

Saw Mill River Audubon - Board Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2007

Held at Senasqua Park, Croton on-Hudson

Members Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding; George Shakespear; Tom McEnerney; Trish Foy; Richard Saravay; Jeanne Romeu; Sally Dow; Larry Trachtenberg; Rik Kaufman; Jean Sparacin; Ponie Sheehan; Stan Rosenthal; Phil Heidelberger; Joan Coffey; Bill Kellner; Michael Madias

Staff: Anne Swaim, Executive Director; Ellen Heidelberger, Office Assistant

Guests: Danny Ferguson; Bob Malone; Carol Hurford; Caroline McCrillis; Patricia Loquet

Meeting called to order at 7:30 with quorum present. Minutes of May 7, 2007 meeting were accepted with no corrections.

President's Report: Robert McCrillis reviewed **correspondence**, including items regarding: Hudson Valley Preservation Act; NYS Bigger and Better Bottle Bill; Hudson Valley Teachers Institute about Hudson River issues; Trails Conference flyer on Accessibility of Trails in your Region.

Treasurer's report: Our expenses and income are currently in line with expectations as of May 31.

Finance Committee Report: We are showing strong earnings because of the stock market. As of June 1, 2007, the portfolio balance was \$1,061,930 (with applause for once again crossing the \$1 million mark) reflecting an increase of \$23,639 (2.3%) for the month of May. This represents an increase of \$93,611 (9.7%) for the year.

Executive Director's Report: We have awarded two Larry Light scholarships. We are working on easement encroachment issues at Brinton Brook and met this afternoon with Croton Village officials. The easement boundary will be staked and a field walk scheduled. We are also urging the village to initiate an education outreach for neighbors of the easement and our sanctuary. A preliminary proposal for an Arizona birding trip was presented with a strong level of interest from those present. Further details will follow.

Sanctuaries: Michael Madias, Sanctuary Chair, reported on the May 21 committee meeting. We need to continue to monitor the situation at Brinton. The Choate boundary walk is scheduled for June 23, where there are additional issues to monitor.

Community Relations & Development: Robert McCrillis noted that we will need to schedule a summer committee meeting to arrange details for the Pruyn Celebration Day on October 21.

Pruyn House Vision: We have a meeting at the building scheduled for June 25 with our first architectural firm and hope to schedule other meetings during the summer.

NY Audubon Council: Richard Saravay reported that the NY Fall conference is in Seneca Falls in October. He also noted the example of Bedford Audubon working with the Westchester Land Trust to put an easement in place on Bedford Audubon property with resulting payment to Bedford Audubon.

Seed Sale: Some seed is still left for sale at 20% off. A Seed Sale Committee meeting will be held in July

Environmental Action: We would like to see a contact in each of our communities to monitor local issues. More planning is needed for this important area of our mission.

Field Trips: Joan Coffey reported that mid-week bird walks were moderately successful; other walks had sparse attendance, but good networking between those who attended. A fall field trips meeting is necessary. We will again be part of the Birding and Breakfast event at Van Cortlandt Manor on August 25.

Programs: We need a committee meeting to plan and coordinate fall programs.

Publicity: George Shakespear reported that our summer program calendar release was sent out. As part of his work for the NY Botanical Garden he coordinated with Bedford Audubon on publicity for their Bio Blitz, resulting in access to other media contacts for SMRA.

Hospitality: Thanks were offered to Jean Sparacin for coordinating a great selection of picnic food!

New Business: Our 2007-2008 schedule of board meetings and special events was noted and will also be circulated by email during the summer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Our next meeting will be Monday, September 10, 2007, 7pm at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester.

Minutes for June 18 were recorded by Trish Foy.