

## Sassafras Audubon Society Meeting, October 5, 2015

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

The new board members were approved at the annual meeting on Sept. 21.

Amber Smallwood: e-communications

Polly Graham: secretary (transition from Wendy)

Alex Tanford: at-large (for now)

Derek Coomer: at-large (for now)

- 1) Meeting minutes
  - a. Unanimously approved after minor clarifications
    - i. Geoff is helping Rosemary with programs
    - ii. The Master Naturalist class is run by IU Teaching Preserve
- 2) No Treasurer's Report (Denise absent)
- 3) Feeder cleaning
  - a. Calls need to be made
  - b. Joni Beatrice will deliver coffee & donuts
  - c. Aver's pizza will need to be picked up
  - d. Set-up starts at 8:00
  - e. Volunteers
    - i. David will send Bill a list of SAS volunteers
    - ii. Volunteers needed... Tommy sent out email that is getting some responses.
- 4) Chimney Swift Towers
  - a. WonderLab tower is under construction off-site
  - b. Harmony School tower (Eagle Scout project) is ready to go up any day
  - c. Tommy will talk with Friends of Goose Pond about possible tower at the new visitors center
  - d. Contract with city is being drafted about towers at Sherwood Oaks Park
    - i. Some discussion about email votes and online debates between meetings. Considered healthy and something to continue.
  - e. Publicity
    - i. Tommy is putting Leaflet together; Jessica will send him blurb and photos about towers
    - ii. Press releases: work w/ Herald-Times and the city
  - f. Later in the meeting we reviewed Swifts Committee members: Jessica, Rob, Bill, Andy, and Denise
- 5) Grant Proposals:
  - a. Rhonda Matteson submitted conservation grant request
  - b. Concerns:

- i. We want to see more details in last paragraph about use of materials
      - ii. Is this for native or non-natives bees? Can that language be included?
      - iii. Is she connected with local beekeeping groups?
      - iv. Let's connect her with Leslie Bishop (pollinator hotels)
    - c. Tommy will send concerns to Rhonda, ask for response, then possibly send to board for review and vote.
- 6) Events: Andy will get word out to Herald-Times and email list
- 7) Brief discussion of website possibilities
  - a. Send blurbs to Tommy, even bird photos
  - b. Website as a resource for birders and local supporters
  - c. Include reviews of sites and trips
- 8) Advocacy
  - a. IDNR Division of Forestry Strategic Direction (2015-19)
  - b. Rosemary shared her concerns about the plan
  - c. [http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State\\_Forest\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_2015\\_2019.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/files/fo-State_Forest_Strategic_Plan_2015_2019.pdf)
  - d. Board can use voice if we deem it appropriate
  - e. Advocacy committee formed: Rosemary, Alex, Geoff, Amber
- 9) By-laws need to be sent to everyone on the board
- 10) Suggestion made to have Alex give short presentation to board about our legal responsibilities
- 11) Meeting concluded with board member introductions... helped us all get to know each other a bit better!