

Saw Mill River Audubon - Corrected Board Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2004 - Chappaqua Library

Present: Stan Wecker, Rita Wecker, Ilse Jorgensen, Jim Anderson, Joan Coffey, Henry Seduski, Karen Wells, Tom McEnerney, Lurline Arco, Jeff Pinerio, Ken Novenster, Robert McCrillis, Judy Epstein. Anne Swaim was also present.

Minutes of December 1, 2004 meeting: The Nominating Committee report should read: "We are below the range of 18 to 24 people as specified in the by-laws" instead of "We are below our by-laws target of 18 people." Jim Anderson moved to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Tom received a Resolution from the Bank of New York providing that any one of four named officers could sign checks. These will be the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Tom moved that this be accepted and Judy seconded. We will sign tonight and then it can go to the bank in February. This was unanimously approved by the Board.

Finance Committee: Rita will give us the fourth quarter or Dec. 31 report for 2003 at the next meeting. Some updates on Dec. 31 results are: 2003 was the first year since 1999 that our portfolio showed a double digit gain of 14%. The year started with \$710,649 and ended at \$818, 204, so the final amount on Dec. 31, 2003 was up \$107,555 or 15.13%.

Sanctuaries: In regard to the proposed garage at the Amberlands condo, Karen Wells discussed a letter that will be sent from our chapter to the Town of Cortlandt Planning Board with a copy to Nida Associates and the Town Supervisor. The adjacent easement discussed at December's meeting does not extend to this project's area but we do still want to record it properly with the Village of Croton. The adjoining landowners are not responsible for maintaining the fence along this border of Brinton Brook Sanctuary even though it was a part of their condition to build Amberlands. Since he was unable to attend tonight's meeting, we will seek Richard's approval on this letter via email. Two small changes were made to the letter. Karen introduced a motion to approve the letter tonight. It was passed unanimously.

Ilse said that she had no additional report regarding sanctuaries. The Sanctuaries Committee will meet in March. Anne talked about the possibility of scheduling a walk for the Board around Brinton. A decision was made to have it in April.

Pruyn: Jeff reported that Pruyn was very wet, in fact there was water over Dean's bridge twice. Some trees have fallen. Volunteers will serve as flagmen when the trees get pruned and cut in the spring. Robert would like to explore the possibility of grant support to convert the garage into a teaching room and the house to solar heating. Richard has volunteered to make an architectural plan pro bono. Jeff stated that we need to discuss these possibilities as a group before going forward. He noted that it is a house with challenging architectural feature. This problem has been discussed for years, even before the chapter received it. Jeff thinks we should tear the house down and build one in the middle of the arboretum with a staff apartment. Stan said that a planning committee will be formed to discuss the outcome of the retreat and perhaps it could also discuss long-term planning for the Pruyn House. Jeff said that National Audubon would have money to support a nature center but then they would expect to have control over it. Stan noted that, "they don't have the money but they could raise the money."

Community Relations and Development: Membership status: Robert reported that our present chapter membership consisted of 776 total members, including 684 NAS/SMRA and 92 chapter-only members. Fundraising update: We have raised \$11,530 in our annual fund drive and \$2,130 from chapter-only memberships.

Community Relations and Development (continued)

Bird Seed Sale: Tom reported that there will be a bird seed sale on Sat. Jan. 10. Lurline, Judy and Tom will work from 9 to 12 and Robert, Stan and Ken will work from 12 to 3 p.m.

Goldsby Bequest: Ken spoke with Dick Byrnes who said that Westchester Land Trust is definitely interested and that the process has started for them to consider accepting this parcel.

Program Committee: Stan reported that the December meeting featuring Jean George, the author/illustrator, has been rescheduled to Saturday Jan. 24 at 2:00 p.m. It will be co-sponsored by the Chappaqua Library. A Jones Beach field trip on Feb. 22 will be held with hopes of seeing a snowy owl. It will also include a two and a half hour cruise to look for seals. Pre-registration will be necessary for the boat trip. Cost will be \$20 for adults and \$17 for seniors and students. On Friday night, March 19, Kurt Hundgen of the Bronx Zoo will speak and a field trip to the zoo will follow the next day, Sat. March 20. The annual business meeting will be Friday April 16. It will be followed by a documentary film, "Winged Migration," shown on DVD with a 30 minute discussion. This will be co-sponsored by the Chappaqua Library. "Pale Male," a film narrated by Joanne Woodward, will be a follow up program to "Red Tails in Love." It will be shown on Friday, May 21 and followed by a field trip to Central Park the next day, May 22.

Joan Coffey and the Field Trip Committee have planned a full schedule of spring field trips. These will be listed and described in the chapter newsletter and web site.

Naturalist's Report: Anne reported that she has a good schedule with her usual customers but also with some new ones. She is encouraging as much use of Pruyn as possible. She said that Ellen is very happy that the new Toshiba copier is coming Wednesday. It will be leased. The next newsletter will be the February/March issue and it is in production now. Anne read some correspondence in Richard's absence. The Ninth District of Federated Garden Clubs of NYS has given us a \$100 donation.

Nominating Committee: Stan announced that Jo Lunetta will not rerun for the Board. Our Board number then will drop down to 15 people, below our by-laws range of 18 to 24. He is encouraging Burton Leiser to join the Board. Robert has agreed to be nominated for President and Richard for Chairman of the Board. Nominations are open. We need a candidate for Vice President.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Minutes taken by Judy Epstein

