

**Saw Mill River Audubon – Corrected Board Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2004 – Chappaqua Library**

Present: Robert McCrillis, Ilse Jorgensen, Richard Saravay, Ken Novenster, George Shakespear, Jeanne Romeu, Sophie Keyes, Mattie Varvaro, Henry Seduski, Tom McEnerney, Rita Wecker, Stan Wecker, Lurline Arco, Jim Anderson, Jeff Pinerio, Judy Epstein, Anne Swaim

Minutes of April 12, 2004: Several changes made. Henry and Jim suggested for Audit Committee, in #9 of Richard's report remove word "environmentalists." In Personnel Committee Report line 7 remove sentence beginning with "Jo added." Last sentence of Treasurer's report should read "the audit" not "the auditor." Richard accepted minutes as amended, Jeff seconded.

Minutes of April 16, 2004 (Annual Meeting): Jeff Pinerio did not attend, Jim Anderson and George Shakespear did. Minutes accepted as amended.

President's Report: Robert handed out the new board and committee lists. On the new committee list the following changes were made: Seed sale, Judy taken off, Membership needs a chair, and the Development Committee needs a chair. New board members and Jeanne Romeu were given Handbooks tonight.

- Richard noted that we have taken environmental actions relating to NYC watershed advocacy, Brinton Brook buffer protection, and referring the Goldsby property to the Westchester Land Trust.
- A phoneathon sign up sheet was passed out for May 17th and 18th. Calling will be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. It is important for all members to take part.
- Mattie and Robert will open their gardens for the Master Gardeners (Cooperative Extension) Garden Tour on May 26, 2004
- We should make sure that our seed sale does not conflict with the New York Audubon Fall council meeting in Armonk in early October. This will be referred to Ken Novenster and the Seed Sale Committee.
- Jim and Robert attended the Rockefeller Preserve ceremony at the Visitor's House. David Rockefeller, Bernadette Castro, and George Pataki were among the guests.

Newsletter: Sophie reminded us of deadline for bulletin. E-mail should go to Lynn directly. Photos and bios of new members will go in. Sophie would like to distribute newsletters to libraries etc. Each board member could take some; we need to get better known.

Treasurer's Report: Tom passed out a revenues and expenses sheet for April 30, 2004. He noted that education program income is still expected. Expenses are on track. The Sanctuaries and Arboretum still have unspent budget funds. No money is needed at this time from the endowment fund. One scholarship for \$800 was paid from the General Fund and will be reimbursed from the Larry Light fund. Tom moved that we rehire Arnold Berman to do the next audit, Richard seconded and it passed unanimously. The cost is shown as \$4500 in our present budget. It is necessary to update our signatures. Tom moved that any two officers of the Executive Committee should be able to take money out, but only one should be needed for investment funds. (This does not apply to brokerage houses). The motion was seconded by Henry; the vote was unanimous

Finance Committee: Rita passed out charts reporting on Saw Mill River Audubon Society's portfolio performance as of March 31, 2004. We ended March with \$816,720 which is \$1484 below what we started with three months ago. Our returns went up 21% after 3 months and 30% in one year, however we were at a low point a year ago. Our investment form has changed - our funds are now listed alphabetically. April was a bad month for mutual funds; we closed below \$800,000, down 2.2%

Sanctuaries Committee: The next meeting will be Thursday, May 20th at Judy Epstein's. We need to know which police is in charge of which sanctuary. This could be listed on the map house. Jeff suggested a sign at the entrance listing the police phone number. The sanctuary committee will be considering a redesign of all our trail maps to include a membership form as Jo suggested at Pinecliff and Jeanne suggested for Brinton. Ilse offered a motion that all trail walkers and board members will have IDs for use while in the sanctuaries and Jeff seconded. Unanimously approved.

Brinton: Jean reported that there are six holes in the long (3/4 mile or so) fence on side of Amberlands apartment houses. SMRA is responsible for the fence. She wants permission to get signs showing where the real entrance is. Danny said it would cost between \$800 and \$1000 to repair the fence. Jeff asked if we should have a fence at all. Stan suggested more openings that are posted. Referred to sanctuary committee.

Pruyn: Jeff reported that the toilet is in.

Trail Walkers: Judy will send a letter to all trail walkers and inform them of the IDs they will be getting and other needed information,

Community Relations and Development: We have 782 members, 134 chapter only, and 684 other.

Bird Seed Sale: We received \$1400 at the April sale. A \$500 donation has been given to pay for the donation of seed to the Pace Environmental Education Center.

Publicity: George reported that there will be a press release of the new Board members and an article on Brinton Brook.

Education Committee: Judy reported that there will be a meeting with Anne in early June and new members will be invited.

Scholarship: Stan said that we have offered a youth scholarship of \$800. The transfer of funds from the Larry Light Fund to the Operating Fund must be approved by the Board. Jeff moved to transfer the money from the Larry Light Fund, Richard seconded, all approved.

Audubon at Home: Mattie said that there are different kinds of programs and that Seattle has already done this program successfully. Mattie would like to use Pruyn as an example for Audubon at Home, using the butterfly and hummingbird garden, the arboretum, etc. Stan was concerned whether we are missing a larger opportunity to be the regional leader for this project. Mattie said that the project emphasis for Audubon at Home has changed based on the latest information from Audubon National. The discussion did not continue at this time.

Naturalist's Report: Anne will be teaching every week until the end of the school year. She submitted a grant application to New York City Environmental Fund to be used for interpretive signs at Brinton Brook . The three week basic birding course was successfully completed by ten people. They had a follow up hike at Kitchawan. This week starts the early morning birding walks at Teatown, Kitchawan, Rockefeller, Glazier, Pruyn, and Brinton.

New Business: Sat. May 8th will be the annual Big Birding Day starting at 6:00 a.m. at Pruyn and continuing for 12 hours. At 8:30 it will be at Rockefeller State Park.

June 7th is our next meeting. It will be a picnic and Board Meeting at the home of Karen Wells.

Dates for meetings: Stan arranged with the library for the following Board meetings: Sept. 13, Oct. 4, Nov. 8, Dec. 6, Jan 10. Programs will be: Thurs. Sept. 23, Fri. Oct. 29, Thu. Nov. 8 (Croton Library), and Dec. 11, at 2:00p.m. for the Christmas tea.

Margo is our new Hospitality person and will need help from others.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Minutes taken by Judy Epstein