

**Saw Mill River Audubon Draft Board Minutes  
Monday, January 4, 2010  
Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

**Board members present:** Robert McCrillis, presiding; Joan Coffey, Nick Fischer, Phil Heidelberger, Rik Kaufman, Bill Kellner, Donna Lassiter, Michael Madias Jr, Joanne McAuley, Tom McEnerney, Ken Novenstern, Nina Romanoff, Richard Saravay, George Shakespear, Jean Sparacin and Larry Trachtenberg. Anne Swaim, Executive Director.

**Absent:** Cori Cumming, Sally Dow, Trish Foy, Arthur Green, Valerie Lyle, Leen Provost, Jeanne Romeu and Ponie Sheehan

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

**President's Report - Robert McCrillis**

Received \$20,000 check designated for Pruyn Butterfly Garden from Turner Construction Company – former employer of Bill Arnold who had asked them for a contribution on our behalf. We will set up a separate fund similar to the Larry Light Fund with intent to avoid spending principal.

Received \$5,000 grant from Con Edison to cover newsletter and public program and field trip costs in first half of 2010. This is the first year we have received funding from Con Edison with hopes that more funds may be granted in future years.

We currently have full Board membership at 24. We anticipate one opening on the Board at the present time. Please let us know if anyone else is planning or unable to continue on the Board. We need a Nominating Committee for the April 11, 2010 election. We are proposing this Committee to be Anne Swaim, Joanne McAuley and Christine Smith. The proposal was moved, seconded, and accepted.

Annual Dinner is scheduled for April 11, 2010 at Travelers' Rest on Route 100 in Millwood. Need a Committee to do arrangements, advertising, set program, etc. Proxy also needs to go out. Part of the Con Edison grant can be used toward costs of the dinner, including a speaker stipend. First meeting of the Annual Dinner Committee will be Wednesday, January 13 at 12 noon at Pruyn.

**Mail/Correspondence**

National Audubon sent Christmas/New Year card to us along with a 2010 calendar that was offered to anyone who wanted it at the meeting. Given to Larry Trachtenberg.

**Community Relations and Development – presented by Robert McCrillis**

Copy of Membership and Fund Drive Report dated January 2010 was handed out. Membership is up. Still awaiting response from Audubon NY concerning our request for \$1,000 collaborative funding for the deer enclosure project at Pruyn Sanctuary. Depending on Audubon NY support, we will also send an expanded proposal to Norcross for same project. 2009 Annual Report to be completed by February and distributed online.

Question was raised about the number of on-line memberships/donations were received. Anne will get the answer.

**Treasurer's Report – Tom McEnerney**

2010 Budget report handed out showing the 2009 Budget, the 2009-Revised Budget, the actual 2009 expenditures and revenues, and the 2010 Budget. During 2009 we were mostly at or under expenses – we did well.

**Finance Committee - Phil Heidelberger**

As of January 1, 2010 the portfolio balance was \$743,724, an increase of \$112,065 (17.7%) for the year and \$19,558 (2.7%) for the month of December. The portfolio is up \$188,153 (33.9%) from its approximate low of \$555,571 on March 1st. There were \$49,000 (7.8%) in withdrawals from the endowment during 2009 and \$835 in additions to the Light Memorial Fund during 2009.

Jim Anderson is resigning from the Finance Committee. Committee is looking for a new member. If interested or knew anyone who may be good candidate please let Committee know asap.

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

**Eagle Fest 2010** is Saturday, February 6. Volunteers are needed. Signup sheet is being passed around. Will ask again at February Board meeting.

**Adirondack Trip** - January 15 – 18, 2010. 13 people are going. This is the start of what we hope will be a seasonal weekend birding trip. The next weekend trip is in the spring and to Cape May (May 21 – 23). Details to follow in next newsletter.

**Deer Management** – Anne gave brief overview of the situation – we are told that our forests are in crisis with deer browsing of the understory. Various solutions are being explored by wildlife biologists and foresters, including hunting, fencing, birth control, moving herds to other land, encouraging natural predation or doing nothing, which may lead to reduced herds by starvation and also further destruction of the environment. An informal board discussion followed to air questions and concerns and get a sense of the board on this issue. No decisions were to be made at this meeting and the discussion will continue.

Anne passed out color brochures on the **13th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count** happening February 12-15, 2010.

**Audubon Fall Council Meeting Report – Richard Saravay**

Richard reviewed the process by which New York chapters send issues of concern to the NY Audubon Council for state-wide lobbying. Saw Mill River Audubon had not submitted an issue for many years. After discussion, it was suggested that we might want to encourage this process through the Lower Hudson Audubon Council roundtable. Another roundtable meeting will be planned for Spring 2010.

Next NY Council meeting will be March 19-21, 2010 in Saratoga. Following that will be the fall meeting tentatively scheduled for November 5-7 in Ithaca. Richard said that the Pennsylvania Audubon would be invited to the Fall 2010 Conference. Nick Fischer attended the Fall 2009 Audubon NY Council sessions on fund raising and found them interesting. Anne suggested we consider the Fall Council dinner speaker, Fran Dunwell of the Hudson River Estuary Program as our 2010 Annual Dinner speaker. She will follow up to see about availability.

### **Sanctuaries Committee – Michael Madias Jr.**

- Choate Work day was cancelled due to weather. Will be re-scheduled later.
- Will also be scheduling workdays for Haas and Brinton. TBA.
- Trees for Tribs will again be scheduled for spring planting. Getting more trees from DEC.
- Good Neighbors – Our neighbors are talking to us/working with us. Woman neighbor reported poachers in Pruyn to the police.
- Found large cage with food in Brinton sanctuary – for a lost dog owner was trying to lure back.
- No additional news on Haas.

### **Newsletter – Bill Kellner**

Deadline has passed on current issue. Bill and Anne will meet Wednesday to scope out a thank you to Con Edison.

### **Bird Seed Sale – Ken Novenstern**

Saturday, January 16 is next sale date. Have lots of seed. Need volunteers to help with sale.

### **Programs and Field Trips – Joan Coffey**

- Saturday, January 9 – Croton Point Park Bird Walk (9am) with Charlie Roberto
- Saturday, February 6 – Hudson River EagleFest (All-Day at various locations)
- Saturday, February 13 – Winter Owl Prowl (9am) at Jones Beach and Pelham Bay

### **Publicity - George Shakespear**

- Article in *The Examiner*: Annual Christmas Bird Count (December 22-28,2009)
- Article in *The Examiner*: Audubon Summer Scholarships Available (December 8-14, 2009)

### **Hospitality – Jean Sparacin**

Thanks to Rik and Jean who brought refreshments tonight.

### **New Business**

- Ken Novenstern – Editorial in *NY Times* concerning Marcellus Shale. NYC Mayor Bloomberg has come out against any drilling in area because of effect on NYC water supply.  
See: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/02/opinion/02sat2.html>  
  
Believes Onondaga Audubon and Audubon NY have also come out against it.  
See: <http://www.onondagaaudubon.org/MarcShaWeb.pdf>
- Nick Fischer – Need wood? Friend in Mt Kisco has piles of unseasoned wood to give away – free. Help yourself just asking that you give a donation to charity of your choice instead. On Route 117 by Leonard Park.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Minutes were recorded by Joanne McAuley, Secretary.