

**Saw Mill River Audubon—Draft Board Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2008
Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester**

Members present: Robert McCrillis, presiding; George Shakespear, Tom McEnerney, Trish Foy, Joan Coffey, Philip Heidelberger, Rik Kaufman, Bill Kellner, Ken Novenstern, Jeanne Romeu, Ponie Sheehan, Larry Trachtenberg, Richard Saravay; Staff: Anne Swaim, Executive Director

Meeting called to order at 7:35 with a quorum present. Minutes of January 7th meeting were accepted with no corrections.

President's Report: Robert McCrillis reviewed:

Mail/Correspondence, including event mailings from Manhattanville on the Westchester County Global Warming action plan (2/26); Audubon Council (3/28-30); Audubon exhibits at museums and a trip to Colombia.

He also reviewed plans for the **Annual Dinner** (Sunday, April 6), including honorees Bob and Sophie Keyes, special guest invitations, possibility of a Member's Best picture exhibit, the dinner presentation on Trinidad, and dinner cost of \$57 per person. Some discussion took place as to whether a higher cost should be established to provide some minimum level of profit from the event.

Treasurer's Report: Tom McEnerney reviewed a report that outlined all insurance plans that we currently have, including Property, General Liability and Crime; Workers Compensation; Volunteer Accident; Umbrella Policy; Directors and Officers Liability and Disability insurance. Discussion took place as to whether there was a necessity to raise some limits. Also, a discussion will be scheduled with Bedford Audubon to compare insurance plans

Finance Committee: Phil Heidelberger reported that the portfolio balance at the end of 2007 was \$1,030,596, a 6.4% increase for the year. During 2007, \$36,235 was added to the portfolio and \$66,500 was withdrawn. The one year and three year investment rates of returns were 9.6% and 10.2%, compared to our benchmark Morningstar Allocation Fund Index of 5.2% and 6.3%. As of Feb. 1, 2008 the portfolio balance was \$979,368, a 5% decrease for the month.

Executive Director's Report: Anne Swaim reported:

Nominating Committee—Delayed, partly due to Jean Sparacin's family illness. Candidates for the Board will be reviewed further in March, with the possibility that potential candidates could attend the March Board meeting.

Education outreach—Mary and Pat are doing an excellent job in their teaching. Mary has prepared a small newsletter for our after school students at Westorcharde Elementary that will go home to the parents.

Arizona Trip update—Jean Sparacin can't go and we are trying to find someone to take her place. There is one additional spot remaining.

EagleFest—Sat. Feb. 9, Croton Point – Additional volunteers were added to the schedule; there is also a get-together the day before if volunteers wish to attend.

Arrowcrest Easement Update— No new progress. Also, one of our better contacts in Croton, Village Administrator Rick Herbek, has retired. The Board will have to take action at our March meeting if there is no other action on the part of the town. We have discussed in the past reaching out to our membership, to other land trust groups, and to the news media to put pressure on the Village.

Bluebird box grant for Kitchawan—A \$250 grant has been received to facilitate installation of these boxes. IBM boxes—It may be appropriate to look at and review boxes placed on the lawns at IBM.

Sanctuaries Committee: Anne Swaim reported for Michael Madias. There will be a Sat 2/16 Graff walk at 9 AM and an afternoon boundary walk at Pinecliff on the same day. There is a possibility that an additional 1.2 acres contiguous to Graff will be donated to SMRA. This is, ironically, the same acreage sold by National Audubon to a previous landowner to settle a trespass question.

Community Relations and Development: Robert McCrillis reviewed the Donation, Membership, and Grant Report. A discussion was held on the possibility of raising our base level membership fees; this was referred to committee for further study.

Pruyn House Vision: Bill Kellner reported that the committee has tentatively narrowed down the selection to two proposals. Additional funds may need to be approved by the Board. There may be a possibility of a \$5K NYSERTA grant to cover part of the feasibility study costs.

Bird Seed Sale: Ken Novenster reported that over \$1,000 was made on each of the Dec. and Jan. seed sales. Volunteers are needed for February 16, 9:30-12:30.

Field Trips: Upcoming calendar of trips was published in the Newsletter. New ideas and place suggestions would be welcome. A meeting of the committee was scheduled for 2/25 at 9 AM.

Programs: Two new programs, jointly sponsored by libraries (Rainforest and Shorebirds), are upcoming.

Publicity: George Shakespear reported that there was no new activity.

Hospitality: Thanks for the refreshments.

New Business:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, March 3, 2008

Minutes for February 4 were recorded by Trish Foy.