

**Saw Mill River Audubon Corrected Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 3, 2005 - Chappaqua Library**

Present: Robert McCrillis, Joan Coffey, Tom McEnerney, Jeff Pinerio, Sophie Keyes, Lurline Arco, Ken Novenster, Margo Peters, George Shakespear, Henry Seduski, Stan Wecker, Rita Wecker, Jim Anderson, Ilse Jorgensen, Judy Epstein and Anne Swaim, Education Director and Naturalist.

Minutes of Dec. 8, 2004 Board Meeting: A change was made from \$8000 to \$800 in the Finance Committee report. Joan moved to accept the minutes, Jim seconded, passed.

President's Report:

Robert reported that a list of bird books for sale was found in the bird seed shed and circulated this to the board. Mattie Varvaro has resigned as chair of the Audubon at Home committee. There was a meeting of Robert, Jeff, Anne, and Barbara to consider how we might participate in Audubon in Home. We will be pursuing a grant for two kiosks (for Pruyn) from the New York City Environmental Fund. Robert would like to table the by-laws change at this time. It can come up again in the future. The newsletter deadline was Jan. 1. Nominations must be in for the next newsletter. They must be submitted to the membership thirty days before the election. The newsletter should contain a column for field trips. We should also mention that anyone can come to a Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Tom noted that income from chapter memberships has grown. The actual expenses by the end of 2004 were about \$5000 less than budgeted for 2004. The bill from the insurance company was high but it may represent our cost for two years. Tom will check into this. Otherwise, our expenses would have been roughly the same as budgeted except for hiring our development and community relations consultant.

Community Relations and Development: Robert reported that we have received a \$3000 grant from New York City Environmental Fund which will be mentioned in the annual report to be inserted in the next newsletter. This money will be used for interpretive signs at Brinton Brook Sanctuary. We now have 569 national members (a decrease) and 181 chapter members (an increase) for a total of 750 members. We received \$11,713 from our 2004 annual fund drive (an increase from 2003). The Board has now contributed in full, including in-kind contributions in some cases, and some new donations have come in.

Ken reported that the Bird Seed Sale sold \$944 in December, without a mailing. He would like a postcard to go out for January and February Saturday sale dates. He asked for volunteers to sign up for January 15th from 9 am-12 noon.

Finance Committee: Rita said that a full report for the fourth quarter of 2004 will be given at the February 2005 meeting. Our Portfolio as of Dec. 31, 2004 showed \$895,711. \$5500 was removed for operating expenses. A 9 month CD was purchased for \$50,000.

Sanctuaries Committee: In the absence of Jeanne Romeu, no formal report was given however it was mentioned that Jeanne has drafted a letter that we want to send to Graff Sanctuary neighbors encouraging their help in watching over this sanctuary. Someone is needed to replace Ilse as coordinator for Haas Sanctuary as she will be moving.

Programs and Field Trips: Joan reported that Charlie Roberto is confirmed for the Sat. Jan. 8, field trip at Croton Point. Anne is set for the moon walk on Sat. Jan. 22, from 6pm to 8 pm. Anne reported on the one day eagle festival, Feb. 13, 9 am to 1 pm at Teatown Lake Reservation, which will have four programs at Teatown and a film at the Jacob Burns Film Center. In addition there will be three watching stations on the Hudson River for eagle viewing, Croton River Boat Landing, George's Island, and Charles Point. Saw Mill River Audubon will partner with Teatown in this endeavor. Teatown is producing a map of eagle viewing sites along the river. We will contribute \$500 to help run the event. We will need volunteers at warming tents and at Teatown for tables. Stan reported on David Miller's upcoming visit on Jan. 26. He will talk on the first hundred years of Audubon, environmental issues, and what the future will bring. It is important for Board members to be there. Robert mentioned that we need to discuss a better date for next year's holiday tea. Not enough Board members were there. One suggestion is to hold this on the Sunday before Thanksgiving as a celebration. Other suggestions were a better location, a pot luck supper and having programs every other month.

Naturalist's Report: Anne brought a dead barred owl to the meeting for us to see. There are no school programs in December. She will be going to Ardsley Middle School (grade 7) for three days, Furnace Woods Elementary in Cortlandt (grade 3) for two days, and Mount Kisco Elementary (grade K) for two days in January. She is assisting Barbara on development questions as needed. She noted that Barbara has prepared a great handout on volunteer opportunities. This will be distributed to new members and renewals and available at our events.

Publicity: George met with Barbara, Robert and Anne in December to discuss how we can do a better job with publicity. He is encouraging us to send out a monthly calendar of upcoming events as well as regular press releases on events. We need to send these out sooner than we are doing now. As an example, four months are needed to get a press release for Westchester magazine. Barbara and Ellen are both working on updating and adding to our media database list. Barbara will do a press release on the recent grant.

Environmental Action: No report given

Hospitality: Thanks to Ilse for refreshments

Joan moved to adjourn, Judy seconded. Meeting ended at 8:45 pm

Next meeting – February 7, 2005 – Chappaqua Library