

Saw Mill River Audubon Draft Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 13, 2010
Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. with a quorum present.

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

Absent: Rik Kaufman, Sally Dow, Valerie Lyle, Ponie Sheehan

Minutes of the June 7, 2010 board meeting were accepted as presented.

President's Report - Robert McCrillis

Mail & Correspondence:

The **Native Plant Center** - on September 24, 2010 will be holding Autumn Landscape Conference. Author and landscape designer Carolyn Summers will present "Designing Your Garden with Northeastern Flora: A Personal View." Author and horticulturist William Cullina will present "Unraveling and Re-raveling the Web of Life" outlining the effects that time, climate change and land development inflict on native plant communities and our ecosystem. Lunch included. \$65. 9:15 a.m.-2 p.m. Westchester Community College, 75 Grasslands Road. 914-606-6600.

LoHud Newspaper (July 25, 2010) – lead story on Pruyn /Butterfly Garden with photo of Anne Swain and Robert McCrillis in garden. Copy available to read in the Office.

Letter of resignation received from Jeanne Romeau. Note was sent to her thanking her for her years of service.

Annual Dinner date changed from April 3, 2011 to April 10, 2011. After discussion it was decided that Annual Dinner of 2011 will be a Pot Luck.

Please review **SMRA Committees** list and the **Board Roster** that was handed out tonight. Please let us know of any corrections.

Community Relations and Development – Robert McCrillis

Please read Membership and Fund Drive Report (9/13/10). Barbara Campbell had nothing to report at this time. Preparing detailed report for next meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Tom McEnerney

A brief overview of income and expenses through August 31, 2010 was given along with comments on various items on the hand-out – "Explanation of Unbudgeted Revenues and Expenses." Seed sales and donations are still less than hoped for. See report for details. A copy of SMRA Audited Financial Statement (12/31/09) Preliminary Draft was shared with the Board members. If you have any questions on it please see Tom. The accounting literature requires the auditors to consider the annual dinner a fundraiser. Tom agreed to discuss with the auditors whether focusing on the speaker/program aspects of the evening would result in the auditors classifying it as a program.

Finance Committee - Phil Heidelberger

For our official quarterly report, as of July 1, 2010 the portfolio balance was \$710,863, a decrease of \$32,861 (-4.4%) for the year. The portfolio balance decreased \$83,631 during the second quarter. The year-to-date and one year investment rates of return were -3.6% and 15.0%, respectively, compared to our Morningstar Allocation Fund Index benchmark returns of -2.7% and 11.2% for the same period.

There were \$26,000 in withdrawals from the endowment and no additions to the endowment during the second quarter.

As of September 1, 2010 the portfolio balance was \$720,843, a 3.1% decrease for the year. There have been \$20,000 in additions to and \$34,000 in withdrawals from the endowment during the year.

Executive Director's Report - Anne Swaim

2011 Costa Rica Trip : March 20 – 27, 2011 with optional 3-day extension (March 27-30). Fourteen people have booked for the main trip so far. The maximum is 16 and we do expect to fill the trip. Trip announced in Newsletter and on our website.

2010-2011 Field Trip Chair announced: Christine Smith is the new chairperson. She thanked everyone for their suggestions/ideas with the announced Field Trips for the upcoming year. The calendar went out on the web and was part of the Fall 2010 Newsletter.

Deer Hunting Pilot Program : Several Board members (Anne, Ponie, Michael and Nina) attended the September 7, 2010 Croton-on-Hudson Village Board meeting where the proposed law allowing regulated bowhunting was discussed in a public hearing. From all accounts it was a lively discussion with one third in support, one third in opposition and one third recognizing the deer impact but having concerns with bowhunting safety. The Village Board voted to close the public hearing and the law is on the agenda for passage at their September 20 meeting. If approved, SMRA will allow regulated bowhunting under the Village Program at Brinton Brook and Graff during the months of November and December from 4 am – 11 am. Signs to be posted; neighbors and trailwalkers to be notified in writing. Tom has already had a discussion with our insurance provider who considers allowed bowhunting on our sanctuaries to be within our existing coverage. Tom and Anne will work together to send the program details to our insurance carrier once the regulations are finalized in the Village of Croton.

