

Flathead Audubon Society
Board meeting Minutes
November 6, 2017

Kay Mitchell opened the FAS board meeting at 6:06 p.m. at the Gateway Center's Community Room.

October Minutes: Kay called for discussion and approval of the minutes. Gail Linne moved that the minutes be approved as written. Barbara Summer seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the minutes.

Treasurer's report (Joe)

Joe Batts, Treasurer, reported that we have \$6300 in Glacier Bank for paying bills, have received \$8071 in dues payment, and have received \$8432 for the 2018 calendar. Joe also reported that our memberships are running approximately 40/60 – 40% basic memberships and 60% sustaining memberships and that the ratio will probably stay at that for the rest of the year.

Kay stated that the treasurer's report is in our packets each month. She urged board members to email her, Bruce or Joe with comments or questions before our board meetings in the event issues could be addressed ahead of our meetings.

Announcements

Kay announced that Jake will now be the 'poet laureate of Flathead Audubon' due to his poem in the Pileated Post which asked members to purchase calendars.

She reminded board members that our January Board meeting falls on Monday, New Years Day, January 1, so the meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Kay asked whether the board would like to send an end of the year appeal letter, and stated that last time the letter was sent, over \$2000 was raised. Members agreed this should be done. Discussion followed about the envelopes, stamps, letter, labels, and that an area would be needed for the activity. Kay will provide the materials and will secure a Gateway Mall room to prepare the mailing. The mailing will be compiled on Nov. 27.

In the past, board members have been asked to give FAS a monetary amount of his/her choice toward this fund-raising. Members agreed to once again donate. Kay called for the board to send donations to Kay or Joe by Nov. 20. Amounts given will be anonymous.

It was decided to set a goal for the fundraiser, with results of the challenge to be reported in the January Pileated Post.

Denny donated the amount of the proposed raise he would have received as the FAS independent contractor to be used for this purpose.

Chair for December meetings

Kay will be unable to attend the December 4 and December 11 meetings due to her upcoming surgery. Bob Lee will chair those two meetings.

Wiley Robbins Homestead Center

Kay stated that 'it's time' to have the discussion about the Center. She asked whether or not any of the board members present tonight is opposed to having that discussion at the January 2, 2018 meeting, and that the meeting should be open to board members only. No one on the board opposed. The discussion will be held on that date with board members only invited to attend.

Education committee (Gail/Denny)

Gail thanked Denny for the work he's done in October as our independent contractor.

She shared that the Education Committee will meet on December 4. The committee will look at ways to align the activities listed in the independent contract to measurable objectives. The agenda also will include:

- Featuring Peregrines in future education events and programs
- Increasing involvement with elders in our communities. Example: Last spring nine blue bird houses were installed at The Springs of Whitefish. Two Audubon members cleaned the boxes this fall. We can follow-up with blue bird programs at The Springs. Jill asked whether members would like to receive the Pileated Post. Gail agreed, and Linda will provide twenty copies. Membership forms will also be offered residents.
- Re-introducing FAS giving books to area school libraries. In the past, books given by the Flathead Audubon have been very popular with children and youth.

Denny: see written report. Kay thanked Denny for sending his report to board members.

Banner (Kay) (Jake)(Denny)

Logo: Scale for the banner has presented challenges. The image gets pixelated. The image is large and would need to be scanned if used.

Jake: Were a new image used, branding can become an issue. He recommended that the current image be simplified rather than to create a new image.

Kay stated that Jake can proceed with ordering the banner once these challenges are solved. We will address the possibility of an additional updated logo in the near future.

Calendars (Kay, Jake)

Norane Friestadt, MT Audubon Office Administrator, reported that MT Audubon received a box of FAS calendars for being a calendar sponsor and offered to send those calendars back to us on Nov. 13. The plan is to give a Flathead Audubon calendar to each person who brings a dessert for the bird festival's Dessert Auction. The board expressed their thanks.

Jake is looking for continued updates for the calendar sales spreadsheet. He requested that board members report where the calendars are and the number of sales that have been made. A notice announcing locations will be included in the December Pileated Post.

