

**SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON – BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2003, 7:30 PM – HELD AT CHAPPAQUA LIBRARY
DRAFT**

PRESENT: Richard Saravay, Tom McEnerney, Jo Lunetta, Stan Wecker, Rita Wecker, Jim Anderson, Ilse Jorgensen (part time), Sophie Keyes, Robert McCrillis, Karen Wells, Ken Novenstern, Jeanne Romeu. Anne Swaim was also present.

MINUTES: March 3, 2003 minutes were accepted, with the exception that Robert McCrillis pointed out the proper wording of “making a motion” is “moved.” Richard “moved” to accept the minutes as amended. Was seconded and passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: State Council Meeting: Richard urged that we contribute to the New York State Audubon Legislative Resolutions book which puts our environmental issues on the forefront for State legislators. Many environmental groups participate in this document which is highly regarded by State legislators and is used by National Audubon to initiate environmental legislation. Richard also reported on a new “Hudson River Initiative,” a movement to consolidate Hudson River environmental groups to become a stronger voice for the environment.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Rita Wecker stated the stock market is still volatile, and at present the portfolio was valued at \$677,400.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Henry Seduski was absent and Richard reported in his place that approximately \$10,000 was spent. Details will be available at the next board meeting.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: The 2003 Planning Committee Retreat will be held on November 1st at the Community Bible Church. Donny Nye, a former SMRA board member, has agreed to be the facilitator as she did for the last board retreat. The objective will be to set short and long-term goals in support of our mission. Board members are encouraged to attend. The 3/17/03 Planning Committee meeting minutes were sent in the April board packet. A chart was also drawn up regarding Pruyn House usage and staff replacement (also sent in board mailing).

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY: Rockefeller Property: Karen Wells contacted the grassroots group that is tracking the master plan for this property and is now on the mailing list to keep us informed as this matter progresses. NYS Audubon Advocacy: Karen volunteered to set up an e-mail address for anyone to write and bring up environmental issues which can then be included in the October NYS Audubon Council Meeting.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT: 50TH Anniversary Celebration: Karen Wells is planning to put together a press conference on April 25 at Pruyn publicizing the 50th Anniversary program. It was suggested that since local media will be there, we could include the girl scout that installed the trail at Cameron Murtfeldt sanctuary and also provide pictures from our archives.

Pot Luck Dinner: Stan Wecker reported the Pot Luck Dinner RSVP calls have been slow, and asked for Board volunteers. A tentative program for the evening was circulated. Karen Wells suggested putting together a “top 50-100” membership list of people to be personally contacted by phone to invite to the Dinner. She volunteered to make the calls. Anne Swaim will supply the names and numbers.

Jubilee Journal: Sophie Keyes displayed the beautiful anniversary packet with glossy journal that will go out to our membership celebrating Saw Mill River Audubon's 50th Anniversary. The board thanked her for her wonderful work and also recognized the contributions of Lynn Tchobanoglous and our graphic designer Louise Landry.

2003 Fund Drive and Phoneathon: Robert McCrillis reminded us things are in place for the phoneathon May 20-21st between 6 and 8 p.m. (pizza dinner included), and stressed the Board's participation in making the calls. Stan and Richard reiterated the importance of the Board's own contributions to the fund drive so we can highlight 100% participation by the board.

SANCTUARIES: Ilse Jorgensen reported on Cameron Murtfeldt and the wonderful job Senior Girl Scout Sarah McGrath did in planning and following through on clearing this sanctuary for her girl scout Gold Award. Pictures were passed around for all to see.

Pruyn Nailing Day: The Pruy nailing day has been changed to Saturday, May 31st. Anne Swaim (in Jeff Pinerio's absence and pending his approval) asked the Board to follow through and get the word out for volunteers.

Brinton Brook/Silverman Property: Ken Novenster reported his frustration at not reaching Sandy Galef regarding the possibility of funding to purchase this property. He mentioned Scenic Hudson will help only if they can piggyback funds with others. Ken wishes to contact Village of Croton Mayor Bob Elliott and schedule a walk of the Brinton property. Anne Swaim will get together with him and schedule a date.

Jeanne Romeu reported the Village of Croton Police Dept.'s interest in being kept informed of any evidence of loitering or unusual items such as large buckets inside Graff and Brinton Brook sanctuaries. She suggested the sanctuary chairs of our individual properties supply the local police departments with trail maps of the sanctuaries so they will be more knowledgeable about the trails and properties, especially in case of an emergency. Jeanne also suggested sanctuary map boxes be kept supplied with membership forms by the sanctuary chairs. The sanctuary name should be written on the bottom of the form so the office will know when a membership comes in from a sanctuary location.

BIRD SEED SALE: Jim Anderson scheduled a bird seed sale meeting on May 5th at 6 p.m. to talk about making some decisions about running the seed sale, including who might be involved from the Board and how much the office can do. Ken Novenster expressed interest in helping, as long as Jim is available for support, and hopefully another Board member will help.

NATURALIST'S REPORT: Anne Swaim reported she's been busy with lots of school programs, and the remainder of the school year is booked. Pace University falconer James Eyring will do a birds of prey demonstration at the Pruy n Celebration in June. Anne also informed us any birders interested in NYC birding can walk Central Park with the Nature Conservancy on weekdays. She is providing Board support for the 50th Anniversary Celebration including a multimedia presentation for the evening.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Minutes: Jeanne Romeu (in Judy Epstein's absence)