North Cascades Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship March 4, 2019 7:00 pm

Board Members Present: Steven Harper, Sue Parrott, Deborah Kaye, Pam Borso, Paul Woodcock, Robert Kaye and Owen Bamford. Advisory Board Members Present: Chris Brewer.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** - None
2. **Approval of February Meeting Minutes -** Approved
3. **Presentation by Patrick Varnes, Scholarship Recipient**
   Patrick shared his work on an ultrasonic device he created called the Crab Tracker, which he plans to use to chart the distribution of native and non-native crab (invasive European green crabs) species in the Salish Sea.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
   a. Approval of the 2019 Budget - The Board voted to approve the 2019 Budget
   b. 2018 Donations Thank you Acknowledgements
      The Board agreed to acknowledge donation amounts on all correspondence. Language about our organization's non-profit status and tax deductible contributions will be added to membership acknowledgement postcards. Board members will be asked to submit recommendations for donations to other non-profit community organizations in September 2019.
   c. Finalize Thank You Card for Donors
      The Board agreed to use a 4x6 inch version of the proposed thank you card. Sue and Kirsten will finalize the layout and get a quote for printing 250 cards.
5. **Communications**
   a. Submissions for the April newsletter are due March 15th.
   b. The Spring meeting of State Audubon Northwest Region 1 will take place on April 3rd at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center.
   c. Whatcom Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Center - The Board reviewed the organization's Annual Animal Statics report.
   d. Access to National Audubon Photo Library - All chapters now have access to the National Audubon photo library.
   e. Committee Reports
      Governance: The Governance Committee will submit a draft of proposed changes to the bylaws for the Board to consider at the April Board meeting. This timeline will allow for the Committee and Board members to resolve any issues and finalize proposed amendments to the bylaws by the May Board meeting. Members will be notified via email of the proposed changes 15 days prior to the May 28th membership meeting with a vote on the bylaws conducted at the May membership meeting.
      Education: The Education Committee plans to table at the downtown Bellingham Farmers Market this summer. Pam will try to arrange one date in July and one date in August for tabling. The County Parks Department has agreed to allow NCAS to use the Tennant Lake Interpretive Center for Audubon events at no cost. As required, NCAS has provided the Department with a Certificate of Liability Insurance. NCAS will conduct our Introduction to Birding class on April 13th at the Center, followed by a field trip on park grounds.
      Membership: As of March 2019, we have 142 members in good standing, including 36 new members. In an effort to address member retention, the Board agreed we should send reminder postcards to lapsed members.
      Conservation: The Conservation Committee sent a letter to the City of Bellingham Planning Department expressing concern regarding a proposed lot line adjustment near the Heron rookery at Post Point.
   f. Volunteer Recruitment: The Board agreed to incorporate a brief report by one standing committee chair per membership meeting as a way to highlight the committee's efforts and to generate interest in volunteering for NCAS.
   g. Volunteer Appreciation: The Board agreed to plan a volunteer appreciation picnic event to take place sometime this summer.
6. **Old Business**
   a. Wings Over Water: Pam will join a panel discussion entitled The Bird is the Word: Spreading the Word About Birding at the festival on March 16th from 3 to 4pm. Paul is coordinating volunteers for the viewing stations.
   b. Update on Harrison Reserve: We have $2,050 left to raise to reach our fundraising goal of $5,500. Kirsten and Steven will continue to work on promoting fundraising for this project.
   c. Review of Protocol for Submission of Events to Publicity, Newsletter and Calendar: All submissions for events should go to Kelley Palmer-McGee, Kirsten Anderson, Lynne Givler and to Alison Henshaw (email Alison at aliwormoverseas@yahoo.com).
   d. Intern: Board members should contact Pam with any requests for our intern, Sarah, to help with a project.
   e. Issues with Google Drive: Attaching a Google document to an email was discussed.

7. **New Business**
    a. Audubon at the Museum: Sue will volunteer on March 24th, and a volunteer is needed for April 28th. The Board discussed adding a second Audubon at the Museum event per month instead of our current one event per month, if we have enough volunteers. It was suggested that experienced NCAS Audubon at the Museum volunteers invite another member to accompany them on their shift so that the individual can learn the ropes and determine if he/she is comfortable representing NCAS at the museum. Volunteers are asked to arrive at the museum by 1:15 pm.
    b. Formalize Intent of the Board to Combine Publicity and Newsletter into one Committee: The Board voted to combine Publicity and Newsletter into one committee.
    c. Service Project Proposal: Chris presented an overview of two community service proposals for the Board to consider entitled Nest Boxes and Bird Feeding Options and Artist Connections. The Board thanked Chris for her work on these detailed and well thought out proposals and agreed to have her do some further research on them.
    d. Approve and Review Retreat Minutes - Approved
    e. Review Work Plan for Coming Year: Steven will share the 2019 Work Plan, developed at our retreat, with Board members to review prior to the April Board meeting.

    Adjourn- Next Meetings: April 1, 2019, 7-9 pm, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, 1207 Ellsworth, Bellingham

<u>Upcoming Presentations, Programs & Events</u>

Membership Meeting Presentations

March 26: Vancouver Avian Research Center Presentation – Derek Matthews
April 23: Glacial and Post Glacial Influence on the Northwest Washington Environment - What Does Lidar Show Us - Dan McShane
May 28: Elwha River dam removal and river restoration: progress report 5 years after the completion of dam removal – Jeff Duda
Sept. 24: BirdNote – Mary McCann and Bob Sundstrum
Oct. 22: Amphibians of the Northwest – Vicki Jackson
Nov. 26: Sagebrush Songbird Survey – Christie Norman

Educational Programs

March 9: Winter Birds of Whatcom County: 2 pm Blaine Library-Chris Brewer
March 9: Plants for Birds, Lummi Island Heritage Trust-Pam Borso
March 20: Intro to Birding Class with Paul and Pam at Connections Room Coop 11am-2pm and Scudder Pond field trip
April 13: Introduction to Birding with Paul and Pam at Tennant Lake Interpretive Center 10am - 1pm and field trip at Tennant Lake
April 14: Beginning Birding By Ear with Phil Calise and Pam Borso at Point Whitehorn State Park 9am-12pm
May 11: Plants for Birds, Everson Library
May 26: Beginning Birding By Ear with Phil Calise and Pam Borso at Point Whitehorn State Park 9am-12pm

Special Events

March 15-17: Wings Over Water
March 16: Harrison Reserve Work Party
May 30 – June 2: Pearrygin Lake Campout
Dec. 9: NCAS Holiday Party - YWCA
Dec. 15: Christmas Bird Count and Potluck - YWCA