The boxes of calendars are in Jake's storage unit.

December 9, a calendar sales event will be held at Kalispell's Sportsman and Ski House, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Gael will be there for entire event; anyone else who can assist, please see Gael.

Board members previously reported numbers and location of calendars they currently hold.

Suggested Conservation Achievement Recognitions 2017-2018: Gael

Gael circulated the list of candidates.

Discussion: Kay (point of clarification): Flathead Land Trust has received a Conservation Achievement Award. Gael: candidate is Laura Katzman, who works for Flathead Land Trust, who has been nominated for this award and not the Flathead Land Trust as an organization.

Gael mentioned we wish to recognize non-traditional groups, such as energy efficient groups such as Flathead Electric.

Gael asked board members to mark our ballot with three from the list of fourteen candidates listed.

Pileated Post (Kay)

Kay called for any additions or changes for the December issue.

Jewel Basin Hawk Watch: Gael will ask Dan Casey to write an article about the Hawk Watch results.

Gael: needs an updated poster to advertise the Sportsman and Ski House event. She'll also submit this for the December newsletter.

Kay asked if anyone has a change of name, email, or an address since last month. There were none.

Sage Grouse (Jake)

Reported about the Sage Grouse Initiative and the recent webinar he attended. Billings is the only Montana city where there will be a meeting. The group is asking for support. Kay mentioned that Lewis has worked with the issues involving sage grouse.

Jake proposed putting a short video on the Home page of the website with an article encouraging readers to support the sage grouse effort.

Conservation

No comment letters were written during October.

Hawk Watch thank yous

On behalf of the board and general membership, Kay thanked Barbara Summer and Rod Walette (plus any absent primary observers) for their 2017 service to Hawk Watch. The board shared her sentiments by giving a hearty applause.

Barbara: Forty-two observations were made in spite of several 'snow-outs'.

Website (Jake)

The website look will change a little bit when the site's theme changes in Word Press. Advantages: flexibility, less anchored, texts and images can be moved around pages, allows for more creativity, website authors have more choices.

Existing calendar on website: Jake would like to update to a new calendar version. Old dates could not be seen going forward if a new calendar is used. He asked, "Does anyone object to losing the old calendar information when we move to the new calendar format?"

Discussion: we have the information in other places. Some people like to look back for reference as to when an activity occurred. Jake may be able to export old data into new program. Kay reminded us that previous Pileated Posts are kept electronically and also as hard copies.

December Field trips

Field trips include Christmas Bird Counts and the January 20 Winter Trails Day that Denny is hosting.

Bird Festival Committee meetings with Norane

Committee meetings held with Norane from MT Audubon were very productive. Committee chairs arrived with good documentation of their group's progress, as well as questions they needed answered. Each group, including Norane, is going home with to-do lists.

Conservation Achievement Recognitions (Gael)

The board voted for the following to receive recognitions:

- Marilyn Wood (Gael will work with). Award in January
- Flathead Electric Cooperative (Bob Lee will work with). Award in March
- Laura Katzmiller (Gael will work with). Award in May

December 13, 2017 General Meeting content

Program will be presented by the Flathead High School's AP students Denny Olson has been working with this fall.

Kay asked that we be considering an alternate to Bob to replace Joe who cannot continue due to his new position as vice-president of the Montana Audubon Board.

Owen Sowerwine

Two trees recently fell and obliterated the gate. Rick Mace inspected the damage, talked with the neighbor who reported the trees were down, and located a detour for access. Next spring the fallen trees need to be removed and a new gate needs to be built.

Denny showed a map of the Owen Sowerwine trail system and requested that we consider adding bridges in order for people to cross the springtime high water areas.

Grants

Kay shared that we may approach Flathead Electric's Roundup for Safety next spring about a grant for a handicapped accessible ramp for the bird blind at Wiley Robbins Homestead.

Grants and their deadlines were discussed.

Adjournment

Kay thanked everyone for coming. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Shay Linne
Acting Secretary