

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON-BOARD MEETING
JUNE 2, 2003 - HELD AT MIDGE AND BILL ARNOLD'S HOME
Corrected Minutes

PRESENT: Rita Wecker, Stan Wecker, Ilse Jorgensen, Robert McCrillis, Jim Anderson, Richard Saravay, Jo Lunetta, Joan Coffey, Judy Epstein, Tom McEnerney, Anne Swaim, Naturalist and Education Director, Sophie Keyes, Historian

GUEST: Carol Coggeshall

MINUTES: Jo Lunetta moved to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2003 meeting. Seconded by Stan Wecker and passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. Richard received the N.Y. Audubon Conservation Policy Resolution Book for 2003.
2. An Executive Committee needs to be formed and a summer schedule made. The Executive Committee has the authority to act in lieu of the Board except for certain matters. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board, Secretary, and Jim Anderson. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.
3. The Planning Committee for the fall will consist of Richard Saravay, Ilse Jorgensen, Stan Wecker, Bob McCrillis, Judy Epstein, Mattie Varvaro, and Karen Wells, with Anne Swaim giving assistance when needed.
4. An Audit Committee is needed for the protection of the Treasurer and the Board. Stan Wecker pointed out that an Audit Committee is not appointed by the President but elected by the Board. Bob McCrillis and John Blake volunteered. (Minimum of one has to be on the Board). The Audit Committee should go to the next Finance Committee meeting on Mon. June 30th. Their job is to review the checkbook on a quarterly basis. Richard proposed that the two volunteers be voted on together. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.
5. The members of the Nominating Committee have agreed to stay on: Stan Wecker, Chairperson, Joan Coffey, and Midge Arnold (non-Board member).

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT:

1. Membership status: 881 members. The break down is: 685 recruited by National, 164 chapter-generated, 28 SMRA chapter-only, and 4 life members. We should send chapter-only membership solicitations earlier than National. Sophie suggested that the bulletin labels show expiration dates.
2. The fund drive and the phoneathon have raised \$ 8,987 so far. The phoneathon had a good turnout of Board members both nights.
3. Pruyne Celebration June 21, 2003: Benches are on the platform and look great. Four trail walkers have been lined up by Judy Epstein to help with the trail walks which will be led by Anne. Mattie is in charge of refreshments. Ilse will take pictures.
4. Bird Seed Sales: All that is left in the shed is sunflower seed and corn. We have made at least \$10,000. The new Bird Seed Committee consists of: Ken Novenster (chair), Judy Epstein, Jeff Pinerio, Lurline Arco, Tom McEnerney, Jim Anderson, and Anne Swaim. The seed sale will be Columbus Day weekend, October 11th and 12th. The Committee will rely upon the office for help and will meet again in the middle of the month.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Rita reported that as of the last day of May there was \$744,517 in the portfolio, up 4.92% from April 30th. (Including the removal of \$17,000 for expenses). The Finance Committee met May 28th and will meet again on June 30th. Over the summer they will revise the guidelines and operating procedures that were written five year ago. They will need Board approval at the next Board meeting on Sept. 8, 2003.

SANCTUARIES: Ilse reported that Danny did trail blazing at Brinton. There is still an issue with the fence between Amberlands and Brinton. Now that Danny is done at Pruyn, he could work at Graff, which needs blazing and a change of entrance.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY: (Richard reporting for Karen Wells)

1. The Hudson River Environmental Society is planning a conference on June 12, 2004.
2. Rockefeller Initiative: The Citizens Committee, Stone Barns Committee, are monitoring the cutting down of big old trees on Rte 441. If anyone is interested, they can attend their meetings.
3. Important Bird Areas (IBA): Another round of IBA nominations has begun. We have no nominations to suggest at this time.

NATURALIST'S REPORT:

1. Anne walked with Briarcliff second graders at Pinecliff doing pond study with nets. Don Lunetta helped by showing a tree frog.
2. Anne walked at Ardsley Middle School through their property with all sixth graders doing schoolyard birding.
3. The Cameron Murtfeldt project is going well. Sarah McGrath, a girl scout, is working toward her Gold Award.
4. West Orchard School children will walk in Pruyn in June.
5. If anyone wants to go on a field walk with Anne and students they are invited.
6. There is a trail walker's meeting on Sat. June 14 at 10:00 a.m. to prepare for June 21st.

FIELD TRIPS: A motion was made by Joan Coffey to send \$50.00 to the Palisades Nature Center for a walk led by two very good naturalists. Seconded by Jo Lunetta.

Joan reported that on June 7th there will be a walk in Stamford at the Bartlett Arboretum.

Joan noted that Bedford Audubon has invited us to take part in the Summer Bird Count on June 14 and 15.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Richard reported that Lynn wants to terminate her activities with us after June. She will help during the transition. Jo will have a Personnel Committee meeting to discuss Lynn's position. The Personnel Committee will also meet with Anne to review her first six months working at halftime.

NEW BUSINESS: Sophie reported that the Chappaqua Post Office no longer does bulk mail. She will now have to use the White Plains Post Office at 200 Westchester Ave. She would like to deposit \$500 and have the Post Office deduct from that account each time she sends mail out.

Stan asked whether we should charge for a planned Fall, 2004 program that will feature live animals. The speaker is charging \$500. No specific recommendation was offered by the Board.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on September 8, 2003

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Minutes taken by Judy Epstein