

Saw Mill River Audubon Draft Board Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2008
Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester

Members Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding; George Shakespear, Tom McEnerney, Sally Dow, Rik Kaufman, Michael Madias, Jeanne Romeu, Ponie Sheehan, Jean Sparacin, Nick Fischer, Joanne McAuley, Richard Saravay, Phil Heidelberger, Trish Foy; Staff: Anne Swaim, Executive Director.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm with a quorum present. Minutes of the March 3, 2008 Board Meeting and the April 6, 2008 Annual Meeting were accepted with no corrections.

President's Report: Robert McCrillis welcomed new board members Joanne McAuley and Nick Fischer and gave them handbooks.

An updated board roster and the latest committee list were distributed.

Mail and correspondence:

A note from Sophie Keyes was read, thanking the board for honoring her and her husband Bob at the annual dinner. They were commended for their many years of service to SMRA. A note of appreciation from the Highland Garden Club of Cold Spring, thanking Anne Swaim for a program she presented on Butterflies and Moths.

A newsletter from the NYS Office of National Audubon Society was circulated.

The **annual dinner** was reviewed, and a suggestion was made that in lieu of holding it at Travelers Rest next year, it be a pot-luck supper instead, to celebrate the 55th anniversary of SMRA. Although 65 – 70 people have been attending the dinner at Travelers Rest, the hope is that more families will attend a pot-luck. There would be no charge, and Audubon would provide paper goods and soft drinks. Whether to give a distinguished service award and to whom was also discussed.

Fall dates were proposed:

Board Retreat - Monday night, 9/15

Pruyn celebration - Sunday 10/5.

Board meetings - 9/8, 10/6, and 12/1. Committees will meet in November in lieu of a board meeting.

Fall seed sale is scheduled for 10/18 – 19.

A proposal was made, seconded and carried that Ellen Heidelberger's title of Office Assistant be changed to **Office Manager**.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the present officers will comprise the **Executive Committee** for any summer business necessary.

Treasurer's Report: Tom McEnerney reviewed the Operating Revenues and Expenses for the four months ended April 30, 2008 (see attached).

Finance Committee: Phil Heidelberger reviewed the SMRA portfolio. The stock market was down during the first quarter. The portfolio balance as of March 31, 2008 was \$949,429, a 7.9% decrease. The three month, one year and three year investment rates of return were -6.8%, 0.2% and 8.4%, respectively, compared to our benchmark Morningstar Allocation Index returns of -4.6%, -1.3% and 5.2% for the same periods. On May 1, 2008, the portfolio balance had recovered to \$967,937.

The Larry Light Scholarship Fund was discussed. Begun in 1981, the principal of \$14,000 needs to remain intact. Two Light scholarships totaling \$1,500 were granted this year (plus two adult scholarships). It was suggested that the deadline for applications in future years

should be moved earlier to January or February, and that we not give away more than 5% of the principal. The literature on the Light Scholarship should be updated to indicate that the scholarship is intended to only cover part of the total expenses, except in hardship cases.

New York State Audubon Council: Richard Saravay reported on a council meeting held March 29 that he attended. Material was passed around.

Executive Director's Report: Anne Swaim reported that education outreach is growing. Pat Mutolo and Mary Charbonneau have been very busy this spring presenting programs in schools and leading trips in the sanctuaries. Butterflies and Moths have been most popular. The **Arizona trip** was enjoyed by all. 177 birds were seen, and local guides led the expeditions. A variety of habitats were visited.

Sanctuaries Committee: Michael Madias reported that the next boundary walk will be on May 24th or 31st to Chernick. The Choate and Pinecliff boundary walks were held. A \$9,500 grant for Haas was received.

Community Relations and Development: Robert McCrillis reported that membership is going up, as are donations (see attached). The Annual Appeal PSing meeting will be Monday, May 12, at the church.

Pruyn House Vision: Anne Swaim reported that possible locations for the septic field are being studied, and preliminary drawings are underway.

Bird Seed Sale: Next sale will be Saturday, May 17, 9:30 – 12:30. A sign up sheet for volunteers was circulated.

Field Trips: Anne Swaim said the next sanctuary walk will be at Graff on May 10 at 9 a.m. Early morning bird walks will be held Wednesdays at 7:30 am on: 5/7 at Teatown, led by Charlie Roberto; 5/14 at Rockefeller Preserve, led by Richard Nelson and Anne Swaim; 5/21 at Glazier Arboretum led by Anne Swaim; 5/28 at Kitchawan led by Larry Trachtenberg. A trip to Doodletown will be on Sat. 5/17 at 6:30 am. See April/May Newsletter for details.

Programs: A joint program and field trip to Rockefeller Preserve will be held May 31, focused on the topic of forests and trees. See our web site for details.

Publicity: George Shakespear reported that press releases on upcoming field trips have been sent out.

Hospitality: Thanks were given for tonight's refreshments. A sign-up sheet for June 2nd picnic at Senasqua Park was circulated. That will be the final board meeting until September.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15. Minutes were recorded by Sally Dow, Secretary.