

**Wabash Valley Audubon Society
Monthly Board Meeting
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)
Terre Haute, IN
December 16, 2020**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order @ 5:06**
 - a. Nick Gabry
 - b. Carissa Lovett
 - c. Phil Cox
 - d. Ray Peck
 - e. Courtney Wiesepape
 - f. Ellen Lunsford
- II. Approve Minutes**
 - a. Carissa motioned to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Ellen seconded. Motion passed.
- III. Membership Chair Report (Lucinda Berry)**
 - a. November Meeting: National - 147
- IV. Treasurer's Report (Phil Cox)**
 - a. Checking: \$17,679.50
 - i. -\$20 for SquareSpace renewal
 - b. Savings: \$2932.84
- V. WVAS Public Relations**
 - a. Facebook
 - i. 1,440 down from 1,442 likes
 - ii. 1,488 down from 1,490 following
- VI. Recently Completed Events**
 - a. November 18th, 2020
 - i. International Crane Foundation – Sophie Wolbert
 - ii. 9 in attendance
 - iii. 17 watched the recording via YouTube.
 - iv. Proposal to make a tab on website for recorded meetings
 - b. December 16th, 2020
 - i. Member Photo Night
 - ii. 5 in attendance
- VII. Upcoming Events**
 - a. December 20, 2020
 - i. Christmas Bird Count
 - b. March 27th, 2021, 1pm – 5pm
 - i. 2021 Terre Haute Bird Fest
- VIII. Upcoming Board (5:00pm) & Member Meetings (6:30pm)**
 - a. January 20th, 2021

- i. Perry Seitzinger - The Rise and Fall of the Ruffed Grouse in Indiana: An interactive discussion of the history of the ruffed grouse and the habitat it relies upon in the Hoosier state.
- b. February 17th, 2021
 - i. Barny Dunning
 - ii. Phil to contact about being February speaker
- c. March 17th, 2021
 - i. Brad Bumgardner
 - ii. Nick to contact about being March speaker

IX. Projects

- a. Bird Town
 - i. Approved! Signage on the way. Contact local news orgs?
 - ii. Signage placement:
 - 1. Dobbs – next to Tree City sign or on nature center
 - 2. Keep one for events/as a replacement in case something happens to the other one.
 - iii. Local news – reach out for press release: email tribune star with drafted news release and send photo of board members with sign
 - iv. Check to see if this is something that needs to be renewed each year?
- b. Universal Mine IBA
 - i. Troy Peters reached out and would like to set up a meeting with conservation director Nat Miller to discuss the Project and the potential for funding from National.
 - ii. Who would like to be (or should be) included in this?
 - 1. Phil and Ray expressed interest. Meeting will likely be virtual and open to all board members.
 - iii. Phil to email apex to check status
- c. Indiana Bird Trail
 - i. Write-Ups Submitted to IAS: **3**
 - 1. Chinook Mines Fish and Wildlife Area
 - 2. Wabashiki Fish and Wildlife Area
 - 3. Dobbs Memorial Park
 - ii. Write-Ups checklist for local publication: **(5/15)**
 - 1. John G. Dobbs Memorial Grove **(DONE)**
 - 2. JI Case Wetlands/Hawthorn Park – Nick to finish soon
 - 3. Wabashiki Fish and Wildlife Area **(DONE)**
 - 4. Deming/LE Waterman Bird Sanctuary – may skip this one. Figure out who own this property/get more information?
 - 5. St. Mary of the Woods/White Violet Center
 - 6. Universal Mine/Grand Canyon Lake
 - 7. Trail Head Park
 - 8. Smith Cemetery nature Preserve
 - 9. Raccoon Lake/Cecil Harden Reservoir
 - 10. Mossy Point Nature Preserve

11. Chinook Mines Fish and Wildlife Area (**DONE**)
12. Sullivan Lake
13. Shakamak State Park (**DONE**)
14. Turtle Creek Reservoir (**DONE**)
15. Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve

iii. Nick to contact Jane about what the overarching goal/vision is for this project.

X. WVAS Fundraiser/Advertisement Ideas

- a. T-shirts
 - i. \$10 each, Sand or Gold, Sizes Kids Medium – Adult XL
 - ii. Can be purchased at member meetings, board meetings, and events

XI. New Business

- a. Equity Diversity and Inclusion Statement: SEE PAGE 3
 - i. Everyone to read before next meeting for revisions/changes to statement
 - ii. Approve to create a website tab for this statement?
 - iii. Include this in our next newsletter?
- b. Newsletters
 - i. Bi-annual? One for Fall/Winter, and one for Spring/Summer
 1. Previously released a newsletter every 2 months or so
 2. Just released a newsletter that was 28 pages long (included info from 2 bird counts)
 - ii. Plan moving forward:
 1. Release one newsletter in January after Christmas bird count (fall/winter)
 2. Release another newsletter in May after second bird count (spring/summer)

XII. Adjourn @ 5:59

WVAS EDI Statement

The Wabash Valley Audubon Society believes our education and conservation work is enriched and strengthened by the contributions of diverse individuals and communities. We believe the WVAS must reflect and embrace the diversity of human experience in our communities, workforce, and membership in order to achieve our conservation goals in a way that represents all.

We are committed to creating a culture of acceptance and inclusion that values and supports the diverse voices of our members, including those influenced by sex, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, age, religion, gender identity and expression, disability, national or ethnic origin, politics, and personal experience. It is our aim to foster an environment free of discrimination that is dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion through proactive efforts to advance equality in nature centers, green spaces, and our wider community.