

Saw Mill River Audubon - Corrected Board Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2006
At the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester

Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding; Jim Anderson, Sophie Keyes, Burton Leiser, Ken Novenster, Jeanne Romeu, Stanley Rosenthal, Richard, Saravay, Meredith Smith
Guests: Barbara Campbell, Edward Bezursik, Sally Dow, Philip Heidelberger, William Kellner, Michael Madias, Elaine Mason, Anne Swaim, Larry Trachtenberg.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM - no quorum present.

Minutes of the February 6, 2006 Board meeting, as sent to directors, were not voted upon since there was no quorum present. No corrections.

President's Report: Guests were welcomed and introductions were made all around. Duties of directors were mentioned for the interest of prospective members.

Correspondence was passed around, including: State Council meeting Spring Conference in March (Richard Saravay will attend); the NY Birder Newsletter; FCWC Newsletter; Land Use Conference; Orange County Audubon Request for contribution to help defray its legal bill in battling conservation matters. This matter was only briefly discussed at this time.

The new roster for the coming year was passed around with a request for additions and correction to the list.

The invitation for the annual meeting and dinner, which this year will be held at Travelers Rest on April 9, 2006, are being sent out at this time along with the ballot for the 2006 election of officers and directors.

NOTE: The Fax machine at the Pruyn office will be left turned off unless you CALL FIRST. The reason for this is that too many junk faxes are being received.

Finance Committee: Phil Heidelberger reported that detailed reports will be presented quarterly. The Investment Portfolio balance was \$937,284 as of March 1, 2006, an increase of \$24,117 since January 1, 2006. The next Finance Committee meeting will be April 24.

Seed Sale: Ken Novenster reported that there is still seed left and he will announce a date for the next sale to be held in April. The March 4th sale did very well thanks to the help of the volunteers.

Community Relations and Development: Barbara Campbell, Public Relation Consultant for SMRA, presented the outline for the upcoming Annual Campaign. A campaign packet is given to each member of the Board with membership lists and directions. The PS addition to the appeal letters proved to be very successful and will be repeated. Plans for addressing these letters were outlined. There was a discussion about State and National contributions and the three tiers of contributions. On the local level our SMRA branch offers Chapter or National membership. The Chapter contributes to State Audubon, which does not solicit individually.

Environmental Action: Chair Burton Leiser reported on a scheduled meeting concerning effects on the I-287 Corridor from the Tappan Zee Bridge improvements project. The meeting is March 13.

Unfortunately the announcement is too late for the newsletter; however he is planning to attend and invites anyone interested to join him.

The state legislature is planning to present a Bigger and Better Bottle Bill. This Bill would use its collected receipts to support environmental programs.

Field Trips: The Eagle Fest, headquartered at Teatown Lake Reservation, had to be postponed to Feb.19 because of snow. As a co-sponsor, SMRA had a very well organized table set up by Anne Swaim and staffed by members of the Board. Meredith Smith's two children also helped. A number of interested people signed the list and picked up brochures. Second Saturday walks at Pruyn are continuing.

Sanctuary Committee: Chair Jeanne Romeu announced a Boundary Marking day to be held at Brinton Brook Sanctuary on March 11. With the help of GPS equipment there will be a better survey of the land. Sanctuary Boundary signs will be posted.

Meredith Smith, chair of Trailwalkers, walked Choate Sanctuary and reports that things look good. There will be an Earth Day Clean-up April 22 with the help of the Youth Group of St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Mt. Kisco.

Hospitality: Thanks to Anne Swaim and Ken Novenster for coffee and refreshments.

New Business: SMRA has received a generous offer by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The offer is for up to \$1,000 to help purchase 2 new computers. The additional amount needed to purchase the computers will be taken out of existing budgeted funds.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next Board meeting will be on Monday, April 3. Minutes were recorded by Sophie Keyes.