

Sassafras Audubon Society Meeting, August 9, 2015

In attendance: Tommy Grav, Rob Hongen, Derek Coomer, Geoff Conrad, Andy Belt, Rosemary Saurer, Jessica Hite, Alex Tanford, Denise Gardiner, David Rupp, and Polly Graham

- 1) Meeting minutes
 - a. Tabled—Tommy will review and will add to next month's agenda
- 2) Insurance
 - a. Will proceed with payment
 - b. Will revisit whether or not we should pursue other more cost efficient options in May/June 2016
- 3) Annual meeting
 - a. Will vote on new board members
 - b. Takes place on Sept. 21st at Monroe Co. Public Library at 7:00pm
- 4) New members
 - a. Polly Graham and Derek Coomer confirmed their willingness to join the board
 - b. Polly confirmed interest in the secretary position
 - c. Alex Tanford needs to let Tommy know by the end of the week his decision
- 5) Rob Hongen agreed to help Rosemary with activities/events for the upcoming year
- 6) Indiana Masters Naturalist Program
 - a. David confirmed he would teach a course
 - b. Clarification: this program is put on by the Bloomington City Parks & Rec rather than the DNR
 - c. David will contact the appropriate personnel to confirm his participation
- 7) The Academy Environmental Fair
 - a. Volunteers needed on Thursday, Oct. 1 from 11:00-2:30pm to run the SAS booth
 - b. Location: 444 S. Patterson Drive
 - c. Tommy will send out an email to see if someone is willing/available
- 8) Community Foundation Gift/Donation
 - a. Rob motioned to spend the \$250 rather than put towards the endowment
 - b. Geoff seconded the motion
 - c. The motion unanimously passed
- 9) Chimney Swift Project
 - a. Meeting with Wonderlab and carpenter was positive—plans/design was approved and will move forward building; may be delayed by October weddings
 - b. It is a better deal to contract for two rather than one tower
 - i. One tower estimated at \$3,000 and two for \$5,000

- ii. Local graphic designer will charge \$300 for design work
 - 1. Possibility of reusing Wonderlab's design (done in-house) at a less expensive rate
- iii. Archer foundation is very open to giving toward a tower project under two conditions: aimed toward children and is connected with gardening
- c. An eagle scout (Joe) is working with Harmony to construct a tower
- d. Research has shown that is difficult to work with chimney sweeps, thus the recommendation is to build an add on to a chimney instead
 - i. Possibility of partnering with an IU professor Ying Mae Wu (sp?) and her class to design structures
- e. Leonard Springs tower needs signage—structure is already in place
- f. Tommy will approach Friends of Goose Pond to pitch the possibility of constructing a chimney swift tower on the new Visitor's Center
- g. Tommy will follow-up with a friend regarding securing chimney swift specimens

10) Treasurer's Report

- a. Financially healthy
 - i. \$19,181 spread over three accounts
 - ii. \$96,000 + in endowment
 - iii. Slow month

11) Feeder Cleaning

- a. Takes place at Bloomington Hardware on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 9am-4pm
- b. Volunteers needed for call list and to work the station
 - i. Sign-up sheets circled for board members to volunteer
 - ii. David recommended reaching out to members for volunteers rather than relying just on the board
 - iii. Jeff is securing the updated call list
- c. Advertising 20% off birding merchandise at Bloomington Hardware
 - i. Jeff has ideas for signage
 - ii. Need to add sale language to the call list script
- d. Advertisements will occur through FB, radio, and other media
- e. David will communicate the need for volunteers with Indiana Masters Naturalist Program

12) Board participated in a mini-outing to watch chimney swifts at University Elementary School. ~500 birds

13) GBBC in local schools

- a. Tabled.

14) 9:07 meeting was adjourned.