

Saw Mill River Audubon Draft Board Minutes

Monday, February 1, 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; Nick Fischer, Trish Foy, Arthur Green, Phil Heidelberger, Bill Kellner, Donna Lassiter, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias Jr, Tom McEnerney, Jeanne Romeu, Richard Saravay, George Shakespear, Ponie Sheehan, and Jean Sparacin. Anne Swaim, Executive Director, was also present.

Absent: Cori Cumming, Joan Coffey, Rik Kaufman, Ken Novenster, Leen Provost, Nina Romanoff, Larry Trachtenberg.

Minutes of the January 4, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented.

President's Report - Robert McCrillis

Robert McCrillis offered brief remarks on the passing of Stan Wecker and a copy of the condolence letter from Saw Mill River Audubon to Rita Wecker was circulated. Various correspondence from other organizations was circulated. The flyer for our 2010 Annual Dinner was distributed.

Nominating Report

The current roster of board officers is willing to be nominated for election to another one-year term. We anticipate three vacancies among the board of directors in the current class of 2010 and there are three potential nominees. Christine Smith has said she is available to serve and two others are checking commitments and schedules.

Community Relations and Development - The report prepared by Barbara Campbell and Ellen Heidelberger was presented by Robert McCrillis.

Treasurer's Report - Tom McEnerney

Tom gave a brief verbal overview of income and expenses in various categories compared to this time in 2009. A written report will be offered at the March 2010 meeting.

Finance Committee - Phil Heidelberger

For our official quarterly report, 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 investment rate of return for 2009 was 26.1% compared to our Morningstar Allocation Fund Index benchmark return of 20.9% for the same period. There were \$49,000 (7.8%) in withdrawals from the endowment during 2009 and \$835 in additions to the Light Memorial Fund during 2009.

As of January 31, 2010 the portfolio balance was \$721,664 a decrease of \$22,060 (3%) for the month. This balance does not include the recently received \$20,000 gift to endow the garden. The finance committee did decide how to invest that money at its meeting last week, but that transaction has not yet been completed.

Another new member on the committee would be welcome. That person need not be a board member but should be someone with expertise or interest in the work of the committee. The meetings are held quarterly.

Executive Director's Report - Anne Swaim

Eagle Fest 2010 is Saturday, February 6. Some additional volunteers would be helpful and the sign-up sheet was circulated. Thirteen people attended the Adirondack weekend trip on January 15 – 18, 2010.

A sign-up sheet for the February 20 Bird Seed Sale was circulated. Mention was made of the need for citizen comments on the proposed NYS budget changes that would affect NYS parks including the Adirondack Visitors Center visited on our recent weekend trip. More information will be sent in email to interested board members. Two other people have registered for the March 17-22, 2010 Nebraska birding trip and one existing registrant withdrew for a final total of 16.

Sanctuary Committee - Michael Madias, Jr

Michael reviewed the sanctuary work day schedule. Nick reported the costs of the deer enclosure project at Pruyn. Nick recommends that we move ahead with poly mesh screening for the deer enclosure, using materials from Mill River Supply in Bedford, for total cost of \$1446 (less an offered 20% discount from the store.)

Newsletter - Bill Kellner

The Feb/Mar newsletter has just gone in the mail. The deadline for the next issue is March 1.

Programs and Field Trips

Saturday, February 6 – Hudson River EagleFest (All-Day at various locations)

Saturday, February 13 – Winter Owl Prowl meeting at 9am at Millwood A&P for travel to various locations

Saturday, March 13, 2pm – Public program by wildlife rehabilitator at Ossining Library

Publicity - George Shakespear

We received mention in the Journal News regarding the presence of the Yellow-headed Blackbird at Pruyn. Press releases for February and March events will be distributed.

New Business

We have awarded a \$1,000 Larry Light Youth Scholarship to Sophia West to attend an environmental monitoring program with Rustic Pathways in Fiji.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Minutes were recorded by Anne Swaim standing in for Joanne McAuley, Secretary.