

**Saw Mill River Audubon Draft Board Minutes
Monday, March 1, 2010**

Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester

Meeting called to order at 7:36 p.m. with a quorum present.

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

Absent: Cori Cumming, Trish Foy, Leen Provost.

Minutes of the February 1, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented.

President's Report - Robert McCrillis

Various correspondence from other organizations was circulated:

- . NY Birders Newsletter
- . World Wide Bird Tours (www.fieldguides.com)
- . Hudson River Foundation – Spring 2010 seminars
- . Energy Efficient Home Building Blocks Program at Ossining Public Library – March 3.
- . Family Science Day at BOCES (Yorktown Heights) – March 6 (for Grade 2 -8)
- . Audubon Council of NY meeting at Saratoga Springs, NY – March 19-21

Cori Cumming has a 1 bedroom apartment to rent. Please call Cori for more details.

Annual Dinner notice sent out and we are already getting responses. A walk through of Travelers Rest and a meeting with chef will occur on April 2 at 3 pm.

Community Relations and Development - Robert McCrillis directed the board's attention to the attached report.

Treasurer's Report - Tom McEnerney

A brief overview of income and expenses for January/February 2010 was given. Donations up and seed sales down. Not a whole lot to say about first 2 months. See attached report for details.

Finance Committee - Phil Heidelberger

As of February 28, 2010 the portfolio balance was \$757,645 which is an increase of \$13,921 (1.9%) for the year and \$35,981 (5.0%) for the month of February. There were no withdrawals from the endowment during 2010 and additions of \$20,000 (2.7%) during 2010 designated to the Garden Endowment Fund.

Executive Director's Report - Anne Swaim

Recent snow storm/blizzard in Westchester caused major damage in our sanctuaries. In Pinecliff the bridge was damaged in 3 places. We are getting estimates on labor and material costs to repair the bridge. Tom McEnerney will look at insurance policy to see if the damage is covered. We also have at least 3 trees down at Pruyne.

Anne Swaim suggested we use our Adult Scholarship (\$500) for High School student Benjamin Van Doren to attend Audubon Camp in Maine. Moved and seconded. Approved by vote of Board.

Meeting on April/May field events did not happen due to snow storm. We will meet after this meeting. There will be a Spring Birding Weekend at Cape May on May 21 – 23. Rooms have already been booked at West Cape. We will send pre-public announcement to Board members before trip is announced in next newsletter.

Bob Oddo, science teacher at Greeley HS in Chappaqua, has 2 students who want to intern with us during the period mid-April through the end of May. They will work on some sanctuary projects.

Discussions are continuing with the Town of New Castle about the Haas entrance project. In conjunction with this, Anne met with the Town Recreation Department to discuss cooperative programs we might offer with the Town.

Sanctuary Committee - Michael Madias, Jr.

Weather cancelled the work days scheduled for Graff and Haas sanctuaries. Both days will be re-scheduled. Also planned are 2 work days of planting at Brinton Brook.

Nick Fischer reported that he has recruited his 2 sons to help with the building of the deer enclosure at Pruyn. He estimated that it will take 2 days to erect, dates still to be determined. Additional volunteers will be needed. There will be 40 posts to put in and then the actual fencing to attach.

Ken Novenster mentioned that there was going to a special symposium by Westchester County about the "deer problem" on March 12.

An idea was brought up to use "Community Service" people. Questions were raised about supervision and type of projects they could be used for. It was agreed to table for later discussion.

Newsletter - Bill Kellner

The deadline for the next issue is March 1 - today. Bill will be meeting with Anne to review newsletter material.

Programs and Field Trips

Saturday, March 13, 2pm – Public program by wildlife rehabilitator at Ossining Public Library. Sally Dow handed out flyers prepared by the library.

Sunday, March 28, 6:30pm - Spring Peepers at Pinecliff Sanctuary.

Meeting to schedule/discuss future programs will be after this meeting.

Publicity - George Shakespear

Several press releases were sent out, including announcements of Con Ed grant, the \$20,000 grant for the garden at Pruyn, and scholarship. Joanne McAuley and others brought in newspaper clippings about SMRA for the office file.

Hospitality

Jean Sparacin and Cori Cumming volunteered to coordinate the Annual Picnic.

Robert thanked everyone who brought in refreshments tonight for the meeting.

New Business

None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Minutes were recorded by Joanne McAuley, Secretary.