Hampton Roads Bird Club
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2025

The Executive Committee (EXCOM) met at Sandy Bottom Nature Park. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

EXCOM Members Present:

President - Dr. Shawn T. Dash
Vice President - Mark Sopko
Secretary – Bill Boeh (interim)
Treasurer - John Adair
Board Member (7/25-6/28) - Michael Meyer
Board Member (7/23-6/26) - Pete Peterman
Board Member (7/24-7/27) - Dianne Snyder
Board (former president) - Dave Youker
Newsletter Editor - Tom Charlock
Field Trip Coordinator - James Abbott

EXCOM Members Absent:

Publicity – (Vacant)
Website Editors - Ellis and Wendy Maxey
Host - Brenda Tanner and Jeannie Atkins
Membership - Gwen Harris

A quorum of EXCOM members was in attendance.

1. Issues discussed:
	1. 2024-25 and 2025-26 club budgets
		1. General: The Treasurer reviewed the Budget Summary Report, noting the savings balance increased $500 to nearly $7,700 and the checking balance increased almost $1,000 to over $3,100.
		2. Proposed 20245-26 Budget. Budget expense line items were reviewed for requested changes:
			1. The various club charter-prescribed annual donations/subscriptions were discussed; no changes were proposed. The Treasurer advised that representatives for the Friends of Sandy Bottom were difficult to reach, but it still seems to be an active organization. The Treasurer will not disburse funds until he is assured the organization exists.
			2. Education Fund:
				1. 2024-25 Educational Fund: The approved expenditure of $500 was never disbursed since there was no student available to receive the funds. The Treasurer recommended donating the money to the VSO Conservation Grant instead.

Action/resolution: The Treasurer’s recommendation was discussed. Michael Meyer made a motion to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded; and passed by voice vote.

* + - * 1. 2025-26 Educational Fund: the President advised he would like to conduct additional analysis of the club’s spring bird count data. He requested the funds be allocated to one of his Hampton University students, who is conducting the analyses.
			1. Programs budget: no change requested.
			2. Monthly Newsletter: no change requested.
			3. Bluebird trail:
				1. Bill advised that given the poor results this year (less than 40% fledge rate) the trail may need infusion of funds to improve predator guards. Also replace the older boxes. Bill requested $500 as starting point for 2025-26.
				2. A club nest box building event was suggested as a monthly meeting program event. Bill took this suggestion under consideration.
			4. Social Fund:
				1. The Host Committee was represented in absentia by Jane Frigo. She requested no change to the proposed budget.
				2. Jane also relayed some event ideas from the committee; suggested auction fundraiser at Christmas (artwork & books, etc.).
				3. Jane and Dianne Snyder volunteered to provide September meeting snacks.
			5. Website & PayPal fees: no change requested.
			6. Website 3-Year renewal: Payment is due in June 2026 the Treasurer advised that the3 year rate is far more economical than the annual rate. $350 was budgeted based on the previous renewal in 2023; this may increase.

Action/resolution: The Treasurer moved that the requested changes to the 2025-26 budget be approved by the EXCOM. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

* 1. The Field Trip Coordinator provided the slate for 2025-26:
		1. Sept 27: Lone Star Lakes
		2. Oct 25: Eastern Shore
		3. Nov 22: Hoffler Creek
		4. Dec 14: Possible Mackay Island NWR
		5. Jan 24: CBBT
		6. Feb: pelagic trip from Rudee Inlet or Hatteras. Coordinator will canvass club to determine which location is desired. Cost will be approximately $220 per person. The Rudee Inlet charter requires a 30 person minimum to get that rate, while the Hatteras charter has a 10 person minimum; member interest in the trip will likely drive the choice of which charter to use.
		7. March 15: several options possible, depends on prior trips.
		8. April 25 Back Bay
		9. Late May western Virginia mountains (various locations), weekend trip.
	2. Bill Boeh advised the Christmas Bird Count date will be Saturday, December 20.
1. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Submitted by: William Boeh, Secretary

Reviewed by: Attending EXCOM members

Approved by: Shawn Dash, President