

Saw Mill River Audubon—Draft Board Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2007
At the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester

Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding, Ed Bezursik, Joan Coffey, Cori Cumming, Sally Dow, Trish Foy, Philip Heidelberger, Bill Kellner, Sophie Keyes, Michael Madias, Tom McEnerney, Erika Miller, Ken Novenstern, Jeanne Romeu, Stanley Rosenthal, Richard Saravay, George Shakespear, Larry Trachtenberg. Staff: Anne Swaim, Executive Director

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. with a quorum present. Minutes of December 7, 2006 meeting were accepted with no corrections.

President's Report: As there were no guests, Robert McCrillis opened the meeting with *mail and correspondence* which included Teatown's EagleFest brochure and Audubon's Maine summer camp brochure.

Nominating Committee was appointed: Anne Swaim, Trish Foy and Nancy Ruffner (a long-term SMRA member and volunteer on our "On the Wing" newsletter).

The *proxy and annual dinner* invitation mailing will go out mid-February. The annual dinner will be held Sunday, April 1 at Traveler's Rest. Suggested honorees for this dinner were Jeff Pinerio or Midge and Bill Arnold.

It was noted there are still some openings left for the Trinidad trip in April.

Treasurer's Report: Tom McEnerney reported on the preliminary final numbers for the year-end 2006 as compared to budget (see attached). The overall revenue was \$6,600 above budget. Certain *expenses* reported came in **under** budget. Among these were the newsletter (due to in-house layout), seed sale (profit after expenses was \$10,000), and the Development Consultant. Some items **over** budget were sanctuaries (due to maps/brochures production and maintenance costs); programs (due to Pruyn Celebration expenses), and office operations (a computer purchase partially offset by a donation). *Revenue Less Expenses*, a net deficit, ended \$12,000 less than budgeted; amount transferred from Endowment totaled \$67,000. Overall, Tom reported it was a good year.

Finance: Phil Heidelberger reported our beginning balance for 1/1/2007 at \$968,319, a gain of 6% (\$55,152) for the year.

Executive Director's Report: Anne Swaim distributed and discussed SMRAS's *deer hunting statement*, which was mailed out to local county and state officials with jurisdiction over our properties as well as neighbors and adjoining property owners. It was decided these would go out at the beginning of each hunting season. Anne reiterated the importance of balancing the compassion for wildlife, the deer hunting situation, and health of our forests and understory. She encouraged the Board to note and pass along articles about how other agencies and organizations in our area are addressing this issue.

Laura Infield and Pat Mutolo have been at work at their new educator positions. Anne encouraged suggestions on expanding our reach out in the community. Among the suggestions were contacts with town recreation departments and senior programs, area preschools and private schools.

Community Relations and Development: Robert McCrillis distributed the *Membership and Fund Drive Report-December 31, 2006* and *Development Report-January 2007* (see attached).

Annual dinner committee was formed with Robert McCrillis, Stanley Rosenthal, Anne Swaim and Cori Cumming.

Pruyn House Vision: Richard Saravay reported on the Development Committee meeting of December 11, 2006. Discussion at that meeting centered on visions for the expansion of Pruy House for additional program use. Board discussion included questions of partnership with other organizations and how this might fit into our mission and history. Richard suggested the beginning step of forming a sub-committee to draw up some possibilities for the Board to consider. A call for committee volunteers was made. Robert McCrillis suggested putting the vision in writing; getting the Board behind it; getting the Town behind it. Copies of the Development Committee minutes were given to each board member. Trish Foy suggested each Board member write a paragraph responding to the idea of expanding our facilities at Pruy Sanctuary.

Seed Sale: Ken Novenster reported '06 was a profitable year. He asked if it was necessary to have postcard mailings for the next 3 or 4 seed sales. It was decided not to as the newsletter would be coming out and a notice could be printed in it. Instead we will feature the seed sales in our email notice chain. Ken asked for and received board volunteers for the monthly 3rd Saturday seed sale on January 20.

Sanctuaries Committee: Jeanne Romeu mentioned the timeliness of our last Board meeting discussion on the SMRA position of "recovery" of hunted deer on our property. Shortly after the last board meeting, Michael Madias confronted hunters in Brinton stalking a shot deer. This dangerous and scary incident highlights the need to keep our neighbors and local officials informed about our hunting position.

Michael Madias noted finding another hunting stand on a property adjacent to Brinton Brook Sanctuary.

The *Sultanik resolution plan* is awaiting details on our common boundary to include in the statement to the Sultaniks.

Anne will continue to follow up with the Village of Croton regarding the condition of the easement between Brinton Brook Sanctuary and the Arrowcrest residences.

The second half of the *Graff boundary posting* hike is set for 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 20.

Field Trips: Joan Coffey reported a waterfowl walk at Croton Point Park on Saturday, January 13 at 9 a.m. with Charlie Roberto. Other upcoming field trips are the "2nd Saturday Walks" at Brinton Brook Sanctuary, 9 a.m. on January 13 and February 10; Wildflowers and winter plants at Muscote on January 28; The EagleFest on February 11. There will be a Greenwich Audubon program on February 24. There will be a Cape May weekend trip, possibly with Bedford Audubon, on May 18, 19 and 20.

Programs: Cori Cumming announced that "A Day in the Life of a Backyard Bird" is our public program to be held Friday, January 19 at the Chappaqua Library.

Sophie Keyes asked if a cover letter went out with the newsletters to the local libraries. Anne asked George if that was possible, and George mentioned email would be cheaper.

Publicity: On Saturday, December 9, The Journal News published an article highlighting Pruy Sanctuary, with photos and an interview with Anne Swaim—copies were distributed. The local multiple sclerosis chapter also published a very positive article this past summer highlighting Pinecliff Sanctuary's wheelchair accessibility.

Hospitality: Sally Dow distributed a sign-up sheet for the rest of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next board meeting will be Monday, February 5.

The January 8, 2007 minutes were recorded by Jeanne Romeu.