**Loess Hills Audubon Society**

**ZOOM BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, 6 May 2021**

**Executives Present:** Maria R., Randy W., Jerry V., Donna P., Anne S., Jody M., Dotty Z.

**Executive Absent:** Bob L., Jeri W.

**Honored Guests:** Jerry P., Sharon P., Bill H., Jeanne B., Dawn S.

1. Call to Order at 6:00 PM by President Maria R.
   1. On April 7th, 2021 Rex & Maria interviewed
   2. By Stuart Sparkman, Iowa Bird Life Magazine writer/editor.
2. Secretary’s report -- Randy W.
   1. No additions or corrections reported for the April minutes.
      1. Motion and second to accept the minutes
      2. Unanimously approved.
   2. Website report
      1. Up-to-date with observations, outing report, IOU Big Weekend, and Bird-of-the-Month.
      2. Regional public birding locations are being added for Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota.
      3. Email sent to our best birders and educators regarding a proposed addition to the site.
         1. Page would be a comparison of two easily mistaken, challenging to differentiate bird species.
            1. Eventually this could be run similar to Bird-of-the-Month
            2. We would keep adding the comparisons to the page
            3. Keep the birds in taxonomic order
            4. Appeal to beginners as well as more advanced
            5. Add local observations to the comparisons
            6. Try to work with the season
         2. Examples for the comparison
            1. Eastern versus Western Meadowlark
            2. Hermit versus Swainson’s Thrush
            3. Hairy versus Downy Woodpecker
            4. Add more difficult species (flycatchers, peeps) as we go along
         3. Opinions were favorable to set this up
         4. Work on this following migration season and Birdathon!
         5. Anyone who wants to write up a comparison is more than welcome!
3. Treasurer’s Report -- Jeri W., sent by email since she could not attend tonight
   1. Credits – None
   2. Debits -- $4.95 for Tripod website
   3. Balance as of 30 Apr 2021: $12,191.84
   4. Moved and seconded to accept the report with unanimous approval
4. Outing Report -- Bill H.
   1. 10 April outing
      1. Well attended with 16 birders
      2. Traveled to the oxbows south of Sioux City
      3. Excellent report was submitted by Jerry V.
   2. Birdathon! Is next
      1. Global Big Day is Saturday, 8 May
         1. Assemble in small teams
         2. More independent than Christmas Bird Counts
         3. Do the most counting on Saturday to coordinate with Global Big Day.
         4. Please submit your own eBird data.
      2. Our Birdathon! Runs from Friday, 7 May through Monday, 10 May
      3. Bill H. will compile the species numbers for the chapter – send your Birdathon! data to him.
      4. No need to count individual birds, just different species.
      5. Difficulties
         1. Asking for pledges
            1. Flat rate
            2. Per species pledged to a specific birder (or group)
            3. Per species pledged to the collective number of species identified by all of Loess Hills Audubon
         2. Collecting pledged money
         3. Getting the collected funds to our Treasurer
      6. Contact Bill H. with any questions
      7. Bill is willing to accept the funds for turn over to the Treasurer.
   3. Summer outings – for both June and July. More information to follow.
5. Director reports
   1. Director 1 -- Jerri V
      1. Black-crowned Night Heron is our Bird-of-the-Month
      2. Jan N. and I participated in the IOU Big Weekend and will get the data for the website.
   2. Director 2 -- Donna P. – No report
   3. Director 3 -- Anne S. – No report
   4. Director 4 -- Jody M.
      1. Thank you for the Facebook contributions!
      2. Don’t want to overload the page so some contributions may be spread out over time.
      3. Photos are wonderful to let everyone know what is appearing locally.
   5. Director 6 -- Dotty Z.
      1. Thanks to everyone getting out publicity for tonight’s program.
      2. There are program suggestions available for the next Program Chair.
      3. We have candidates for the officers and directors so we are ready for the elections. We can take nominations from the online audience of members.
6. New Business
   1. Dawn S.
      1. Just discovered the Closed Captioning function of Zoom.
         1. Subtitles on the bottom of the screen
         2. Full transcript is also available
         3. It works and it helps but it is not 100% accurate.
         4. You can get the general idea of the discussion
      2. Fonts can be changed for the individual user’s preference using a slider scale in the Zoom program.
      3. Full Transcript mode allows a user to go back to see what was said but who said what.
   2. Vice President position – Maria R.
      1. Bob L. notified Maria that he is resigning from the Vice President position.
      2. This occurred about 20 minutes before the start of this meeting.
      3. Email “appeared strange” with some unusual numbers.
      4. Will try to contact Bob to verify just to be sure; make sure no one has hacked his account.
      5. Once his resignation is confirmed we will seek and appoint a willing replacement.
   3. Board Retreat
      1. Should we set a date for our Board Retreat since everyone is available?
      2. Discussion ensued regarding date, time and location.
         1. Saturday, 26 June 2021
         2. 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
         3. Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center
         4. Indoors or outdoors, depending on the day’s weather.
      3. This provides the opportunity for board members-elect to interact with the current board members and turn over information for the appropriate position.
      4. Plan for the next season of programs and outings
      5. Establish a budget for the next season
      6. Establish projects for the next season
      7. Establish committee assignments/volunteers/members for the next season.
      8. Review long-term and short-term chapter goals and modify as required.
      9. Will provide notification to current and newly-elected chapter executives and program chairs/members.
   4. Program Chair
      1. It was noted we should have a program chair prior to the Board Retreat in order to work on programs for the next season.
      2. There is a list of programs and presenters that were delayed due to COVID restrictions or other reasons.
      3. Randy W. was asked if he would be program chair for the chapter.
         1. He respectfully declined
         2. Prefer to chair Communications committee
         3. Continue with website development and work with Facebook and MailChimp authorities
         4. Devise a process for notifications for members without email or internet connections.
      4. Dawn S. was asked is she would consider Program Chair for the chapter.
         1. Also respectfully declined
         2. Due to work and duties with other organizations.
      5. We will work on finding a Program Chair prior to our Board Retreat.
         1. Committee responsibilities can be discussed
         2. Provide details for volunteers
   5. Following elections during the general meeting we need to
      1. Ask for volunteers for committees
      2. Ask for anyone interested in the Vice President position
      3. Ask if anyone wants to chair the Program Committee
      4. Ask if anyone wants to chair the Projects Committee.
   6. Projects
      1. Maria asked if there are any Adams Homestead or Dorothy Pecaut projects Loess Hills Audubon could provide some financial assistance.
         1. LHAS does have funds available, in part, due to COVID restrictions and relative inactivity of the chapter.
         2. Adams is re-vamping the inside of their visitor center
         3. DPNC has a trail project under consideration
         4. Both will provide a more complete presentation for the chapter
      2. A basic budget was discussed at the 2020 Board Retreat
         1. Due to COVID we did not get much farther than the basics
         2. We need a more complete budget in order to track expenses and better provide assistance to worthwhile causes.
      3. No one ever came forward to become the chair of our Projects committee
         1. Purpose of that committee was sub-divided to other committees
         2. This is where the projects committee is required, to evaluate proposals such as these.
         3. Then work with the board to determine the projects that best fit the chapter’s goals and finances.
7. Adjourn meeting
   1. Motion and second to adjourn meeting for the general meeting, elections and program
   2. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM

