

PSO 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Zoom

December 9, 2025, 7:00-8:08 PM

President Brian Byrnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Attendees: Directors Brian Byrnes, Carolyn Hendricks, Frank Haas, Sheree Daugherty, David Barber, Chelsea Beck, Doug Wentzel, Richard Rieger, Joe Gyekis, Mary Alice Koeneke, Jeff Kenney, Karter Witmer and Brian Shema. Absent: Laura Jackson, Wayne Laubscher and Brian Miller.

A motion was made by Brian Byrnes to approve the October 20, 2025 board minutes and Mary Alice Koeneke seconded. The minutes were adopted unanimously with no discussion.

• **Committee Reports:**

- **Awards Committee**, submitted by Carolyn Hendricks
 - The committee has not met but requests nominations for all awards.

- **Festival Planning Committee**, submitted by Carolyn Hendricks
 - The venue contract has been signed with the Blair County Convention Center and the deposit has been paid.
 - Three main topics were discussed:
 - **Speakers:** A request was made for names of potential speakers. The idea of having a nationally known speaker to attract more attendance was discussed. The added expense could be covered by raising registration costs or having a sponsor provide the fee. The possibility of involving students to present lightning talks or poster presentations was also discussed.
 - **Awards:** There was a request for nominations.
 - **Outings:** Jeff Kenney and Joe Gyekis have started to organize outings. Ideas to make the outing experience better were discussed including: better communication between outing leaders and participants and carpooling.

- **Events/Field Trips Committee, submitted by Jeff Kenney**
 - 2026 Spotlight events are set for Huntingdon County in March, Fayette County in April and Potter County in October.

- **Conservation Committee**, submitted by Laura Jackson
 - The 2026 Blitz Application has been finalized and is ready for promotion.
 - Past recipients of Blitz funds should be asked for followup reports of how the funds were used to be published in the Pileated.
 - The committee asks to explore the possible development of a program to recognize landowners for conserving bird habitats. Brian Shema shared his experience with how Audubon Society of Western PA (ASWP) handles their program. Various strategies were discussed.
 - The board was asked for additional ideas to advance bird habitat creation and management.
- **Other Business**
 - A request was made for strategies to involve people outside of PSO and bird club members to become more aware of bird and land conservation.
 - Nominations for new Board Directors must be submitted by the end of April.
- **Next Full Board Meeting**
 - The next meeting will be held in February, date to be determined. Brian Byrnes will send out a poll to choose dates for 2026 board meetings to be scheduled approximately every two months.

Brian adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm.

— prepared by Sheree Daugherty, 12-10-25