

**Saw Mill River Audubon Draft Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 2, 2008**  
**Held following board picnic at Senasqua Park, Croton-on-Hudson**

**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, Cori Cumming, Joan Coffey, Leen Provost, Ken Novensterm, Bill Kellner. Absent: Erika Miller and Larry Trachtenberg. Staff present: Anne Swaim, Executive Director, Ellen Heidelberger, Office Manager, Mary Charbonneau, Educator, Danny Ferguson, Sanctuary Worker.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with a quorum present.  
Minutes of the May 5 board meeting were approved with no corrections.

**President's Report** Robert McCrillis

The board retreat will be Monday evening, September 22. The Pruyn Celebration will be Sunday, October 19, with a rain date of Oct. 26. The 2008 Seed Sale Weekend will be October 4-5, 2008. Fall board meetings will be September 8, October 6, and December 1. (We do not have a board meeting in November in order for committees to meet to prepare the 2009 budget.)

**Treasurer's Report** Tom McEnerney

Tom presented the attached report for revenues and expenditures in the first five months of the 2008 budget year.

**Finance Committee** Phil Heidelberger

The portfolio balance on June 1, 2008 was \$987,323 which represents a 2.0% increase for the month of May. The balance is down 4.2% for the year, including 3.1% in withdrawals.

**Executive Director's Report** Anne Swaim

Our education outreach is continuing to grow. Many good reviews have been received for the teaching of Pat Mutolo and Mary Charbonneau. Mary Charbonneau thanked the board for the scholarship support for her attendance at Audubon Maine's educator camp.

**Sanctuaries Committee** Michael Madias

A summer committee meeting will be held Monday, June 16, 7 p.m., at Community Bible Church. All who are interested are invited to attend. Sanctuary walks will continue the second Saturday of each month throughout the summer with the following dates and locations: June 14 at Brinton; July 12 at Pinecliff; August 9 at Graff. The next boundary walk will be at Chernick Sanctuary with a date to be determined. Michael, Danny Ferguson and Anne are meeting at Haas Sanctuary on Saturday, June 7, at 9 a.m., to stake out new parking area and trails.

Tree removal has been requested by neighbors of Choate Sanctuary. We received a reduced rate quote from Westchester Tree Life of \$600 to fell three trees. The trees are on our property, bordering the Highbloom property. The trees are not threatening any structures. The Highblooms have agreed to pay half of this cost.

Regarding the infringement onto Audubon property at Brinton, one neighbor has agreed to move his shed from the conservation easement bordering the sanctuary. The other neighbor appears to be pursuing legal options to avoid removing a larger structure. We will pursue this matter with the Village Attorney and the new Village Manager in the coming weeks.

**Community Relations & Development** Robert McCrillis

Robert McCrillis presented the attached report prepared by Barbara Campbell and Ellen Heidelberger. Donations to date total \$13,952. The 2008 fundraising letters were sent out with the support of many board members at the PSing party held Monday, May 12. Approximately 1,300 letters were sent.

**Pruyn House Vision** Bill Kellner

Anne Swaim and the architects from Steven Winter Associates, who are preparing our feasibility study, met with Town of New Castle Planning Consultants on Thursday, May 8. There are some zoning questions to resolve before the feasibility study can proceed and we are awaiting word from the town on these questions. The Pruy Building Committee met Sunday, May 11, to review the work to date.

**Bird Seed Sale** Ken Novenster

There will be a bird seed committee meeting Wednesday June 11, 7 p.m., at the office. New board members are encouraged to become active on this committee.

**New York State Audubon Council** Richard Saravay

The fall council meeting will be in Jamestown, New York on October 10 – 12, 2008. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the ballot for council officers and board members. The ballot includes Richard Saravay as a nominated board member to the state council.

**Field Trips** Joan Coffey

Rik Kaufman has been asked to chair this committee and is considering. A meeting will be announced to plan the upcoming calendar of trips for the fall. In addition to the second Saturday walks (see Sanctuaries report), there will be a Butterfly Walk at Pruy Sanctuary on Saturday, August 2, led by Trudy Battaly.

**Programs** Cori Cumming

Two very successful programs were held this year: “Shore Birds” at the Chappaqua Library and “Rainforest Butterflies” at the Ossining Library. Both were very well attended. The Rockefeller State Park Preserve tree program planned for May 31 was canceled by the park due to low registration. A summer committee meeting will be held to consider programs for the coming year. Board input is invited.

**Hospitality** Jean Sparacin

Everyone was thanked for providing food for the picnic. Jean was thanked with applause for coordinating the evening’s picnic supper. The plans for a potluck for our April 2009 Annual Dinner will be explored over the coming months and more about this will be discussed in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes were recorded by Sally Dow, Secretary

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