

Saw Mill River Audubon Board Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2007
At the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester

Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding, Cori Cumming, Sally Dow, Trish Foy, Philip Heidelberger, Bill Kellner, Michael Madias, Tom McEnerney, Ken Novenstern, Jeanne Romeu, Stanley Rosenthal, Richard Saravay, Ponie Sheehan, George Shakespear, Meredith Smith. Staff: Anne Swaim, Executive Director

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. with a quorum present. Minutes of January 8, 2007 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 a "Conservation Café" panel discussion sponsored by Westchester County Dept. of Planning on the future of Westchester's trees and the Audubon Council of New York State's spring assembly (in which Richard Saravay said influential leaders were invited to speak on Audubon's agenda with the new Spitzer administration). The next **On the Wing** deadline is March 5.

Treasurer's Report: Tom McEnerney reported a net revenue increase year end 2006 of \$6,500 better than budgeted; Expenses were \$6,000 lower at year end. Overall, 2006 ended +\$12,500 above budget.

Finance: Phil Heidelberger reported 2006 ending portfolio balance of \$968,000, representing an increase of \$55,000 from the Jan. 1, 2006 beginning balance, despite withdrawals for the year totaling \$72,000. The beginning balance on February 1, 2007 was \$970,000 (a \$2,000 increase from January). Phil also reported SMRA's withdrawal guidelines are 5% of portfolio, and SMRA has been withdrawing approximately 7%-8%. The Finance Committee met to review these withdrawal guidelines and decided not to revise them. The Finance Committee suggested some small changes that clarify the Policy and Guidelines for Management of Funds. Richard Saravay moved for acceptance, Stan Rosenthal seconded, and the Board approved these revisions.

Executive Director's Report: Anne Swaim reported on the progress of cleaning out the Pruyn house, with two large dumpsters being filled. The attic and shed will be next.

Anne also noted the February 9 "Conservation Café" meeting (see above correspondence), as well as the Friday, February 12 meeting of northern county environmental groups, organized by the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, to discuss local issues. Robert and Anne will attend the FCWC meeting. Robert McCrillis also encouraged other Board members to participate in conservation and advocacy issues.

Nominating Committee: Anne Swaim, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the officers would continue for another year except that Trish Foy would serve as Recording Secretary beginning in May after Jeanne Romeu's one-year term ends in April. It is our intent to rotate this position annually. Anne reported that of the Board members in the class of 2007, the following have agreed to be re-nominated for the class of 2010: Ed Bezursik, Cori Cumming, Trish Foy, Elaine Mason, Tom McEnerney, George Shakespear, and Meredith Smith.

Sanctuaries Committee: George Shakespear reported the second half of the *Graff boundary-posting* hike was completed on Saturday, January 20, and said that the stakes that are still in place will be spray-painted for visibility in the spring when temperatures allow.

Meredith Smith reported on the progress of a brochure to encourage sanctuary neighbors and others to adopt positive environmental practices on their properties. These would be mailed to neighbors

and included in our map boxes. A rollout date of April's Earth Day was suggested. Ideas of a "gift" for those who sign up were discussed, not only for this project, but also as an ongoing item to promote awareness of SMRA. Costs have not yet been discussed. Jeanne Romeu mentioned she'll look into a T-shirt contact, and Stan Rosenthal will submit a catalogue of promotional items. Trish Foy moved to go ahead on the idea of this brochure and the Board approved.

Community Relations and Development: The Development and Membership reports were distributed and summarized. Fundraising and chapter memberships for 2006 were up. The Development Committee will review the 2005 and 2006 breakdown of fundraising and will submit a plan for how to proceed for 2007 at the next board meeting.

Annual Dinner Committee reported that the announcement for the April 1 dinner should be mailed later this month. It was agreed to keep the ticket prices the same as last year--\$55.00. Bill and Midge Arnold were chosen to receive a distinguished service award. Stan Wecker will be an honorary Co-Chair of the Dinner Committee.

Pruyn House Vision: Robert McCrillis and Richard Saravay toured the Pruy House on January 27 and reported some of their preliminary findings. Board members are invited to walk through the house on March 3. Richard passed around three samples of environmental centers. On Saturday, February 24 (10 a.m. -12 noon) we are offering a public field trip to the Greenwich Audubon Center. This would be a good opportunity to view ideas for the Pruy House. We also plan to visit the Black Rock Environmental Center.

Seed Sale: Ken Novenstern reported a very successful 3rd Saturday January sale of \$1,200. The next 3rd Saturday sale will be February 17, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Forty additional bags of No-Mess Mix were ordered based on past sales. Several board members volunteered for the February sale.

Environmental Action: Robert McCrillis informed the Board that Burton Leiser would not be able to continue as the chair of this committee. He asked board member to consider whether they are interested in this position.

Field Trips: Joan Coffey was absent, but Anne reported on the annual EagleFest on Sunday, February 11 and board members volunteered to staff the SMRA-sponsored warming tent at Croton Point and our information table at Teatown.

Programs: Cori Cumming announced about 40 people showed up for the "Day in the Life of a Backyard Bird" program. March 22 is the "Why Birds Sing" program. As the new Ossining Library is running past its completion date, we will not attempt to hold a program there in May. For our May program it was suggested that we show the film "An Inconvenient Truth" and invite an environmental advocate to open the film, such as Robert Kennedy.

Publicity: George Shakespear announced the next calendar of events has gone out in the mail and by email to media outlets, including The Journal News and Patent Trader.

Hospitality: Sally Dow thanked Anne Swaim, George Shakespear and Cori Cumming.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next board meeting will be Monday, March 5, 2007

The February 5, 2007 minutes were recorded by Jeanne Romeu.