

**Saw Mill River Audubon – Revised Board Meeting Minutes  
February 3, 2003, 7:30 pm – Held at Chappaqua Library**

**Present:** Richard Saravay, Robert McCrillis, Stan Wecker, Rita Wecker, Ilse Jorgensen, Jim Anderson, Joan Coffey, Judy Epstein, Mark Magel, Jo Lunetta, Ken Novenster, Lurline Arco

**Guests:** (potential board nominees): John Blake, Ken Novenster

**Minutes:** January 2003 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Agenda Confirmation/Adjustment**

**President's Report:** We presently have 872 members. Anne's absence was noted due to the death of her mother. The Board would like to plant a tree, of Anne's choice, in memory of her mother and Judy will send her the Board's condolences. Peter Hartmann died on Jan. 16, and the Board will also plant a tree in his memory and Judy will send Edie and Svend Hartmann a condolence card. Ken Silver, long time Board member, also died and Ellen will be asked to write a note to his wife from the Board. The Westchester Land Use Training Institute is offering a series of courses and workshops on environmentally related issues. Richard has the materials if anyone is interested.

**Board of Directors:** Mattie Varvaro has resigned from the board. She will continue with the butterfly garden and the planning committee. Ken Novenster is interested in joining the Board. The nominating committee proposed him, seconded by Jo and approved unanimously.

**Planning Committee:** Stan Wecker will organize a meeting of the planning committee on Feb. 24, 2003 at his house. Attending should be President, Vice President, Treasurer, Stan and chairs of committees.

**Finance Committee:** Rita reported that as of Jan. 31, 2003 the portfolio contained \$690,431. It has gone down for the last three years due to a decline in the market (charts and graphs were passed out with figures as of 12/31/02).

Robert McCrillis took over meeting for Richard at this point.

**Treasurer's Report:** Henry was not present but Robert reported that all big year-end bills were paid, including insurance. Year-end tax forms have been sent in. Anne is on her new salary since Jan. 1st, and Ellen will receive hers with her next pay check. \$5000 was taken out of the Endowment Fund to cover ongoing expenses.

**Bird Seed Sale:** Jim reported a good turn out with the weekend sale. Two tons of seed were sold. We have already sold 2.9 tons in 2003 and right now we are ahead of other years. Perhaps we should consider doing the extra weekend seed sales three times a year.

**Sanctuaries:** Ilse had nothing new to report but a meeting will be held soon.

**Environmental Advocacy:** Sean Mahar will be invited to the next meeting. He is Audubon New York's Grassroots Coordinator.

**Old Business:** IBA nominations for important bird areas.

**New Business:** Pat Jones and John Hough, two members of the "Citizens Concerned about Pocantico Land Development," came to our board meeting. There will be two public meetings on Feb. 24th and 29th to discuss the various concerns of neighbors and other Westchester citizens. Pat discussed the way David Rockefeller (owner of land) may divide the 94 acres in question between housing, a restaurant, an agricultural education center etc. John Hough referred to the development as a microcosm of bigger changes taking place in Pocantico Hills. He feels the planning is very fragmented. This is the largest piece of open land in this part of Westchester. It provides great opportunities if the planning groups can develop a good master plan. Pat and John as well as Ben Cheever want to meet with David Rockefeller to see if they could work together to maintain open spaces. Michael Klemens (chosen by the developer) is doing a 90 acre study for Rockefeller for the rest of the property. The purpose of the coming meetings is to let the planning board know that there is public concern in the community.

A resolution endorsing the "Citizens Concerned about Pocantico Land Development" petition (handed out at meeting) was proposed by Stan, seconded by Jo, and passed unanimously. Rita suggested that we add our Mission Statement at the beginning

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Monday March 3, 2003 beginning at 7:00 at the Chappaqua Library.

**Minutes:** Judy Epstein