

Saw Mill River Audubon - Corrected Board Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2004 -- Chappaqua Library

Present: Joan Coffey, Sophie Keyes, Stan Wecker, Rita Wecker, Ilse Jorgensen, Richard Saravay, Robert McCrillis, Tom McEnerney, Karen Wells, Jo Lunetta, Ken Novenster, Judy Epstein, Anne Swaim
Guest: Mattie Varvaro

Minutes of March 1, 2004: The treasurer's report should read "at the next Board meeting" instead of "at the Annual meeting." Eliminate last sentence in the Nominating Committee Report. Karen accepted minutes with changes, Ilse seconded.

President's Report:

1. Richard reviewed **the mail**. We received "A Citizen's Guide to Environmental Information in NY State" that lists environmental agencies and organizations but had no mention of Audubon chapters. Karen will contact our state office about this. We also received a newsletter from the Federation of N.Y. State Bird Clubs.
3. We are **co-sponsoring two "Winged Migration" film nights** at the Chappaqua Library. The first, Thursday, will be the actual film while the second, Friday, will be the "making off" segment. We will serve refreshments on Friday. We should have at least two or three board members there each night. On Thursday, Ilse, Ken, Stan, and Mattie will be present. Friday will be our Annual Meeting so all board members are expected. Refreshments on Friday will be provided by Sophie, Judy, and Ilse. Sophie will also host the May 3rd Board Mtg.
4. A **conference on Hudson Valley birds** will be on April 29th at the American Museum of Natural History.
5. The **fall state council meeting** will be in Armonk in early Oct. Richard would like to promote Pruyn Sanctuary as a trip for members as well as other birding areas in Westchester.
6. Anne Swaim gave a report on the **Lower Hudson Chapter Roundtable** coordinated by SMRA. There were 28 people from 6 area chapters. Participants said that this should be an annual event.
7. The **Native Plants Symposium** was a great success. Midge Arnold, Mattie Varvaro, and Jo Lunetta were there from SMRA and almost 100 people attended. Mattie spoke to Tess Present who has been the Audubon National coordinator of the "Audubon at Home" program. Mattie said Pruyn would be a great demonstration area for this program. Both Mattie and George Shakespear would be interested in working on this project. Mattie has a personal interest as a "Master Gardener" and would like to spearhead the project. The Seattle chapter has already been involved. Richard asked Mattie to get more details for the next meeting.
8. Anne attended the meeting of **East Coast Staffed Chapters** on March 20th in Philadelphia. Her notes on this meeting were very accurate. She reported that John Flicker and staff are focused on a vision for National that is dynamic but does not include chapters as a priority. There is a "disconnect" between the 500 chapters and National in their views of the chapter-national relationship. Only fifteen people attended this meeting. Richard read Anne's notes at the Audubon New York Spring Council mtg. (3/26 - 3/28/04) and agreed that there is still much dialogue needed between Audubon national and chapters.
9. We co-sponsored a **resolution regarding the preservation of the New York City watershed** at the New York State Spring Council meeting. There is a great danger to our area that if New York City builds a filtration plant, it would remove the pressure to preserve the watershed area.

Naturalist's Report: Anne is booked through June. She will be at Furnace Woods Elementary School on this coming Wednesday and Thursday mornings and tomorrow night will be the first birding workshop. The Patent Trader recently ran an article on birding that mentioned some of our upcoming birding events. We have been invited to have a table IBM for Earth Day in Hawthorne and Yorktown. Sophie will help with Thursday in Yorktown. The peeper walk was very good. There will be a meeting of Saw Mill River Coalition at Pace on Thursday.

Treasurer's Report: Tom McEnerney offered a report of the first three months of 2004. (See attached) Most of the seed sale income comes in October. Donations were somewhat lower this year. Membership is pretty good; we have received extra income with chapter renewals. Salaries are on a regular course. Expenses are below budget. Pruyne expenses are low because some planned improvements were not done yet. We received a refund from Burke Oil. The audit needs to be approved at the May meeting.

Finance Committee: March 31st is the end of the first quarter. The report will be at the May mtg. The balance is \$816,720. We removed \$7500 for operating expenses. Richard will be a voting member of the Finance Committee after this meeting.

Personnel Committee: Richard, Bob, and Jo met at Stan's house. They worked on the job description for a Director of Community Relations and Development and made some minor changes from the previous job description. They would like to start out half-time and see where it goes. Stan remarked that the new presentation shows new priorities, and that many of these are not sequential. Salaries need to be discussed. Full time \$50,000 and half time somewhere between the \$20,000 and \$30,000 level was the suggestion. New York City pays \$60,000 for full time. Stan made a motion to approve the position and salary range from twenty to thirty thousand for half time. Robert seconded the motion. All voted affirmatively, no opposition. Stan, Robert, and Judy are on Search Committee. This is Jo's last board meeting. She is leaving the Board at the end of her term but will stay active in chapter activities.

Planning Committee: Stan reiterated that the Committee consists of the President, Vice President, Chairman of the Board, Mattie Varvaro, and the chairs of Sanctuary, Education, and Environmental Action. Jeff Pinerio is interested in joining the Planning Committee.

Other Committee Assignments: The members of the Audit and Nominating Committees have to be elected. The Nominating Committee will be organized in May or June. Richard is off the Auditing Committee and Henry and Jim were suggested for it. Regarding the Bulletin, Sophie said we will need to find a replacement for Lynn Tchobanoglous eventually for bulletin production. Jim Anderson has been added to the Bulletin Committee by Sophie. The Development Committee is a large committee and should be in place before the new employee comes on board. Sophie noted that the Director's handbook should be updated and perhaps Ellen could help. Margo Peters was suggested for Hospitality. Jo will continue to chair the Insurance Committee unless someone else is available to do it. The importance of the Membership Committee was noted. It reviews and revises strategies to get new members.

Sanctuaries: Ilse has seen a neighbor of Haas Sanctuary throw garbage over the fence. Jeff has been talking to "Gentleman Johnny" regarding an outside toilet for Pruyne. He charges \$75 a month, April to November. He made a motion to employ Gentleman Johnny, seconded by Richard. Some of the Pruyne boardwalk was shifted off its foundation stones during the winter. Danny spent over a half day the fixing blocks under the boardwalk. This will be a continuing maintenance need in the spring. Robert said that the tree work in Pruyne Arboretum and along the road frontage is done and the work along the roadside was donated. We will use the same mowing contractor as last year at Pruyne. The oil tank inspection will be done this week. Robert has developed a list of ongoing maintenance tasks for the Pruyne House.

Community Relations and Development: Robert said that the letter for the phoneathon will go out the end of April. We need to confirm our calling dates and the use of a realtor's office for multiple phone lines. We also need a chairman. Robert will follow up on these questions. Membership is currently at 757 members with 127 (17%) chapter only members.

Bird Seed Sale Committee met in March. Ken and his son and Judy did an inventory at the end of the March sale. The fourth sale, in April, will give 25% off to customers.

There is no specific date yet for us to received funds from the **Milne Bequest**.

Sophie said she needed biographical material and photos from the three new board members for the Bulletin. She asked that people take the deadline seriously.

New Business: There will no longer be automatic coffee at our Board meetings at the Chappaqua Library. Jo Lunetta has acted as our custodian but from now on the host/hostess will deal with it. We will need to pay the custodian after 8:00 p.m. Sophie will take care of May.

Stan wished to recognize Richard Saravay as the outgoing President of the Board and Jo Lunetta as the Chairperson of the Personnel Committee for their fine service to our Saw Mill River Audubon chapter. Everyone clapped.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Minutes taken by Judy Epstein