

**Saw Mill River Audubon – Draft Board Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2005 – Chappaqua Library**

Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding. Jim Anderson, Ken Novenster, Margo Peters, Henry Seduski, Tom McEnerney, Richard Saravay, Ilse Jorgensen, Joan Coffey, Stan Wecker, Rita Wecker, Judy Epstein, Karen Wells, Ken Novenster, and Sophie Keyes. Barbara Campbell and Anne Swaim were also present. Guests present: Stanley Rosenthal (Briarcliff Manor), Erika Miller (Chappaqua), Ponie Sheehan (Croton-on-Hudson), Rick Renz (Mount Kisco), Burton Leiser (Briarcliff Manor), Chris Slagle (Croton-on-Hudson), and Corrie Cumming (Buchanan).

Minutes of February 7, 2005: Minutes were approved without change.

State Council Resolutions: Richard Saravay reviewed the resolution protecting the Croton Watershed lands. The big issue is that the original resolution mentioned filtration as an option.

Audubon advocates significant increased funding for land acquisition. We are co-sponsor on Highland Region & Sterling Forest Stewardship resolution. Audubon strongly supports public acquisition of any remaining acres, especially Sterling Forest.

Richard would like to propose a draft resolution about measure to encourage mandated reduction of emission levels in NY State.

Correspondence: Lower Hudson Audubon Roundtable will be Saturday, March 19, 2005. A pass around sheet was circulated for board member sign-ups.

We received a letter from Teatown thanking us for our participation in the Convocation of Eagles. Information was offered about the New York Historical Society exhibit on Audubon watercolors.

Thursday, April 28, 9am to 2 pm at Briarcliff Manor will be a conference on land management.

Committee assignments: Robert discussed the various committee assignments and the need to rotate committee chairs and positions such as recording secretary. George Shakespear will become the recording secretary for one year. Two committees that need new chairs are the Environmental Action Committee, after Karen Wells retires from the board, and the Program Committee.

Bylaws Changes: Motion: To approve the proposed by-laws changes giving chapter members the right to vote. Karen Wells moved, Henry Seduski seconded, passed unanimously.

Community Relations and Development: Barbara Campbell gave an overview of the 2005 Fund Drive plans. We will be expanding our appeal to neighbors and seed sale customers. We are asking board members to add people to our list to whom we can send appeals. We will personalize our letters with hand-written postscripts from board members. Barbara reviewed the contents of the package offered to all board members containing the entire membership list. On Saturday, April 16 we will have a PSing party at the Chappaqua Library from 10 am to 2pm. Barbara will follow-up with board members who are not present on April 16.

End of 2004 Fund Drive total: \$11, 713. 2005 donations to date are \$1,580.

As of the end of February we had 801 members - 613 national and 188 chapter members.

Bird Seed Sale: Another seed sale is coming up on Saturday, March 26. A sign-up sheet was prepared and circulated. Ken also discussed a small price discounting in April and holding seed through the summer months.

Environmental Action: Karen said we need volunteers for this committee. Karen reviewed the draft letter regarding SMRA comments on the proposed date change of the deer hunting season. Motion: To approve the letter for mailing. Stan Wecker moved, Henry seconded, motion passed.

Environmental Action Continued: Motion: That a letter be sent to the Town of Tarrytown requesting that cost and environmental analysis be done on the GE reclamation site plan. Reason for concern is the potential for contaminants in this industrial site. Karen Wells moved, Ken Novenster seconded, passed unanimously. Karen will draft a letter and bring it to the board.

We will have a request in our next newsletter for volunteers from each community. An email list needs to be set up for the Environmental Action Committee. We also need, ideally, one person available during the day to attend issues meetings. Burton Leiser is interested in volunteering on this committee and is available during the day.

Ken Novenster reviewed the work of a small coalition that is interested in buying the Seven Springs property.

The Croton trails access issue has been postponed until March 21st in Croton-on-Hudson.

Treasurer's Report: Tom will offer a report on finances next month at the end of the quarter. He presented a summary of our insurance coverage.

Sanctuaries Committee: Jeanne reported on Sanctuaries Committee meeting held on Saturday, March 5, 2005. Jeff Pinerio is working on better entrance signs for all of our sanctuaries especially, and in this order: Brinton, Pruyn, Pinecliff, Graff, Choate, and Haas. Loose dogs are a problem at Choate so we intend to send a letter to adjoining property owners. Zach Pinerio is doing GPS database at Pruyn Sanctuary. Judy gave an overview of her work as trailwalker coordinator. A new trailwalker coordinator is needed.

Programs and Field Trips: Our next program is Saturday, March 12 at the Croton Library on cavity nesters followed by a workshop to build bird boxes.

Finance Committee: Rita reported that the value of our portfolio as of Feb 28 was \$882,982. This was up \$17,143 from Jan 31 or 1.9%. Unlike January, February was a good month for the stock market. We removed \$7,000 from Vanguard for operating expenses.

New Business: Robert reviewed information on the possibility of SMRA being part of a credit union. Karen will look into this issue further based on her experience.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next meeting will be Monday, April 4, 7 pm at the Chappaqua Library.