

**Saw Mill River Audubon Draft Board Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2005 – Community Bible Church, Ossining, NY**

**Present:** Robert McCrillis, presiding, Tom McEnerney, Erika Miller, Joan Coffey, Sophie Keyes, Margo Peters, Jim Anderson, Jeanne Romeu, Meredith Smith, Cori Cumming, Richard Saravay, Stan Wecker, Rita Wecker, Chris Slagle, Ponie Sheehan, Ken Novenster.

Minutes of the June 21, 2005 meeting were accepted as written.

**Mail and Correspondence Review by Robert McCrillis:**

Fall Audubon Council meeting in Ithaca, New York on October 21 - 23. Richard is planning to attend and Robert may attend. This is now the same weekend as our seed sale. Audubon National DVD about "100 years of Audubon" has been received. We may wish to show this at one of our programs. Various fall events sponsored by area organizations were reviewed.

**Board Roster Review:** Sophie and Ponie's email updates to be reflected in next board roster.

**Board Orientation at Van Cortlandt Manor, Saturday, Sept. 17, 2005:** Community Day in New Castle, scheduled for the same day, will be covered by Jim Anderson, Margo Peters and Joan Coffey.

**Community Days:** It was suggested that Barbara might compile community days planned in 2006 for all communities that we cover and an article put in newsletter to ask people who live in those communities to help staff our display.

**Development Report:** New sanctuary brochures for Pruyn, Pinecliff, Brinton and generic brochure of all sanctuaries have been produced. New map boxes are up at Pruyn, Pinecliff and Brinton. Brochures for Choate, Haas, and Graff will be available this month. Jeff Pinerio will be submitting a proposal for new entrance signs at Brinton, Pruyn, and Pinecliff.

**Bird Seed Sale:** Ken passed around a list for seed sale volunteers. October 22nd and 23rd are the new dates of the sale. Seed prices have increased significantly for striped and coarse sunflower seed in the amount of 40-50%.

**Environmental Action:** Chris Slagle reported on ideas for this committee, including possibility of citizen water monitoring. There was discussion about desire to have members of action committee attend local board meetings where issues are discussed and to connect with FCWC about other urgent issues. What other actions could we do locally? Chris will write out a proposal. A discussion also arose regarding local tree ordinances.

**Treasurer's Report:** The audit went smoothly this year. The annual fund drive was successful--we should be meeting our goal of \$14,500. Our expenses are currently under budget. We are in a good financial position.

Margo suggested having mugs done with photos of our sanctuaries as a means of fundraising. She suggested a photographer friend who has photos of our sanctuaries that would be willing to help in this effort.

**Sanctuaries Committee:** Pruyn: Jeff suggested closing the two rotted boardwalks for safety and the Board agrees. Brinton: The text for the signs for the educational interpretive trail have been completed and the order will be going in soon. We hope to have a ribbon-cutting in late October with details to follow. Meredith said we gained a new trail walker for Brinton Brook.

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**Field Trips:** Joan reported on the trips coming up -- Cape May Weekend and the Constitution Marsh Canoe Trip -- and the positive responses we've been getting. The field trip committee will meet to pursue the goal of having greeters at our programs/trips. Stan voiced his disappointment in having only one fall program (which is being held at Mariandale).

**Hospitality:** Margo is seeking volunteers for future board meeting refreshments and we need refreshments for the October owl program.

**Finance Committee:** The market has been down, but our returns on investment increased. The committee decided to transfer monies from the Vanguard fund into a foreign emerging markets fund. The Dow ended up this evening. Our portfolio is currently worth \$916,216.

**The Milne estate:** A full accounting has been done of the estate, and a distribution of \$29,000 to SMRA has been made over this past summer. It seems we will be receiving the final distribution before the end of the year.

Stan suggested we put the issue of a nominating committee on the next agenda.

The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.

[Minutes taken by Anne Swaim and Jeanne Romeu]