

Saw Mill River Audubon Draft Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 8, 2008
Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester

Members Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding; George Shakespear, Tom McEnerney, Sally Dow, Richard Saravay, Joanne McAuley, Phil Heidelberger, Michael Madias, Larry Trachtenberg, Joan Coffey, Nick Fischer, Ken Novenster, Cori Cumming, Leen Provost, Jean Sparacin, William Kellner, Rik Kaufman; Anne Swaim, Executive Director, was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

Minutes of the June 2 board meeting were approved.

President's Report - Robert McCrillis

Correspondence was read, including a thank you for Mary Charbonneau's leading of a scout group through Pinecliff Sanctuary over the summer; a thank you from Dylan Hastings, recipient of the Larry Light Memorial Scholarship, for the opportunity to attend camp at Acadia National Park during the summer; as well as brochure about NY Botanical Gardens fall programs, which was circulated.

The board retreat will be Monday evening, Sept. 22, 6:30 – 9 p.m. at Our Lady of the Wayside Church in Millwood. Members were asked to sign up and to review notes from the 2006 board retreat.

The Pruyn Celebration will be held Sunday October 19. There will be a reptile presentation, garden tours, sanctuary walks as well as the possibility of some music (a music group is still being confirmed).

Treasurer's Report - Tom McEnerney

A report on the financial results for the first eight months of the year was discussed (see attached). The status of the audit of SMRA's 2007 financial statements was discussed.

A motion was made by George Shakespear regarding our auditor's recommendation that the December 2007 donation of seven acres adjacent to Haas Sanctuary be listed on our financial statements at market value as of the date of donation, as per current generally accepted accounting procedures. The entry will be annotated to explain the new asset on our books. This motion was seconded and approved.

Finance Committee - Phil Heidelberger (see attached)

As of July 1, 2008, the portfolio balance was \$918,959, a 10.8% drop for the year. The investment rates of return for three months, year-to-date and one year were -0.3%, -7.1% and -5.8%, respectively. These returns reflect the negative stock market, and are similar to our benchmark Morningstar Allocation Fund Index returns of -0.8%, -5.4%, and -4.8% for the same periods. July was also a down month, and the portfolio balance on September 1, 2008 was \$894,328, a \$136,268, or 13.2%, decline. This decline includes \$49,000 in transfers from the Endowment to the Operating Fund, of which about \$25,000 is for the Pruyn feasibility study.

Executive Director's Report - Anne Swaim

A trip to Costa Rica is planned for a week in March 15 – 21. Cost will be approximately \$2800, including round trip from JFK to San Jose.

Education Outreach: Mary Charbonneau has been offered a full time job with National Audubon at Constitution Island Marsh where she has been working this summer. However, she will still make time to do some programs for SMRAS when possible. (Sally Dow noted that Mary presented a wonderful program for children at Ossining Public Library this summer at 4 p.m. after her regular job ended.)

Sanctuaries Committee - Michael Madias, Jr.

Walks were conducted over the summer in the sanctuaries. Trail work is just about completed at Haas Sanctuary. A date will be decided for dedication. Board members will be asked to be on hand.

Brinton encroachment issue: The more difficult issue is being resolved by the property owner, and another one is 90% resolved. Some of the Arrowcrest trail has been washed away where it meets golf course. This will be looked into further.

Community Relations and Development - Robert McCrillis

See attached report

Pruyn House Vision - Bill Kellner

Architects are looking into alternative energy sources. The environmental consultant has finished mapping significant trees and doing preliminary septic field tests. A generalized sketch of potential building space use was circulated.

Newsletter - Bill Kellner

Deadline for next newsletter is Nov. 1.

Bird Seed Sale - Ken Novensterm

Volunteers are needed for sale days. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Seed Sale weekend dates are October 4 and 5, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. each day.

Field Trips See September bulletin

Publicity - George Shakespear

A release has been sent out about the Pruyn celebration. A recommendation was made that future walks have a focus – i.e., Butterfly walk. Upcoming events will be publicized on calendar.

Hospitality - Jean Sparacin

Jean was thanked for delicious refreshments.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Sally Dow, Secretary