set for this Friday.

- Kingfisher (Janet): (content due 1/18) President's column—Susan; Director's column—Tom; See Janet's email for additional submissions and needs. Masthead/Color print discussion - we have permission from artist (Dave Kiehm) to colorize the image. Rod can help with this. Other ideas discussed: less frequent but color newsletters; keep the Activities/Calendar as mailer plus email updates.
- Programs (Becky): Jan: Starlings (P.Fauth); Feb: Revolution Solar (MJ Cronin); Mar: Wood Turtles; Apr: Montana Talk (Kyle D.); May: Costa Rica (DuBois)
- Property (Andy/Tom):
  - Sanctuary - St. James lease - Andy will send clean version of revised lease to the church. Need a lawyer to look over lease. Susan will reach out to someone she knows. Charlie suggested getting college students to help clean the boardwalk boards so we could then cover with traction material. SUNY Oneonta has "Into the Streets" program every April.
  - Burlington: Tom still looking for work crew/volunteers to help clean up invasive species (annual project); needs to be done in spring/early summer. Be good if we could find college students who could do this for a project/credit and/or be paid
  - Proposed land donation in Town of Roseboom. Not going to address until spring when we can visit site.
- Publicity (Susan): ready to go up to April program. Other ideas for promoting, programs in Del County, maybe at feed store. Give away seed in the fall to recruit feeder watchers.
- Social Media (Kathryn): Kathryn doing a great job keeping media going. Always looking for new photo material. Send ideas to Kathryn.
- Membership (Andy): Holding steady at 250
- Sales (Susan):
- Fundraising (All): Susan wants to set up meeting with interested Board members in Feb to strategize on fundraising. She will send out date. Kathryn: Bob Donnelly's original watercolor painting of Magnolia Warblers (c2009) from Dave Kiehm. Q: how to price it for auction. Kathryn ask Bob

D for value of painting. Maybe offer the painting in spring and end in May on World Migratory Bird Day. (PJP: I checked date, it's May 11, 2019)

- Website (Susan): Needs a design refresh.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- Strategic planning retreat in April. Suggest using Elm Park Church (\$25 rental for room). Andy check on availability. Late afternoon/early evening preferred.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Texas Schoolhouse State Forest in New Lisbon: Butternut Valley Alliance (BVA) and DEC asking DOAS if we would scout the property for possible bird walks. Charlie willing to pursue.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:40 pm

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Note change in date: Now March 12, 2019: Host: Charlie Scheim - 40 Fair St, Oneonta 607-434-4880

(April 16 Becky Gretton; May 21 TBD)

Minutes submitted by Pam Peters, secretary pro tem