

Saw Mill River Audubon Corrected Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 8, 2004 – Chappaqua Library

Present: Robert McCrillis, Ken Novenster, Lurline Arco, Joan Coffey, Margo Peters, Karen Wells, Jeanne Romeu, Rita Wecker, Stan Wecker, Jim Anderson, Richard Saravay, George Shakespear, Judy Epstein. Sophie Keyes as Board Historian and Anne Swaim as Education Director were also present.

Minutes of November 8, 2004: Add Lurline's name to those who attended. Joan moved to accept the minutes, Robert seconded. Passed.

President's Report: Robert reported that we received a \$100 donation from the 9th District Federated Garden Clubs of NY State. Mattie has agreed to chair an "Audubon at Home" committee to pursue plans for enhancement of the Pruyn Garden and Arboretum. Barbara has put together a draft list of volunteer opportunities, with some fresh suggestions and ideas. The draft was distributed to the Board. Comments and edits should be sent to Barbara.

Treasurer's Report: Robert reported in Tom's place. He mentioned that some Board members had not yet contributed to this year's fund drive but there is still time. The 2005 Budget sheet was passed around. The total amount for donations is being reduced from \$17,500 to \$14,500. Seed sale is being put at \$30,000. Chapter only members are increasing and total membership revenue is budgeted at \$7000. Salaries are on par with this year. The largest new expense is for Barbara's salary of \$32,000. There is no real increase in expenses between 2004 and 2005 except for Barbara's salary. We expect the balance of the Hembdt bequest this year. The last three years have been bad for investment income because the market has been low. Any real increase will come from additional giving. Barbara will hopefully bring money in. Karen offered a motion to accept the budget and Stan seconded. Approved with one abstention from Jim Anderson.

Community Relations and Development: Notes from the work of the Development committee meeting were discussed. The current membership status: 606 national members, 179 chapter only and 785 total which is 16 more members than last month. We will hold a bird seed sale at Pruyn Sanctuary on Saturday December 18 from 9am to 12noon. A Board volunteer sign up sheet was passed around.

Finance Committee: Rita reported that November was a good month for the stock market and us. The value of the portfolio is \$877,127 (\$34,378 over the value of October 31). We have removed from the portfolio \$20,000 for operating funds and \$800 for scholarships.

Sanctuaries Committee: Jeanne would like Barbara to get funding for interpretive signs in Brinton. Another idea is to print our trail map in four colors. We need sanctuary chairs for Choate and Graff. We have not heard from Amberlands again regarding the buffer issue. There is a problem with ATV (all terrain vehicle) use at Graff. Jeanne would like to send letters to neighbors of Graff. Karen suggested that we file a police report. Jeanne said that this has been done. The deer season has been moved to October 15 this year and goes until Dec. 31. It is dangerous to hikers and yet this is the most beautiful time to be looking at foliage. Starting date should be later. Jeanne suggested a letter to the state. We could join a coalition of Audubon chapters in Westchester. We agreed to have a "Trail News" column in the newsletter reporting on issues like this and the Highland Trail closure adjacent to Brinton. All sanctuary entrance signs that say "open from dawn to dusk" are up.

Judy reported that there is a new State Forest in Montrose with trails, one of which connects with George's Island. It should be written up in the newsletter.

Programs and Field Trips: Stan reminded us of the Holiday Tea at 3 pm on Sunday Dec. 12. The set up will be just before 2:00 pm and there will be a storyteller. Dave Miller's program celebrating the 100th anniversary of Audubon has been switched to Wed. January 26. We need more people at these programs, only four people showed up at the Hendrick Hudson Library for the Hudson River Museum talk. Anne will lead a moon walk at Pruyon on Jan. 22. The text of events listings from each newsletter will also be emailed to the Board.

Naturalist's Report: Anne reported that there is a proposal for a change in partnership between National Audubon and Audubon chapters. Anne passed out a copy of our chapter's comments on this issue.

Environmental Action: Karen reported that she would like to hold a committee meeting in January. Because of her schedule, she is unable to continue as chair. We need to find a new chairperson.

Hospitality: Margo asked Board members to bring cookies and their families to the Holiday Tea.

Sophie announced that January 1 is the deadline for the newsletter.

Motion to adjourn by Karen, seconded by Jeanne. Approved.

Minutes taken by Judy Epstein