

Minutes Audubon Board – January 17, 2024

Present: Dan, Linda, Hank, Nicki, Jonathan
Minutes of October 18, 2023 were approved

Handouts: 1) Annual Financial Report for calendar year 2023. 2) Financial Report 2nd Semester 2023 (July 1 – Dec. 31). All CDs with Wells Fargo will be transferred to Magnifi Credit Union

Annual Report for our Chapter: This was submitted to National Audubon January 10, 2024. Dan will try to get a verbal or written confirmation that our report was received. Baseline funding from National should be available in 4-6 weeks.

Suggested CMAS Priorities for 2024: 1) to increase participation by re-establishing the web page and promoting hybrid zoom meetings. 2) promoting activities for youth. 3) promoting homeowner conservation programs (Lawns to Legumes).

CMAS confirmed support for MN Audubon policy priorities for both Federal and State. CMAS recommended including banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Reinstatement of our exempt status: The required IRS Form 1023 was sent and received. Within 45 days (end of January hopefully) an agent would be assigned to process our request. Dan will be contacted by phone or USPS.

Newsletter Bar codes: Dan was unable to set up with USPS a system for pre-printing of address bar codes for our newsletter. The process was too complicated and expensive. CMAS needs to pay a permit renewal fee of \$310 by January 21, 2024. This is because we are not using 90% of the full service system.

Work in Progress: 1) By-Laws Revision (Hank). 2) Re-establishing Web Page. 3) Board Checklist (Dan). 4) contacting 14 local members to affirm membership to receive Newsletter (6 have renewed, 3 are considering renewal, others have dropped out). Dan compiled a list of local member as of Dec. 2023.

Upcoming Events: 1) January 27 – Celebrating the Avon Hills Event at SJU 8 am to 4 pm. Audubon will have an information table at this event. 2) CMAS will support the St. Cloud Flower and Garden program featuring Stan Tekeila's talk on Wild Flowers. This will be April 16th at the Sartell Community Center starting at 6:30 pm. CMAS will provide a door prize (one of Tekiela's books).

Upcoming Audubon Speakers: 1) Feb. Mike & Ellen Heneghan – Birding Trip to other countries. 2) March – Luke DeGroot- Avian Conservation Scientist – A Bird Observatory for the 21st Century.

CMAS's Annual Meeting; Tentatively set for April 24 at the UUF.

Next Board Meeting: February 21, 2024. Linda will bring refreshments.