

Board meeting – March 1, 2009
10:30 a.m. via teleconference

Meeting called to order.

Present: Linda Bergman, Brenda Hiles, Ann Rogers, Mary Weiss, Beth Knapp-Tyner, Jean Chamberlain, Laurie Degernes, Toni O'Neil, Jennifer Gordon, Carla Johnson, Elizabeth Hanrahan, Janenie Ledbetter, Lauren Powers.

Excused: Alicia Cawlfild.

Quorum declared

Voted to:

Accept the proposed agenda. Motion: Carla; Second: Mary Weiss; passed unanimously.

Accept BOD meeting minutes from Feb. 1, 2009. Motion: Mary; Second: Carla; passed unanimously.

Accept General Meeting minutes from Jan. 31, 2009. Motion: Janenie. Second: Laurie; passed unanimously.

Old Business.

Committees

Newsletter Committee: Carol Kaczmarek has been added to the committee.

Membership Committee: Renewal letters are ready to be sent via e-mail and land mail to those who have allowed their membership to lapse.

RVS Committee: WRNC will continue to seek permission from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for permits to deal with rabies-vector species animals (raccoons, skunks, bats, fox and coyotes). The lack of availability of the rabies pre-exposure vaccine delayed efforts last year. The committee hopes to have training in place next year for members who will be dealing with RVS animals.

Symposium Committee: Nicky Dardinger of Carolina Raptor Center has been added to the committee. Laurie has booked rooms at the Vet School for the 2010 symposium. Among the rooms reserved are three classrooms that hold between 80 and 110 people; a small classroom that holds 45 people; an anatomy lab; and a junior surgery that can be used for wet labs.

The cafeteria at the school will be closed over that weekend, but could be set up for boxed lunches.

The school also has sufficient parking and a loading dock.

One concern is overnight security for items brought by vendors.

Advantages of the vet school include convenience and support from vet students. The school could also organize registration for the symposium, including name tags and information packets for a cost of 12% (estimated at \$1,000) of the gross receipt.

Options for hotels and banquet facilities are still being explored.

Board voted to allow the Symposium Committee to make final decision on the venue. Motion: Laurie; Second: Carla. Passed unanimously.

Chimney Swift Committee: Krista Hansen in Council, N.C., has built a tower with a grant received this year. Photos of the tower will run in the newsletter. **Board voted to create a separate section on the website to promote the grants and post the photos.** Motion: Carla; Second: Janenie. Passed unanimously.

New Business:

Mailing address: Our new mailing address is PO Box 2844, Durham, N.C. 27715. The address will be changed on IRS forms, state forms and on the website. Carla will file a forwarding notice with the Postal Service once she moves to Durham.

Nonprofit status: WRNC's nonprofit status needs to be clarified with the IRS. WRNC never filed Form 8734 -- a requirement for a charity -- once its initial period of determination was over. The organization is listed as a foundation rather than a charity by the IRS. As a foundation, WRNC is required to file tax returns for the past three years. The difference is that foundations limit the tax write-off for donors and charities don't. Certain income for foundations is taxable. WRNC will have to pay about \$1 tax on its income. (This was clarified by Jean after the meeting). Jean will work to get all paperwork corrected, tax returns sent in and talk to IRS to try to get status corrected to charity, Jennifer will assist as Jean needs her to.

The board voted to give Jean the authority to seek an accountant to review the tax returns, with WRNC paying the bill. Motion: Mary; Second: Ann. Passed unanimously.

PayPal: WRNC will establish a PayPal account to accept membership fees online. The option will be included in renewal letters. Carla, Jean, Beth and Brenda will work to get the account set up. **The board voted to move forward with establishing a PayPal account.** Motion: Jean; Second: Mary. Passed unanimously.

Piedmont Wildlife Festival: WRNC will ask student liaisons to man a booth at the Piedmont Wildlife Festival in May. The cost of a booth is \$15, and though WRNC received no donations at the festival last year, it allowed the group to get its name out to the public. **The board voted to participate in the festival.** Motion: Laurie; Second: Jean. Passed unanimously.

Newsletter: Brenda asked for permission to share articles from the WRNC newsletter with a wildlife rehab newsletter in New Jersey edited by Harriet Forrester. **The board voted to grant permission to share articles only on the condition the author gives permission in writing and the publication gives the author and WRNC credit.** Motion: Jean; Second: Linda. Passed unanimously.

Other business:

Job descriptions: Beth will begin preparing job description documents for officer positions and pass them on to all others on the board, that are or have served as officers, to add to the documents in a collaborative effort. Board member expectations document will also be produced to give members a clear idea of what is expected of them as a board member, this document can also be used to inform possible nominees of expectations to assist in their decision to accept nomination.

New member buddies: Veteran board members will help new board members learn the ropes. Linda will mentor Ann; Beth will mentor Brenda.

Questionnaire for board members: A questionnaire will be prepared to determine board members' interests and skills.

Past Presidents: Discussion will continue via e-mail about recognition for past presidents.

Adjourned: 11:38 a.m.

Brenda Hiles
WRNC secretary
March 4, 2009