

Saw Mill River Audubon—Board Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2007
Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester

Members present: Robert McCrillis, presiding; Tom McEnerney, Trish Foy, Cori Cumming, Sally Dow, Philip Heidelberger, Bill Kellner, Michael Madias, Ken Novenstern, Jeanne Romeu, Richard Saravay, Rik Kaufman, Jean Sparacin,
Staff: Anne Swaim, Executive Director

Meeting called to order at 7:30 with a quorum present. Minutes of September 10, 2007 meeting were accepted with no corrections.

President's Report: Robert McCrillis reported the Newsletter deadline of November 1. Our shed needs to be painted before the birdseed sale; a painting party will be scheduled for 9-12 on October 6th when all volunteers will be welcome. Robert noted that we will not have a Board meeting in November in order to allow various committees to meet to review their 2008 budgets and plan for the coming year.

Treasurer's Report: Tom McEnerney reported that total revenues are at about \$42,000 and are on track; preliminary revenues for the bird seed sale are looking good. Most expenses and other revenues are at or under budget.

Finance Committee: Phil Heidelberger reported that as of October 1, the portfolio balance was \$1,062,892, a 9.8% increase year-to-date.

Executive Director's Report: Anne Swaim reported that no action has taken place on the necessary responses on the Arrowcrest easement. Volunteers and food are needed for the October 21 Pinecliff Dedication. There are still 4 places left on the Arizona trip.

Sanctuaries Committee: Michael Madias reported that the Choate Sanctuary boundary survey will be next, sometime in early November, followed by Pinecliff.

Community Relations and Development: Membership is up; donation figures are positive, as noted in the report on donations, memberships and grants. There is another grant opportunity for signs. The Pruyn celebration included about 125 people and was a success.

Pruyn House Vision: Bill Kellner reported that we are waiting for the fourth architect proposal for a feasibility study. There will be an Oct 22 Development Committee meeting to allow review of the 4 proposals.

Audubon Council: Richard Saravay reported that the Fall Council meeting will be held October 19-21 in Auburn, NY. He will attend and is hopeful that someone else from the Board would also attend. A memorial will be held October 15 at Prospect Park Audubon Center for Geoffrey Cobb Ryan, former Audubon Council chair.

Seed Sale: Ken Novenstern reported that we have a good number of volunteers. Monitoring sales, orders, and volumes from year to year has been well-documented by Anne and Ellen. There was a question about the total donations for 2007. 110 people need to be called and reminded about the sale; seven board members will call these individuals who have purchased seed from us in 2006.

Environmental Action: It is necessary to decide how we pick and choose issues, do research, prioritize, present these to the Board so that we can take a position on what to say and do. We need a framework and committee; several on the Board were interested in participating on this committee. A meeting will be held in November. Tree cutting ordinances were also discussed. Anne offered the example of a new homeowner near Pruyn (at 16 Woodmill Road) who is cutting mature trees in or near Gedney Swamp. Also discussed were activities for Westchester County, e.g., a county-wide Tree City designation, a possible newsletter article for the coming winter issue on trees, and a spring 2008 public program about tree care and wildlife.

Field Trips: Trips planned are as follows: Raptors for Rookies (workshop) on October 7th; Hook Mountain on October 8th; Pinecliff 2nd Saturday walk on October 13th. A meeting is needed for November to plan trips through to spring 2008. (See below.)

Programs: Cori Cumming asked for a committee meeting in November. There is also a Costa Rica Natural History program on October 4th. There will be a program on the 28th of March by Kevin Karlson on Shore Birds. Trish Foy and Sally Dow will also participate on the committee. It was suggested that the next meeting will be Monday, November 5th at the church, along with the Field Trips Committee. We need to coordinate this with Joan Coffey, however.

Hospitality: Jean Sparacin requested that the Board buy plastic re-usable tablecloths for events. This was approved.

New Business: No new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM. The next Board meeting will be December 3, 2007. Minutes for October 1, 2007 were recorded by Trish Foy.