

**Saw Mill River Audubon Draft Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 1, 2008**  
**Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester**

**Board Members present:** Robert McCrillis, presiding; George Shakespear, Tom McEnerney, Richard Saravay, Phil Heidelberger, Michael Madias, Larry Trachtenberg, William Kellner, Joan Coffey, Ponie Sheehan, Sally Dow, Joanne McAuley, Cori Cumming, Ken Novenster, Trish Foy. Anne Swaim, Executive Director, was also present.

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

There was no mail/correspondence.

**Finance Committee – Phil Heidelberger**

For our official quarterly report, the portfolio balance as of September 30, 2008 was \$813,584, a 21% drop for the year, including \$57,000 in withdrawals. The investment rate of return through September 30 was -16% compared to our Morningstar Allocation Fund benchmark index return of -12.7%.

However, more recently, as of November 30, 2008, the portfolio balance was \$622,655, a 39.6% decline for the year. This includes \$97,000 in withdrawals (9.4%) so our investment rate of return for 2008 is approximately – 30%. The S&P 500 index is down 39% for the year, making 2008 one of the worst years in the index's recorded history.

As of December 1, SMRA has \$139,136 in cash which is enough to cover approximately 22 months of anticipated budgeted withdrawals.

**Treasurer's Report – Tom McEnerney**

The 2009 budget was presented, along with a list of contingency budget cuts for 2009. A lengthy discussion followed on the pros and cons of adopting the budget cuts and certain budget cuts were approved by the board. The revised budget was voted on and accepted (copy attached), subject to being voted on again at the February board meeting, pending modification. The board expressed their preferences for potential further cuts in writing (see attached table).

The board approved a motion that \$1,000 of the Larry Light Scholarships previously approved by the board be funded out of SMRA funds rather than the Larry Light Fund.

**Executive Director's Report – Anne Swaim**

There has been very positive feedback about our educational outreach programs.

Unfortunately the Costa Rica trip had to be canceled due to lack of enough people committed to going.

Eagle Observation volunteers are needed.

**Sanctuaries Committee – Michael Madias**

Three productive workdays were held this fall – 2 at Brinton and 1 at Haas. More workdays will be scheduled this winter for vine-cutting, etc.

An Audubon Sanctuaries Management Outline was presented. This will be completed for each sanctuary by the sanctuary keeper in coordination with the sanctuaries committee chair and SMRA management.

**Community Relations and Development – Robert McCrillis**

As of December 1 2008 there are 980 members of SMRA, as compared to 877 in December 2007. 2008 donations to date total \$21,266.01, as compared to \$25,091.75 in 2007. A follow up fund drive mailing will go out on December 5. (See attached Membership and Fund Drive report for December 1, 2008, as well as Development Report.)

**Newsletter – Bill Kellner**

Next deadline is January 1, 2009.

**Bird Seed Sale – Ken Novenstern**

Seed will continue to be sold on the third Saturday of each month through April. A volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated for the December 20 sale. There is plenty of seed left, and from now on everything sold will be profit.

**Programs and Field Trips – Cori Cumming and Joan Coffey**

A very interesting and well attended program on owls was held in November. Many winter events are planned, including Christmas Bird Count, New Years Day Birding Walk, Croton Point Bird Walk, Hudson River EagleFest, Winter Owl Prowl and a program on Bluebirds: A Conservation Success Story. See winter issue of On the Wing for details.

**Publicity – George Shakespeare**

A release will be sent out for the December and other upcoming events.

**New Business**

Ponie Sheehan will present an environmental report on two local issues in Croton. Watch for email about this report.

**Pruyn House Vision – Bill Kellner**

A motion that we spend \$450 for LEED certification fee was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

A slide presentation of LEED certified buildings was shown, and a review of plans for Pruy House discussed.

Sally Dow, Recording Secretary