

## Saw Mill River Audubon Draft Board Meeting Minutes -- June 7, 2004

Home of Karen Wells & Andrew Canning

**Present:** Jim Anderson, Rita Wecker, Stan Wecker, Ken Novenster, Jeff Pinerio, Sophie Keyes, Margo Peters, Judy Epstein, Jean Romeu, Robert McCrillis, Joan Coffey, Karen Wells, Tom McEnerney, Richard Saravay, Ilse Jorgensen, Anne Swaim

**Minutes of April 16, 2004:** Edited to reflect that Jim Anderson was there and Jeff Pinerio was not, however Jeff did attend Annual Meeting on April 12, 2004. **Minutes of May 3, 2004:** no edits recorded.

### **President's Report:**

Robert McCrillis distributed copies of the new Board Roster and revised committee list. Sophie announced that **August 1<sup>st</sup> was the deadline for August 15<sup>th</sup> mailing of bulletin.** Stan Lincoln will work with Sophie to **update Board member handbook.** Jeanne Romeu will chair the **Sanctuary Committee.** Robert said that some members were not reached during the phoneathon. He asked for Board members to take **phoneathon sheets** home with them to complete these calls. He also encouraged all Board members to donate to the annual fund drive. One half of Board has not given yet. In this year's phoneathon, 407 calls were made compared to last year's total of 331 calls. Information about the **Saw Mill River Coalition** was mentioned. We do not have a representative to attend this coalition. Stan Wecker said he will go to the September meeting, as will Robert if he can. The **Fall NY Audubon Council** meeting will be the second or third weekend in October in Armonk. We need to know this date to schedule our seed sale. Prunyn, Pinecliff, and Croton Point were suggested for field trips for that meeting. Stan Wecker, Joan Coffey, and Jo Lunetta were nominated as the 2004 **Nominating Committee.** All were in favor. Karen Wells and John Blake were elected to the **Audit Committee.** The **Executive Committee for summer** was nominated, consisting of Robert McCrillis, Richard Saravay, Stan Wecker, Tom McEnerney, and Judy Epstein. Karen Wells offered the motion and Rita seconded, all approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Expenses generally look good and in line with the 2004 budget. Donations were \$6559 through May 31, 2004 and budgeted donations for 2004 are \$17,500. Donations seem to be a little weak compared to budget.

**Finance:** We are now between quarters so Rita Wecker gave an abbreviated report. Our portfolio went up \$10,000 in May, a 1.27% increase from April. The closing value is \$803,399, which includes the removal of \$5,000 for operating funds. A six-month CD matured on June 2 and was renewed for another 9 months at 1.74%.

**Environmental Action and Conservation:** There was discussion about a resolution regarding the NYC Watershed presented at the spring state council meeting. Karen Wells agreed that the resolution language was not strong enough but it was passed. Saw Mill River Audubon did not vote for this resolution. Richard Saravay noted that there will be continued pressure to develop watershed lands and that we should consider another resolution that addresses this long-term concern. Karen will research this question over the summer and report in the fall. It was suggested that NYC watershed be designated as park land to preserve it. Richard said we should continue to work together with other environmental groups on this issue.

**Sanctuaries:** Jeanne Romeu reported that the Sanctuary Committee met on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Sanctuary trail maps are being redesigned, possibly using two colors. The committee decided that the **Brinton fence** will be repaired. Danny Ferguson will give us an estimate. New **sanctuary entrance signs** will be posted saying closed at dusk. Jeanne reported that large amounts of debris were dumped in the **buffer between Brinton and Amberlands.** This is in the same location where we opposed the construction of a maintenance garage earlier this spring. Karen Wells suggested that we first try to make personal contact with the Amberlands management and, if we get no results, that we send a letter to the Town of Cortlandt code enforcement officer. Jeanne is contacting **Danny Ferguson** with sanctuary work needs and she will be the person who will funnel work requests to him. We want to track any development on the adjacent **Silverman property** at Brinton. We will send a letter to the Town of Cortlandt asking them to keep us apprised, as an adjacent landowner, of any site plans filed for the Silverman property.

**Sanctuaries (continued).** Jeff reported that **Pruyn Sanctuary** is in good shape. He noted that there has been a mouse problem in the house. Robert said the chimney needs to be cleaned.

**Membership:** We currently have 764 members of which 618 are joint members with National Audubon and Saw Mill River Audubon and 146 (19%) are chapter-only members. We have received \$7,538 in Annual Fund donations and \$1,860 in chapter-only dues.

**Bird Seed Sale:** The Bird Seed Sale Committee will be meeting in the next few weeks. We still have some seed left. Ken Novensterne proposed that Board members can buy remaining seed at half price. Tom McEnerney is storing the suet at his house and can bring it to the office if necessary. If interested, call Ellen at the office. We will donate the leftover seed. A date will be set for the fall, 2004 sale.

**Publicity:** Robert reported that George Shakespear wrote a story on citizen action and the success we had on protecting the Brinton Brook buffer. Ken suggested we add to this article information about the role of SMRA in preserving six and a half acres at the Goldsby property.

**Education Committee:** Judy said that there would be a meeting, at her house on June 28, 2004

**Naturalist's Report:** Anne reported that the school programs are winding down. Todd School second graders are visiting Pinecliff this week. Anne will spend the next two days at Westorchard Elementary. The schools are very pleased with the new digital shows. As agreed, Anne will work less than 20 hours a week for Audubon this summer in compensation for the additional hours during the school year. She will work on maps, interpretive signs for Brinton, as well as some field trips and programs including those scheduled for the Westchester Assoc. of Retarded Citizens who come every year to Pinecliff.

**New Business:** Jeff suggested that we need to amend the by-laws on term limits. He moved to limit Board membership to four consecutive three year terms. Jim Anderson seconded this motion. People can continue to work on committees even if not on the Board. Sophie said that you have to be very careful not to cause bad feeling. We will not vote on it today but will think about it over the summer and vote in the fall. Robert said that we would want to consider any proposal to amend the by-laws in writing.

**Search Committee for Community Relations Director:** Stan will put an ad in Hudson Valley Job Wanted.Com where people send in resumes. Teatown got sixty resumes in this way. August is the deadline.

**Planning Committee:** Jeff distributed a list of objectives from the fall, 2003 Board retreat showing progress to date. The two major initiatives are renovations of Pruyn house and a long term role in working with the four other chapters on an Audubon Center at Croton Point Park.

**Old Business:** Stan Wecker reported that the follow up on the "Pale Male" movie was a walk in Central Park by fifteen people. It was a very successful trip and Pale Male and his family were seen.

Rita thanked Karen Wells and Andrew Canning for their hospitality in hosting this picnic and meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Minutes taken by Judy Epstein