

**Saw Mill River Audubon – Corrected Board Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2004 – Chappaqua Library**

Present: Jeanne Romeu, Lurline Arco, Robert McCrillis, Jeff Pinerio, Ken Novenster, Henry Seduski, Tom McEnerney, Rita Wecker, Stan Wecker, Joan Coffey, Sophie Keyes, Richard Saravay, Jo Lunetta, Judy Epstein, Anne Swaim

Guests: Potential Board members: Mattie Varvaro, Margo Peters, George Shakespear

Minutes of February 2, 2004 Meeting: The March 13 meeting of the Lower Hudson Chapter Roundtable is scheduled for 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, not 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Robert McCrillis moved to accept the minutes as amended and Joan Coffey seconded.

President's Report:

1. We are hosting the Lower Hudson Chapter Roundtable on Sat. March 13, 2004 at the Community Bible Church. This is for Westchester and neighboring counties. About 35 people are expected to attend.
2. Richard will attend the spring New York State Audubon Council Meeting from March 26-28 in Saratoga Springs.
3. There will be an East Coast Staffed Chapters Meeting on March 20, 2004, the purpose of which is to improve the relationship between chapters and National Audubon.
4. SMRA is co-hosting a Native Plant Symposium on March 20. Tables need to be manned. Mattie Varvaro and Jo Lunetta will attend. The cost will be \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members.
5. The SMRA Annual Meeting will be Friday, April 16, 2004 at the Chappaqua Library. A movie on the making of "Winged Migration" will be shown.
6. Audubon New York and the Hudson River Environmental Society, in conjunction with the American Museum of Natural History, will present a conference on "Birds of the Hudson River Estuary" on Thursday, April 29, 2004 at the Museum.

Stan Wecker suggested a brunch for the Board and Chapter at Crystal Bay in the fall to kick off our next fifty years.

Treasurer's Report: Tom McEnerney is taking over as Treasurer from Henry Seduski in April. Tom will give a full report at the next Board meeting. Henry reported that we are spending a lot on insurance, including over \$1500 for Worker's Compensation for four employees.

Finance Committee: Rita reported that on Feb. 29, 2004 the balance was \$831,511, up \$10,469 (1.28%) since January, 2004. \$6000 was removed for operating expenses. We are starting well in March with the DOW up. SMRA needs a broker to purchase shares in two funds managed by American Funds. On Jan. 20, 2004 we wrote to Fidelity and asked them to confirm that we have a brokerage account with them. Fidelity confirmed this, and also that we would not need a Board Resolution to purchase shares through them. Fidelity would not charge for this. We hope to complete this purchase soon.

Personnel Committee: Jo Lunetta distributed a job description for "Director of Community Relations and Development." The Personnel Committee (Jo, Stan, Robert, Jim, Judy) had revised Lynn Tchobanoglous's job description, which was for a half time position, to be applied to the new position. Jo wished to make it known that she was in the minority in wanting the position to be full time. She would like to hire a full time person for two years. The committee wanted to use more volunteers do some of the work if we hire a half time person. Stan added that he sees it as half time for two years with a possible change to full time if the person works out well. Richard agreed with Jo that this person should end up paying for her/himself. The following points were discussed:

1. The list of jobs on the job description needs to be edited down.
2. It is clear that the Board will run the organization.
3. This position would be a step in contributing to the stability of the organization.

Personnel Committee Cont'd: Richard asked if there was anybody who would vote for no position at all. The answer was no. Further, he asked how many people believed that editing the job description would be a reasonable solution, and six people agreed. Four Board members thought the position should be full time, and two members abstained.

Sanctuaries Committee: Jeanne Romeu reported that the Town of Cortlandt Planning Board is expected to pass a resolution voting down the building of a maintenance garage in the buffer zone between Brinton Brook Sanctuary and the Amberlands development. We have a copy of the document saying that a buffer zone was established to keep the land undeveloped.

Pruyn House: Heating oil rates will be negotiated in the summer.

Community Relations:

Membership: 628 NAS/SMRA members, 110 SMRA chapter only members. Total membership: 738

Bird Seed Sale: Ken reported that we made a little over \$1000 at the Jan.sale, and \$846 at the Feb.sale. The Seed Sale Committee will meet on Mar. 10. If we decide to use Quicken for the seed sale records, Ken knows a person who can do Quicken training for \$25/hour. He estimated that \$200-\$300 would be needed to set this up.

Goldsby Property: Ken reported that the Goldsby deal was signed last week.

Naturalist's Report: Anne will give three talks as an environmentalist at Bell School Career Day. She works with the second grade at Todd School five times a year. They also come to Pinecliff. Spring peepers are peeping at Pinecliff; a field trip to look for them is scheduled for Sunday March 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Anne is doing a basic birding workshop on April 13, 20, and 27. She has a full field trip schedule this spring.

Upcoming Events: The trip to Cabbage Hill Farm is set for Sat. April 3 with coordinator Joan Coffey. There will be a Teatown wildflower walk on Sat. April 24. Eight people from the Bedford chapter and sixteen from our chapter made reservations for the Jones Beach trip. March 19 is the program on the Bronx Zoo. The May 21 program will feature the movie "Pale Male" to be followed the next day with a birding walk in Central Park. The library will provide refreshments for the SMRA annual meeting on April 16 and for the "Pale Male" program on May 21. Ilse will take care of refreshments for the April 12 Board meeting, and Sophie Keyes for the May 3 meeting. The picnic at Arnolds will be on June 7. There is one opening for a junior scholarship; Jeanne is interested in an adult one.

Nominating Committee: Stan passed out the Nominating Committee report. A Board term is three years.

Newsletter: Sophie announced that everything for the newsletter has to be in by tomorrow. Lynn will stay on until we get someone else. Jim Anderson has volunteered to help with the layout of the newsletter if needed.

New Business: Tom reported that Assemblyman Bragg's office may have approximately \$2000 to donate towards a project for a charitable organization. Anne agreed to follow up.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Judy Epstein

