

**SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON-BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 5, 2003- HELD AT CHAPPAQUA LIBRARY
DRAFT**

PRESENT: Richard Saravay, Stan Wecker. Rita Wecker, Jeff Pinerio, Henry Seduski, Jo Lunetta, Bob McCrillis, Jeanne Romeu, Lurline Arco, Tom McEnerney Joan Coffey, Ken Novenster, Judy Epstein and Anne Swaim, Naturalist and Education Director

GUESTS: Chapter member Bob Reardon and potential board member Burton Leiser.

MINUTES: Jo Lunetta moved to accept the minutes of 2003 Annual Meeting; seconded by Bob McCrillis and passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Richard reported on the 2003 ballot for the Board of Directors of the State Audubon Council. Stan Wecker moved that the chapter vote in favor of this slate and Henry Seduski seconded. Motion carried. Stan Wecker distributed draft committee lists which were reviewed and corrected. Each committee should consider its mission in relation to the chapter mission. The Chappaqua Library will host the May 16, 2003 public program featuring Ed Kanze discussing his book on John Burroughs.

SANCTUARIES: Jeff announced that nailing of the Pruyn boardwalks is finished. He will work on benches with Danny. Ken spoke to Jennifer at Scenic Hudson about preservation of different properties in the area of the Silverman property. He wishes to walk this property with Croton Mayor Bob Elliot, a Scenic Hudson representative, Anne Swaim and anyone else interested. Robert McCrillis reported that the arboretum has fallen into neglect over the past year. It has, however, been mowed this spring. Robert and Tom McEnerney are renovating the signs. Robert also suggested that a couple of picnic tables be placed at Pruyn, perhaps near the shed. Richard suggested that the Sanctuary Committee discuss this and make a recommendation. Robert said that the Gingko tree, in memory of Peter Hartmann, was planted this morning. Tom reminded the Board that work on the butterfly garden takes place on Monday mornings. Anyone able to help should come.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Rita Wecker said that the finance committee is required to report to the Board four times a year. She passed out Investment Portfolio Performance Reports to the Board for the first quarter. Since the market was down, so were we. We ended at \$677,400 on 3-31-03. Anne said that many donations of \$50 are coming in daily for the fund drive. Our regular revenue expectations are \$20,000 but for our 50th year we hope to take in \$30,000 more. The third Hembdt donation will be coming in and it's up to the Board to decide where it goes. The Finance Committee makes decisions according to guidelines which were noted by the Board (see hand out). On March 21, 2003 we had \$133,566 in liquid funds, which is a safe amount. In April, things are looking up. The value of the portfolio was \$709,619 (that includes \$10,000 taken out for expenses).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Henry passed out a report for 3 months ending 3-31-03. April has been a very active month with many contributions coming in from members. Education programs are generating a lot of money. Bulletin expenses were high but will equalize in time. Henry will speak to the auditor and see if we can skip a full audit this year, or get some assurance for less money. Rita noted that we should have an active Audit Committee to help with this process.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT: We have about 900 members. Robert reported that the Phoneathon will be held on Tuesday May 20th and Wednesday May 21st at Siderow Kennedy Real Estate office in Chappaqua. On both evening, it will start at 5:30 p.m with dinner, followed by calling from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Instructions will be given out. Board members have been scheduled to work both evenings.

Jeff reported on preparations for the June 21st Pruyn Celebration. The tent is ordered. Jim Eyring from Pace will present a program will live raptors in the afternoon. The invitation list is being finished. Mattie will do hospitality. Anne, Jeff, and Judy will discuss getting the help of trail walkers. Jeff will schedule a training session for trail walkers to help with the public walks.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY: The Town of New Castle voted to purchase wind power from a farm upstate to replace 29% of town municipal energy use. They are doing this as a positive alternative to nuclear energy.

Karen Wells sent a report on two topics discussed with Sean Mahar of the state Audubon office:

1. The state office would like to develop a list of conservation projects in the Hudson River Valley area. They would like a list of our projects. Presently we do not have any specific projects related to the Hudson River Valley except for our land conservation efforts adjacent to Brinton Brook.
2. Sean Mahar is requesting that we help in planning a Spring 2004 conference about Hudson River Valley migrating and residential birds in conjunction with the Hudson River Environmental Society . Richard said we will wait to hear more about this effort.

Karen also requested us to write letters as citizens, to deny a permit for the current Millennium Pipeline route (See attached letter for model).

NATURALIST'S REPORT: Anne mentioned two interesting citizen science projects from Cornell Lab: Birds in the Forested Landscape and the Nestbox Network. For more information, go to birdsource.org. She has had a very busy month, working approximately 30 hours per week. School programs are booked until the end of the school year. The Girl Scout project at Cameron Murtfeldt has generated good publicity.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Birding Big Day (May 10), Van Cortlandt Manor walk by Anne Swaim (May 10), wild flower talk and walk at Greenbrook Sanctuary (May 11).

PLANNING COMMITTEE: The planning retreat will be Saturday, Nov. 1, 2003. It will be very important for all board members to attend. Tentative hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided.

NEW BUSINESS: Jeff reported that a friend of Svend Hartmann's is rebuilding the stone wall at Pruyn in a volunteer effort over this summer. Ken Novenster, who works with the New Castle Community Land Trust, suggested Audubon do a joint mailing with them regarding an easement to help preserve open space. He will have someone contact the office about this.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be the picnic and Board meeting at the home of Bill and Midge Arnold on June 2, 2003. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Judith D. Epstein