

**MVAS board meeting minutes**  
**Thursday, July 9, 2020, 5:30 p.m. on Zoom**  
**Attending: Elaine S. (pres), Mark P. (vice pres),**  
**Diane M. (treasurer), Annie M., C.J. G., Gill S., Sid W.**  
**Meeting started at 17:36, ended 18:54 (approx.)**

1. Approval of June board minutes: Sid W moved for approval, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Annie M – motion passes
2. Approval of Treasurer's end-of-June balance report. Diane M noted \$225 came in from members renewing w/o email consequent to Diane M's letter -- \$60 dues (4 memberships), \$170 donations – Sid W moved for approval, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CJ G – motion passes
3. Multi-chapter program suggestion – presented by Cheryl Fallstead  
Nature journaling – John Muir Laws – has conducted workshops in conjunction with National Audubon. Idea is that our chapter + other chapters, El Paso Audubon – each chapter chips in. Focus on SW birds, how to nature journal, why to nature journal. Intensive observation, inquiry method. Mark P – suggested other eco groups in town – Sierra Club, Native Plant Society, FOMDP, Elaine S suggested DA Arts Council – board will look at website, poll will be conducted to see if members interested,
4. Updates from June meeting:

T-Shirts: the question was 50/50 or all cotton...the answer is it's our choice, and the cotton is pre-shrunk

Cheryl F has worked with him in person for Ukes and other things and says he is actually really good to work with, despite his lack of email communication -- she has his catalog for different types of shirts and has mixed/matched – he just wants total minimum # of shirts – short sleeve, long sleeve. CJ G and Annie M favor all cotton. Cheryl F says he will order sample. EAS will get catalog from Cheryl F.

Insurance: I called Allstate on a whim since they are my insurers and they said they will give us a quote (I last communicated with them on June 18, sent follow up July 6 – no reply as of July 13). My neighbor, McGonagle junior said that his dad might be able to help us out, and Aaron will be contacting McGonagle (senior) Insurance.

Along the same vein, all liability waivers for bird walks should be consistent and possibly vetted again--? The last thing I want is for the MVAS board to be sued because someone gets bit by a snake or falls into the river something on

a walk and says it's our fault for taking us to such dangerous locations. EAS requesting copy of liability waiver from Wayne.

Adopt a Spot: EASS took Adopt-A-Spot paperwork to Parks & Rec for James wood with letter re first choice and second choice. He replied via email on June 19 that he'd be back in touch after July 15, noting, "My program is still on hold and will not continue until the next phase of the reopening."

Membership: EASS and DM talked about Nat'l versus chapter. ES working on combining spreadsheets. Great opportunity to boost membership roster. Diane M says Aud reporting starts in September for her so that she can submit before end of November.

Zoom: We are signed up. EASS paid, sent receipt to Diane M June 29, received check following week. If automatically renews, so if we don't want it to renew, we need to cancel in June 2021 (plus the rate goes up \$30 because of this year's discount).

Meeting location: Sid and Elaine have started to call hotels for prices. Courtyard Marriott where we were quoted \$50/meeting for 10 months' of meetings. Kristi at WBU was not interested in hosting. SW – Staybridge = confusing. Encanto closed until early August. Cheryl F noted there is a new quilt and yarn shop at Farney and Main St with a big classroom space. We'd need media equipment, internet, but it's worth looking into.

Center for Biological Diversity letter signed (ES share screen shot) on behalf of MVAS. Send to group.

## 5. Committee updates:

### Education

### Programs

July – Booze & Birds – Mark July 29 – birds & beers of Maine. Relaxed, open mic social event

August – CJ's warbler ID class

September – Butterflies – Rob Wu ??? CJ will reach out to Rob

October – Native plants – Alex Mares? Mark P will reach out to Alex

November – Survival by Degrees? Elaine S will reach out to national

December – CBC – will it even happen? Mark P will follow up w/ Wayne T

Publications: Sid needs articles by July 20 – get program set before then! In this newsletter we will solicit in newsletter articles about "spark birds" in

conjunction with Earl Williams's story.

## 6. Other business

Gill S met with dir of public works re Parkhill Estates Pond (retention/detention—working with Earl Williams). They mowed close to ground. Even scraped. ☹ Gill S asked city manager about this. Idea should be seeding steep sides. Deep pond! Del Rey and ParkHill – heron, other birds hang out there. Ongoing.

Re: SW Bird survey. Sid W reported communication has been limited – USIBWC having contract issues. Does Gill S have info? Gill S says will email Carl Clark in City Utilities and cc Elaine and Sid. At Audubon level, transition. Western Rivers project closing down – table our grant project until 2021 is Desiree's (who is leaving) suggestion. Asombro and City Museum folks all working at home. Data collection is what we can do right now to keep project going – Sid W has been out, Beth Bardwell has been out. Get out there and bird the site! Data collection = it for now.

Butterflies division of MVAS? Yes! CJ to head up Butterfly Division – do we need a vote? Proposal, see what response is, table until next time.

Mid-term board appointment? Cheryl Fallstead has expressed interest in being a board member. Diane M says in this case the board = nominating committee. Board needs to nominate and can appoint since mid-term.

Mark P moved to appoint Cheryl F as a board member Diane M seconds Unanimous.

DM: Mailbox – from Carrie Fuller/Oregon who wants to speak to someone regarding black-eared bushtits for an article. Mark P suggested NMOS person, Elaine S sent Diane M that person's email address.