

Hampton Roads Bird Club
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
8/31/2026

The Executive Committee (EXCOM) met via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

EXCOM Members Present:

President - Dr. Shawn T. Dash
Vice President - Mark Sopko
Secretary – Cindy Schulz
Treasurer - John Adair
Board Member (7/25-6/28) - Michael Meyer
Board Member (7/24-6/27) - Dianne Snyder
Board (former president) - Dave Youker
Newsletter Editor - Tom Charlock
Website Editors - Ellis and Wendy Maxey
Field Trip Coordinator - James Abbott
Hospitality - Brenda Tanner and Jeannie Atkins
Membership - Gwen Harris
Leader, Sunday Newport News Walks - Jane Frigo
Compiler, Christmas and Spring Bird Counts – James Abbott

EXCOM Members Absent:

Board Member (7/26-6/29) - Pete Peterman (second term)
Publicity – vacant; no nominee

A quorum of EXCOM members was in attendance.

1. Issues discussed:

A. Topic: Treasurer report on 2026-2027 budget

i. Discussion:

- a. \$400 more than last year in HRBC bank account.
- b. Fewer members this year than last year because 25 members did not pay their dues this year. Treasurer contacted individuals to make them aware that they will be removed from HRBC emails if dues are not paid.
- c. \$611 made at the 2025 Holiday auction. For 2026, Treasurer estimates \$300 will be made at raffles/auctions.
- d. Treasurer recommends \$500 contribution to the VSO Education Fund (same amount as 2025-2026).
- e. Treasurer recommends we keep dues the same for next year.
- f. No expenses were required for Programs or Bluebird Trail in 2025-2026.
- g. Ellis Maxey indicated that \$500 is adequate funding for bluebird trail in 2026-2027.
- h. Vice President indicated that funds provided for program speakers. Some speakers do not want to receive payment. Club offers \$200 per presentation to each educational presenter; total of 3 presentations at \$600 per year. Payment not provided to internal speakers (i.e., HRBC members).
- i. Renewal cost for HRBC website was paid in 2025-2026.

- j. Hospitably Committee not planning an auction in 2026. Board members will continue to sign up to bring snacks/drinks for monthly meetings. For annual picnic in 2027, will plan to reserve a spot at NN Park.
- k. In lieu of an auction, agreed to have a table at the annual holiday party that will provide donated items and a donation jar for contributions. Dianne Snyder will organize this fundraiser, and Cindy Schulz will assist. Details will be provided to HRBC members in a future newsletter.
- l. No fund expenditures anticipated for misc. category, as it has been several years since there have been off item expenses.
- m. Be cautious with email addresses of members. BCC email addresses when sending emails.

B. Topic: Walks/Field Trips

i. Discussion:

- a. Fort Monroe walks – Vice Present leads monthly bird walks. Information related to these walks will be added to HRBC website.
- b. Sunday NN Park walks – information on these walks is posted on website when Ellis Maxey receives related information from Jane Frigo/Cindy Schulz.
- c. Field Trips – James Abbott provided an overview of 2026-2027 field trips. Details will be provided in upcoming newsletter and will be posted to HRBC website.

C. Topic: Website

i. Discussion:

- a. Website will be updated to include the new board member (Secretary position).
- b. There are a fair number of visits to HRBC website but data available from website does not provide information on what visitors were looking at.
- c. Website Editors open to suggestions for website changes.

D. Topic: Newsletter

i. Discussion:

- a. Hard copy newsletter mailed to 3 members. All other members receive newsletter via email.
- b. Next newsletter will provide opportunity for members to express any input re ospreys to Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

E. Topic: New individual in Secretary position

i. Discussion:

- a. None.

F. Topic: Input from other boards members

i. Discussion:

- a. None.

G. Topic: New member recruitment

i. Discussion:

- a. Introductory club info is emailed to new members.

2. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Submitted by: Cindy Schulz, Secretary
Reviewed by: Shawn Dash, President
Approved by: Shawn Dash, President