

Saw Mill River Audubon Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 1, 2009
Held at Senasqua Park in Croton-on-Hudson, NY

Meeting called to order at 7:25 p.m. with a quorum present.

Board members present: Robert McCrillis, presiding; Joan Coffey, Cori Cumming, Sally Dow, Nick Fischer, Patricia Foy, Arthur Green, Phil Heidelberger, Rik Kaufman, Bill Kellner, Donna Lassiter, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias Jr., Joanne McAuley, Tom McEnerney, Nina Romanoff, Richard Saravay, George Shakespear, Ponie Sheehan, Jean Sparacin and Larry Trachtenberg. Staff present: Anne Swaim, Executive Director; Ellen Heidelberger, Office Manager; Danny Ferguson, Sanctuary Worker.

Minutes of the May 4, 2009 meeting were accepted as presented.

President's Report - Robert McCrillis

Please review SMRA committees list. We still are in need of a sanctuary keeper for Graff and Pruyin Sanctuaries. Trailwalkers are also needed.

Date has been decided for the next Annual Dinner, Sunday, April 11, 2010. In the past we had spoken about having another Pot Luck versus going to Travelers Rest. Robert is recommending that we alternate each year and next year have it at Travelers Rest.

The date for Pruyin Day Celebration, pending funding, will be October 11, 2009 (rain date 10/18).

Our next board meeting will be Monday, September 14. See bottom of Agenda page for Board meeting dates for 2009 – 2010. Please put these dates on your calendar. Other dates for our information tables at Clearwater Festival, River Day and Muscoot Market Day are also listed.

The President reported that SMRA needs to reprint its general membership brochure. He recommended that the board approve printing 5,000 new membership brochures at a cost of approximately \$700. The board unanimously approved his recommendation.

Community Relations and Development – presented by Robert McCrillis

Please see handout prepared by Barbara Campbell and Ellen Heidelberger for June 2009 reporting on May activities – including 2009 Annual Appeal. It appears that we are ahead of last year and that we are doing well in our annual appeal.

Finance Committee - Phil Heidelberger

As of May 31, 2009, the portfolio balance was \$655,311, a 5.1% increase for May and a 3.7% increase year-to-date. This includes \$14,000 in withdrawals.

Treasurer's Report – Tom McEnerney

Please see handouts prepared which show our financials for the first 5 months of this year. We are doing well. Revenues are ahead of budget and expenses are either at or below budget, except for Pruyin House which is over budget.

Executive Director's Report - Anne Swaim

Saturday, June 13 Breeding Bird Survey/Saw Mill River Watershed - we will be visiting various sites in the Saw Mill River watershed area. If interested, call the office for details.

Clearwater Festival June 20-21, 2009. Sign-up sheet passed around for volunteers. Also there will be an exhibit planning meeting – June 3 at the office. Please come if interested in helping with this.

Constitution Marsh Canoe trip – Thu July 16 at 5pm. Dusk paddle through Constitution Marsh.

Nebraska Sandhill Cranes Trip – March 17 – 22, 2010. Information on website as announced in Summer 2009 newsletter: www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/cranes.

Ossining Public Library Event – September 25, 2009 with bird photographer Steve Sachs.

Chappaqua Public Library Event - October 29, 2009 for Edgar Allen Poe celebration. Program will focus on ravens/crows with live birds from the Sharon Audubon Center.

Sanctuaries Committee - Michael Madias

“Trees for Tribs” on May 31 was a success. Over 100 trees and shrubs were planted at Brinton. 15 people assisted in this endeavor, working from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Thanks to Donna Lassiter and Michael Madias. Plantings will be monitored every week or two.

Newsletter - Bill Kellner

The Summer 2009 edition was mailed out today. Look for Mary Charbonneau’s article on Hudson River eels. The next Newsletter’s deadline is August 1, 2009.

Bird Seed - Ken Novenster

Next committee meeting is June 10. Bird seed sale dates are October 3 and 4, 2009.

Programs and Field Trips – Joan Coffey and Cori Cumming

Committee meeting is needed to discuss programs for rest of 2009.

Publicity - George Shakespear

We put out information on our “Trees for Tribs” project and will do some press releases on our summer events within the next 2-3 weeks.

Pruyn House Vision - Bill Kellner

We received a final draft – showed copy of dummy presentation. Once it’s approved we can use this material in our fundraising program.

Picnic - President thanked everyone for making this picnic a great success, including Michael Madias and Erika Miller for underwriting the cost, Jean Sparacin for coordinating the food list, and Rudy Fasciani for manning the grill.

New Business

Richard Saravay - spoke about an Audubon NYC program – Sunday sunset cruises from South Street Seaport. Cost \$25. Sundays, June 7 through August 16 - South Street Seaport, Pier 17, 7 - 8:30pm. (For more info go to: <http://www.nycaudubon.org/home/TripClass.shtml#ongoing>)

Richard also announced lecture to be given by Eric Sanderson about the Mannhatta Project that will be held Wednesday, June 10 at 6pm at the Arsenal Gallery, 64th Street and 5th Avenue.

Richard has more information on what he spoke about last meeting – coffee beans.

Ponie Sheehan - Gave brief summary of her work with National Audubon lobbying in Washington on HR bill #669 - Invasive Species Act.

Cori Cumming – Remember next weekend is 400th Anniversary Celebration of Henry Hudson sailing up the Hudson River. Celebrations are being held at Tarrytown, Ossining, Peekskill and other places in our area.

Wishing us a great summer, President McCrillis adjourned the meeting at 8:01pm. Minutes were recorded by Joanne McAuley, Secretary.