**Loess Hills Audubon Society**

**ZOOM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, 6 May 2021**

1. Call to order at 7:02 PM by President Maria R.
2. Nomination and Election of Chapter Officers and Directors -- Dotty Z.
   1. Thank you to the nominating committee from Loess Hills Audubon:
      1. Bill Huser
      2. Bob Livermore
      3. Dotty Zales
   2. Committee report
      1. Secretary nominee: Jerry Probst
      2. Treasurer nominee: Sharon ~~and John~~ Polifka ~~(shared position)~~
      3. Director 1 nominee: Jerry von Ehwegen (continuing as Director)
      4. Director 3 nominee: Randy Williams
      5. Director 5 nominee: Dawn Snyder
   3. Are there any nominations for any of these positions from the Zoom attendees of this meeting?
   4. No nominations were forthcoming from the Zoom attendees of this meeting.
   5. Voter eligibility
      1. Chapter-only Loess Hills Audubon Society members
      2. Loess Hills Audubon Society membership through the National Audubon Society.
   6. Vote – be sure to un-mute your system.
      1. Motion by Dotty Zales to accept slate of officers and directors as proposed by the nominating committee
      2. Second to the motion by Donna Popp
      3. Discussion? No discussion ensued.
      4. Vote unanimous in favor of the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee
   7. Congratulations to our elected officers and directors!
3. Announcements
   1. Bird sightings prior to the start of the general meeting
      1. Black-headed Grosbeak at South Ravine Park
      2. White-winged Crossbill at the Hansen feeders in Kingsley, IA
   2. Announcement regarding Zoom closed caption and transcript function
   3. No other announcements made regarding
      1. Opening for Vice President
      2. Committee membership opportunities
      3. Upcoming outings
4. Program -- NAMIBIA and BOTSWANA with DIANE and WARREN MARTON
   1. Wonderful program
   2. Well-presented and well-received
   3. Thank you for this outstanding presentation!
5. General meeting adjourns at 8:08 PM

Zoom attendees: 21 participants

**LHAS Chapter Executives**

President Maria Rundquist Director 1 Jerry VonEhwegen

Vice President Bob Livermore Director 2 Donna Popp

Secretary Randy Williams Director 3 Anne Shaner

Treasurer Jeri Watkins Director 4 Jody Moats Director 5 Dotty Zales

Secretary-elect: Jerry Probst Director 3-elect: Randy Williams

Treasurer-elect: Sharon ~~& John~~ Polifka Director 5-elect: Dawn Snyder