

**Saw Mill River Audubon Corrected Board Meeting Minutes
Monday November 8, 2004 - Chappaqua Library**

Present: Tom McEnerney, Margo Peters, Jeanne Romeu, George Shakespear, Henry Seduski, Jeff Pinerio, Jim Anderson, Ken Novenster, Richard Saravay, Robert McCrillis, Rita Wecker, Stan Wecker, Lurline Arco, and Judy Epstein. Sophie Keyes as Board Historian and Anne Swaim as Education Director were also present.

Minutes of October 4, 2004: Sophie attended. Richard moved to accept the minutes, Ken seconded. Passed.

President's Report: Sean Mahar, Grassroots Coordinator, Audubon New York, was not able to attend the board meeting but is anxious to help us. He met with Robert McCrillis, Anne Swaim and Mattie Varvaro earlier in the day to discuss how SMRA might be involved in the "Audubon at Home" program at Pruyn Sanctuary. Mattie Varvaro will chair an "Audubon at Home" Committee for SMRA. The Audubon New York annual report is on line. We will join the American Bird Conservancy. Robert is still looking for someone to chair the following committees: Program, Personnel, Education, and Recording Secretary when terms expired next spring. Mission statements for all committees should be updated. The State Fall Council meeting in Armonk was very successful and enlightening. There were spirited discussions regarding recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on National-Chapter Relations. Audubon New York legislative resolutions will be voted on next spring. We hosted a field trip of Pruyn and Pinecliff Sanctuaries led very successfully by Anne Swaim. One person said that Anne led the best hike she had ever been on. Stan moved that we form an ad hoc committee to draft a response to the National Ad Hoc committee. Richard seconded. Passed. The "Conversations on Conservation" meeting at Pace will be on Nov. 11-12 from 9:00 to 4:00. Barbara may go.

Nominating Committee: This committee consists of two board members, Stan and Joan, and one non-member, Jo Lunetta. Anyone interested should be in touch with them. Robert inquired whether this committee make-up was in compliance with our bylaws. Stan said the bylaws had been amended to allow two board members and one non-board member.

Community Relations and Development: Barbara is ready to write funding proposals. Jeanne will give her some ideas from the Sanctuary Committee. The Development Committee will continue to meet with Barbara in the coming months. The first task is to prepare a development plan for SMRA. **Membership:** We have 599 national members, 170 chapter-only, and 769 total. **Seed Sale:** Ken thanked Anne and Ellen for all the systems they put together. Donations came to over \$800. Total revenue was just over \$22,000. Ken thanked Tom and Jeff for their extra help. We have a lot of seed left over and may want to order less next year. Andy Rothlein brought two student helpers with him to help with car loading.

Treasurer's Report: Ignoring the seed sale, there was a short fall of revenues in the total budget. Revenues from the 2003 Seed Sale were overstated by five or six thousand dollars. However, there is good news that, except for the office and administration, all expense items are under budget. Barbara Campbell was approved for 6 or 7 thousand dollars and will probably be between 5 and 8. Richard said that some expenses could be cut. Ken made a motion to authorize Tom to take an additional \$8000 from the endowment fund if needed. Henry seconded. All agreed.

Each Committee should check their 2005 budgets and have them in the office by November 22nd. We pay state council dues annually but it was noted that we have not made a donation for some time to the Audubon New York office. Robert and Tom checked our Bank of New York safe deposit box and found that two signatures are needed to get in and the signatures on file are outdated. This is being corrected.

Finance Committee: Rita reported on the end of the third quarter. She handed out a ten year summary. As of Oct. 1, 2004 we have \$804,868 in our portfolio. The Finance Committee met on Monday November 1, 2004 and, among other business, voted to sell the Domini Social Equity Fund currently valued at \$58,000. They will put \$50,000 in a 9 month CD, and \$8,000 in a Vanguard Money Market. We received \$45,000 of the Milne Bequest which was put into a Vanguard Money Market Trust at 2.38%. Richard said that we need to keep this money to the side until the estate is finally settled.

Sanctuary Committee: Jeanne reported that management at Amberlands does not want any openings in the fence. They want to keep the buffer zone closed to the public and only allow access to Amberlands residents. They own the fence but there is no documentation that says that they have to maintain it. They put up a "no trespassing" sign in the buffer area. Our new sanctuary entrance signs that say "open from dawn to dusk" and other items have gone up at Brinton, Prun and Pinecliff. Jeanne will follow up to see that they are at all sanctuaries. We have received positive comments about how well our sanctuaries are maintained.

Programs and Field Trips: Joan reported that the wolf program was very successful and should be repeated. Constitution Marsh was a good trip and should also be redone. There is a change of date for the January program to Wednesday January 29th, since Dave Miller can not come on a Friday night. He will present a program for the 100th anniversary of National Audubon.

Naturalist's Report: Anne conducted field trips in three of our sanctuaries in October among other education programs. Barbara, Ellen and Anne are tracking seed sales. Anne reminded us than every one is invited to observe school classroom programs and field trips. She will work on the newsletter this week end and will also be updating the web site.

Hospitality: Sophie was thanked for tonight's refreshments. The December tea will be at the Congregational Church on Sunday, Dec, 12th at 3:00 pm. A storyteller, Jonathan Kruk, will be there to entertain us.

New Business: Jeff discussed his proposed amendment to the bylaws to provide for term limits of board members. He noted that sitting out a term does not mean that a former Board member could not come to meetings or chair committees but only that they would not have a vote while not on the board. The purpose of the new bylaws is to revitalize the organization and bring in new blood. Copies of Robert's Rules of Order were passed out to all attendees. Stan passed out the list of Board members with their term limits. He feels that the number of board members may get too low as several Board members are moving away. A discussion regarding the new term limits followed. Sophie brought up a comparison of our Board and the one at Teatown. She agreed from that experience that we could still keep former Board members interested by putting them on committees. A vote on the change was tabled.

The meeting ended at 10:15 pm. The next board meeting will be on December 6, 2004.

Minutes taken by Judy Epstein.