

Saw Mill River Audubon – Corrected Board Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2006
At the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester

Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding, Jim Anderson, Cori Cumming, Sophie Keyes, Burton Leiser, Tom McEnerney, Stan Rosenthal, George Shakespear, and Meredith Smith. Guest: Anne Swaim

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Due to snow conditions, attendance at the meeting was limited and a quorum was not reached. No votes were taken at this meeting.

Minutes of December 12, 2005: Tom McEnerney asked that the revenue budgeted 2006 be corrected to read \$92,963 rather than \$93,963. The revised December minutes will be voted on at the February meeting, along with the January minutes.

President's Report: Robert McCrillis reviewed and circulated various correspondence, including a brochure on National Audubon tours, one on Maine Audubon summer camp sessions, and a Westchester Land Trust newsletter.

Finances:

The 2006 budget is nearly finalized, pending year-end bank statements and credits. Treasurer Tom McEnerney expects to have the final 2005 numbers by the February meeting.

Interim Finance Report— Jim Anderson presented a brief report from Finance Chair Rita Wecker on December results. The value of the investment portfolio on December 31 was \$913,167. A withdrawal of \$16,000 for operating expenses in December was made, offsetting slight market increases in value and receipt of dividends in the portfolios mutual funds. The investment portfolio was up 1.9 percent or \$17,456 from a year-end total of \$895,711 in 2004. The fourth quarter 2005 investment performance report will be presented at the February Board meeting.

Bird Seed Sale: In Ken Novenster's absence, Anne Swaim reported that the December 17 sale yielded approximately \$1,340 in net sales. Another seed sale is being planned for February, date to be determined.

Sanctuaries: Anne Swaim described four different pending tree situations at SMRA sanctuaries, two at Choate, one at Graff, and one at Cameron-Murfeldt. All situations involve aging trees near the borders of our sanctuaries. Investigations are underway to deal with these trees.

Anne also reported that a grant of \$1,000 was received to upgrade trail signs at Pruyn Sanctuary, in the same materials as just used at Brinton Brook Sanctuary.

Community Relations and Development: Total memberships are up to 850 (compared to 785 at the end of 2004), chapter-only members up to 269, and donations for the 2005 totaled \$18,383, well above the budgeted goal of \$14,500.

Field Trips: Anne Swaim briefly touched on the Second Saturday walk at Pruyn and January 21 eagle walk at Croton Point. This coming Saturday, January 7, Teatown is holding a training session for volunteers for the Eagle Festival in February. Board members are invited to participate in the training but asked to remember that we will need our volunteers at our tables at Teatown and at Croton Point.

Naturalist's Report: Anne Swaim reported that the continuing education newsletter from the Institute on Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook announced some excellent courses, including an aquatic ecologist talking about pond restoration and enhancement on Saturday, January 28.

SMRA educational programs are kicking into high gear in January, starting with an educational session next week at Furnace Dock School.

Hospitality: Thanks to Anne Swaim for hospitality at this meeting.

New Business: Stan Rosenthal volunteered to chair the April 9 luncheon. In addition to a lunch honoring Stan and Rita Wecker and other retiring Board members, April 9 will also be the date for the chapter's annual meeting.

Anne reported that the Community Bible Church will not be available for the monthly Board meeting in May. Sophie Keyes volunteered use of her house for that meeting.

For the annual picnic in June, Croton Point was suggested as a possible venue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. The next monthly meeting will be on Monday, February 6.