

Saw Mill River Audubon Draft Board Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2009
Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester

Meeting called to order at 7:34 p.m. with a quorum present.

Board members present: Robert McCrillis, presiding; Sally Dow, Nick Fischer, Arthur Green, Phil Heidelberger, Rik Kaufman, Bill Kellner, Donna Lassiter, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias Jr., Joanne McAuley, Tom McEnerney, Ken Novenster, Jeanne Romeu, Nina Romanoff, Richard Saravay, Ponie Sheehan and Larry Trachtenberg. Anne Swaim, Executive Director.

Absent: Joan Coffey, Cori Cumming, Trish Foy, Leen Provost, George Shakespear and Jean Sparacin.

Minutes of the September 7, 2009 meeting were accepted as presented.

President's Report - Robert McCrillis

Roster and Committee list – Lists as of June, 2009 were given out at last meeting. Nina Romanoff was left off Sanctuary Committee. If there are any more changes please let Ellen know asap.

No Board Meeting in November - There will be major Committee meetings to discuss/plan for 2010 calendar and budget. Next Board meeting is Monday, December 7.

Pruyn Vision Report – At the last meeting a “presentation summary” was given to each Board member. This is the summary of the feasibility study conducted by Steven Winter Associates, Inc. The Committee will be meeting tomorrow night to discuss where we go from here. Many Board members made comments. The consensus was to “dream big” but concerns were also raised on what we would do if the \$2 million was not raised. Richard stated that we would then explore scaling back the project.

Pruyn Garden Work Day – Saturday, October 17 at 9 am. (Rain date is October 24) The Garden is 10 years old and needs to be re-soiled and replanted, starting with the center oval. We have ordered 3 cubic yards of mixed soil/compost from the Town of New Castle. Need able-bodied workers to help with digging and some “plant people” to divide/pot up plants. It was suggested that we send out an e-mail to all members to see if anyone wants to help with this. Other garden plantings near the house also need maintenance.

Mail/Correspondence

Hudson River Foundation has announced a seminar series on scientific issues related to the environmental quality and resource management of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary for October 6, November 10 and December 4. All seminars will be held at the Hudson River Foundation, 17 Battery Place, Suite 915, New York, NY 10004.

Audubon Greenwich announced their “Green Building, Green Homes” Lecture Series. The lectures are:
Geothermal Energy Systems - Tuesday, October 20 at 7pm
Solar Energy and Wind Systems - Tuesday, November 17 at 7 pm
High Efficiency Residential HVAC Systems - Tuesday, December 15 at 7pm

2009 brochure from **Rock Jumper Birding Tours** was passed around table.

Community Relations and Development – presented by Robert McCrillis

Copy of Membership and Fund Drive Report dated October 5, 2009 was handed out. Please review. Tom has re-labeled report to make clearer.

Finance Committee - Phil Heidelberger

As of October 1, 2009, the portfolio balance was \$740,689, a 4.4% increase for the month of September. The portfolio is up \$109,030 (17.3%) for the year, including \$20,000 (3.2%) in withdrawals.

Treasurer's Report – Tom McEnerney

Passed out "Operating Revenues and Expenses Report" for period ending 09/30/09 and a copy of "SMRA Audited Financial Statements December 31, 2008." This latter report is marked "draft" – once final the report will become a Public copy (mandatory under NYS law.) The auditors have indicated no problems with our figures. You can still add any comments to the Report. Once final you can view the report on line at NYS government website.

In a review of Actual versus Estimated budget for 2009 we are doing well in Donations, Membership and Education Programming. All categories are at or under budget except for Pruyn House where we are over budget due to needed repairs. A discussion followed on the cost of home heating oil. Our contract with Burke Heating Oil is coming up for re-negotiation (by Richard Saravay). Also, note that Seed Sale and Audit Services are "last quarter" expenses.

Executive Director's Report - Anne Swaim

1) The **Audubon Council of New York** will meet at West Point / Hotel Thayer on October 30 – November 1, 2009. Richard Saravay and Anne Swaim both expect to attend. Everyone interested is encouraged to attend. SMRA will be leading a field trip to Croton Point for council meeting participants on Saturday October 31 at 9am. Everyone is welcome to come on the field trip. Other topics to be presented at the Council Meeting were discussed.

2) **March 2010 – Nebraska Sandhill Cranes Trip:** 15 people have signed up for the trip. We have 3 mini vans and could sign up another 2-3 people before needing another van.

3) **Environmental Educators:** As reported last meeting, we need an additional educator for after-school programs at Westorhard and Roaring Brook. Considering Mellissa Garcia (works at Chappaqua's Children library). Ms. Garcia is bi-lingual which will help us in some of our programs. Robert and Anne will plan to interview her in the coming month.

4) **Saw Mill River Bioblitz** – was held on September 25-26. The event had good publicity. We had a decent bird list. Copies of all the lists made at Pinecliff will be given to us. They found a rare moss at the sanctuary - only at two other places in NYS.

5) Hoping to send out annual "No Deer Hunting on Our Sanctuaries" letter next week.

Sanctuaries Committee - Michael Madias

A committee meeting will be held on November 9 at 7pm at this location. All are invited to come to the meeting. The next workday is Sunday, November 1 (9am) at Brinton Brook. Everyone is invited to come and plant trees.

Newsletter – Bill Kellner

Deadline for next newsletter (December/January issue) is November 1.

Bird Seed - Ken Novenster

Bird seed sale was held on October 3 and 4. Ken thanked everyone who worked those days. All the help was appreciated. "Pizza Station" in Chappaqua donated 4 pizzas. Saturday was busy and Sunday was quiet. Sales may be down because of the early sales dates this year or that people know that we sell seed throughout the year at Pruyn. At this point in 2008, we had received \$18K income. This year we have received \$13K. Richard Saravay reported that someone from Greeley Hardware stopped by our Community Day booth and expressed unhappiness that the Town let us use Town Hall parking lot for our bird seed sale. **Future seed sales** – the third Saturday of the month beginning November 21. Sign-up sheet for volunteers was passed around for dates through January 2010.

Programs and Field Trips – by Anne Swain

Committee will meet Monday, **October 19, 2009**, 7 pm in Ossining Public Library (lower level café). Everyone welcome to come – brainstorming for Spring 2010 programming/events. We are researching new weekend trips. An owl trip is planned for the first weekend in February. SMRA member Christine Smith is helping to plan a winter weekend trip to the Adirondacks. Richard Saravay suggested a summer trip to Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge combined with a visit to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Our co-sponsored program with Croton Arboretum – **"Biodiversity: why it matters"** – was held September 15 and was attended by about 25 people (including Sally, Nina and Donna).

September 19 - **Hook Mountain Hawk Watch** program was well attended.

September 25 - **Raptor Photography** workshop at Ossining Library was attended by 29 people.

September 27- **Fire Island Hawk Watch** at Robert Moses State Park was cancelled due to rain.

The upcoming programs are:

Thursday, October 29, 7:30 pm - Program: **Ravens and Raptors** at Chappaqua Library

Saturday, October 31, 9 am - **Hawk Watch** at Lighthouse Point Park, New Haven, Conn.

Tuesday, November 3, 7 pm – Program: Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch

Wednesday, November 11 – **Hawk Watch** at Franklin Mountain, Otsego, NY

Publicity - George Shakespear (absent)**Hospitality – Sally Dow and Cori Cumming**

Thank you Larry, Nina and Ponie for bringing refreshments.

New Business

None.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes were recorded by Joanne McAuley, Secretary.