"Coyotes in Suburbia": Conservation Café event, **Friday, September 24, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (8 - 8:30 a.m. registration)** in the Kessel Student Center at **Pace University's Pleasantville campus**. Find out what local researchers are discovering about coyotes' migration patterns and behaviors. Property managers, planners, naturalists, environmentalists, students and the public are invited. Free program.

Community Day Outreach : September 25 at New Castle (9:30am – 4pm) and November 19 at Tarrytown (Friday night – time TBA). Anne will send a post-meeting email to gauge interest in staffing these events. Unless we have full coverage for the Town of New Castle Community Day, we will pass on staffing a table there this year. There was expressed interest in staffing the Tarrytown Third Friday event.

Sanctuary Committee - Michael Madias, Jr.

Sanctuaries Committee meeting will be Monday, November 1 at 7pm at Community Bible Church.

Brinton – October 23, 2010 – Trees for Tribes. We will promote this through our email list. We plan to schedule other sanctuary work days this fall and winter.

Pruyn - Garden Report by Donna Lassiter. We are making progress in the garden renovation and plan to do over "rock garden" corner of garden next. Anyone interested can join the group.

Newsletter - Bill Kellner

The deadline for the next issue is November 1. Jean Sparacin is our new mailing editor and was thanked for her work.

Bird Seed Sales – Ken Novenster

Sheet circulated for volunteers for annual **Seed Sale** scheduled for **Saturday, October 16 (9am to 2pm)** and **Sunday, October 17 (9am to 2pm)**. Information and order sheet was sent as insert in newsletter and was also sent to non-member seed customers and neighbors and posted on our website. Discussion followed as to how to get the word out and what we should emphasize in our sales literature. Need new angle to attract more buyers.

Seed from last year is still available at reduced prices (\$10 per paper bag) – speak to Ellen in office. With new seed coming in October we must clear shed of current seed in paper bags.

Programs and Field Trips – Christine Smith

Attended Sunday, September 12 **picnic of Hudson River Audubon Society** of Yonkers which invited all Westchester chapters to come. Held at Ward Pound Ridge. Nice small group attended.

October 8 - October 11 Trip to Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Trip is full with 15 people going.

Hawk Mountain Trip – September 18, 2010.

Pinecliff Sanctuary - September 26, “Wildlife Tracks & Traces” with the Town of New Castle

Long Island Sound Birding – date changed to October 3, 8:00 am

Second Saturdays – next date is October 9. See blogs on the September 11 walks at Brinton Brook and Pruyn.

Fall Colors at Lasdon Arboretum – date changed to Friday, October 15.

Discussed having another “**Walk on Turkey Mountain**” – day after Thanksgiving (November 26).

Hudson River Ramble 2010 – 11th Annual Ramble. Weekends of September 11-12, 18-19 and 25-26.

For more information go to: <http://www.hudsonrivervalleyramble.com/home.aspx>. Christine said we will try to get one or more SMRA events listed in this calendar of events next year.

Publicity – George Shakespear

We sent out press releases on our events.

Hospitality – Jean Sparacin

Robert thanked those who brought refreshments tonight. Please let Committee know if you can bring refreshments to any meeting.

New Business

Handed out: Pocket Naturalist Guide to Eastern Backyard Birds to all board members who have not yet received one.

Handed out: SMRA 2010 – 2011 Classroom Programs and Field Trips brochure being sent to area schools.

Audubon Council of NYS Fall 2010 Meeting Nov 5-7 at Ithaca. Anne and Richard both plan to attend.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Minutes were recorded by Joanne McAuley, Secretary.