

**Saw Mill River Audubon—Draft Board Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2008**

Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester

Members present: Robert McCrillis, presiding; George Shakespear, Tom McEnerney, Trish Foy, Joan Coffey, Cori Cumming, Philip Heidelberger, Bill Kellner, Ken Novenster, Jean Sparacin, Ponie Sheehan, Larry Trachtenberg, Richard Saravay Staff: Anne Swaim, Executive Director

Meeting called to order at 7:30 without a quorum present. Quorum assembled at 7:35. Minutes of the December 3, 2007 meeting were accepted with a correction; Jean Sparacin was not present at the December meeting.

President's Report: Robert McCrillis reviewed:

Mail/Correspondence distributed

Nominating Committee Election - to include Jean Sparacin, Charlie Roberto and Anne Swaim. We need to have nominees to the Board ready by February.

Annual Dinner (Sun. April 6) Committee needed - to include Cori Cumming, Jean Sparacin, Robert McCrillis and Anne Swaim.

Treasurer's Report: Tom McEnerney reviewed the final numbers for 2007, which are attached as part of these minutes. Total Revenues of \$61,946 exceeded budget projections and total Expenses were \$130,384, less than anticipated. The total transfer from the endowment will not be as large as budgeted, but will still be over the 5% guideline.

Finance Committee: Phil Heidelberger reported that preliminary figures indicate that the balance of the portfolio on January 2, 2008 was \$1,022,217 representing a 5.6% increase for 2007.

Executive Director's Report: Anne Swaim reported that:

Arrowcrest Easement Update - There has been some movement in that the Croton Village Attorney sent a letter to the Homeowners' Association.

Arizona Trip - There is still one space available.

EagleFest - Sat. Feb. 9, Croton Point - volunteers are needed. Snow day is Feb. 10. All programs will be held at Croton Point with viewing areas available at the Croton Point boat ramp, Georges Island and China Pier.

Sanctuaries Committee: Anne Swaim reported on behalf of Michael Madias who could not be present due to work obligations. Anne noted that the boundary walk for Pinecliff may be rescheduled to the afternoon of Jan. 26 but this first need to be checked with Michael. The Haas acquisition has been completed. We received a financial donation as well as the land donation from the Betts Family. The financial donation of \$4,500 will cover all closing costs, filing fees and the projected 2008 taxes. Thanks to Ken for negotiating the acquisition. We have submitted a grant to cover costs for a small parking area, trail signs and more. Discussion of an appropriate thank you was held, including inviting or honoring the donors at the April 6 dinner, publicity and/or other options.

Community Relations and Development:

The Donation, Membership, and Grant Report was distributed and is attached. Membership is up; donations for 2007 were above our goal.

Pruyn House Vision: Bill Kellner reported that the committee met to review two finalist proposals of the four submitted. We will try to assemble/gather some data on our own so that the feasibility study can be done within the \$35,000 budget. This will enable us to find out necessary facts in a step-by-step progression, helping us to sharpen the process. Additionally an initial meeting is still to be scheduled with the Town of New Castle, once we have more facts. The original meeting was canceled by New Castle due to schedule conflicts.

Newsletter: Bill Kellner reported that a new issue will come out for Feb/March. A volunteer is translating each issue to Spanish. Discussion took place as to whether other outreach activities should be done in conjunction with this translation or for other languages. Newsletters items should be sent to newsletter@sawmillriveraudubon.org.

Audubon Council: Fall Council took place in October; Richard Saravay reported that he will share more of these materials at the next meeting. The next state council meeting will be the weekend of March 29 in Saratoga Springs.

Bird Seed Sale: Ken Novenstern reported that the December sale was a success; a volunteer sign up sheet was circulated for the Jan. 19 sale.

Field Trips: Joan Coffey reported that the upcoming calendar of trips was published in the newsletter. Another meeting will be needed soon to plan for April and following. The next public walk is Saturday, Jan. 12 at Croton Point. Following that is a walk Jan. 19 at Pinecliff.

Programs: Cori Cumming reported that there will be a 3/28 Shorebird presentation at the Chappaqua Library. This will be tied in with the Sat. April 5 Jamaica Bay field trip. We are also co-sponsoring a program with the Ossining Library on Rainforests on Saturday March 8.

Publicity: George Shakespear reported that there was an article in the NY Times about the Christmas Bird Count mentioning our chapter with quotes from Rik Kaufman and Larry Trachtenberg. We are also trying a new simpler format on press releases.

Hospitality: Thanks to Jean Sparacin for the refreshments.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, February 4, 2008.

Minutes for January 7 were recorded by Trish Foy.