

**Saw Mill River Audubon— Board Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2007 - Community Bible Church**

**Present:** Robert McCrillis, presiding; George Shakespear; Tom McEnerney; Trish Foy; Richard Saravay; Sally Dow; Larry Trachtenberg; Jean Sparacin; Phil Heidelberger; Joan Coffey; Bill Kellner, Michael Madias; Ken Novenster. Staff: Anne Swaim, Executive Director. A quorum of board members was present.

Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m. Minutes from June 18 meeting were accepted.

**President's report:** Sophie Keyes has resigned from the board. A thank you letter for her years of service will be sent. Mail and correspondence routed around table to Board members. Newsletter deadline is November 1; an online version in Spanish will also be done, courtesy of a member who is translating for us.

**Treasurer's report:** All members received a copy of the audited Financial Statements for 2006. Discussion took place on the audit process, fees, frequency of audit, omission of certain account information, and allocation of funds to programs vs. administration vs. fundraising. Operating revenues and expenses report as of August 31, 2007 was reviewed; for the most part costs and revenues are running close to budget.

**Finance Report:** As of 6/30/2007, the portfolio balance was \$1,058,035, which is a 9.27% change in balance for the year, reflecting the strong market as of that date. The investment rate of return was 8.3% year-to-date and 19.5% for one year, compared to our Morningstar benchmarks of 4.6% and 12.2% respectively. Turmoil in the markets was reflected in the portfolio balance as of 9/1/2007 of \$1,038,678 or an increase of 7.3% for the year.

**Executive Director's Report:** A number of activities and actions on the Arrowcrest easement encroachment issue took place. A field trip with Croton officials to the encroachment area was held in mid July. A letter was finally sent by Croton Village on 8/27/2007 to encroaching property owners in Arrowcrest. We are still awaiting responses. Next possible steps on our part were discussed. Suggestions were made as to holding a walk through the properties to help better educate owners. Also discussed were an Audubon letter to neighbors and more constant vigilance. The Pinecliff dedication will be held on October 21, 2007 at 2 p.m. The Arizona trip sign-ups were discussed; payment should preferably be by check, not credit card. We have a new educator candidate, Mary Charbonneau. She is a replacement to Laura Infield. Her hiring was approved by the board.

**Sanctuaries Committee:** The new sanctuary entrance signs have been completed and are being installed. A fall completion of the boundary walk at Choate is planned. There is another boundary encroachment issue at Brinton with a neighbor dumping lawn and other debris across our border. Michael and Anne will address this issue this fall. A new supply of sanctuary brochures has been printed.

**Community Relations and Development:** We have met our goals for the membership and fund drive. All Board members should contribute. Tom discussed the division of donations between the membership income line and the annual fund income line. The Pruyn celebration will be held on September 23, 2007 and volunteers are needed and should bring cookies.

**Pruyn House Vision:** Bill Kellner, chair, and committee have met with four architectural firms about planning for possible options for the growth at Pruyn. Recommendations for these firms have come from a variety of sources. Ideas have come from field trips to other locations. We are asking for proposals for

a feasibility study to include costs for various scenarios, conversations with town officials, and text and visuals for fund raising. A resolution was made, seconded and discussed at length and amended. The resolution was passed and reads as follows:

- ◆ Whereas it is the intention of SMRA to obtain a feasibility study to confirm the advisability and achievability of providing a nature and environmental education facility on the Pruyn site, and
- ◆ Whereas, given escalating construction costs and growing environmental challenges posed by global climate change, prompt action is important to provide this facility, and
- ◆ Whereas SMRA expects to receive at least four proposals from architectural and energy consulting firms for a feasibility study ranging in potential costs from \$8,500 to \$35,000, and the budget after the feasibility study shall be funded from a separate capital project account to be created from special contributions and grants,
- ◆ The Pruyn Committee and the Development Committee, working together, be authorized to enter into an agreement with a firm that they will select, from the four proposals, to conduct the feasibility study up to a maximum fee of \$32,000.

The above resolution was passed by the board.

**Audubon Council:** The Fall Council meeting will be held October 19-21 in Auburn, New York.

**Bird Seed Sale:** More volunteers are needed for the sale weekend especially for Sunday afternoon to move remaining seed to the shed at Pruyn. Ken passed around a volunteer sheet and received offers of help.

**Field Trips:** Trips are outlined in the newsletter; a greeter/leader should be present for each field trip. Suggestions for new trips would be welcomed.

**Programs:** Talks are described in the newsletter. A committee meeting will be necessary for mid-October.

**Publicity:** The September/October calendar release was sent out.

**Hospitality:** A sign-up sheet was passed around.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Next Meeting will be Monday, October 1, 2007 at the Community Bible Church.

Minutes taken by Trish Foy, Recording Secretary.

Note: Thanks to the Board members who diligently stuck on lots of mailing labels.