

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

Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding, Bill Kellner, Michael Madias, Jr., Valerie Lyle, Jean Sparacin, Donna Lassiter, Tom McEnerney, Rik Kaufman, Christine Smith, Phil Heidelberger, George Shakespear, Nina Romanoff, Larry Trachtenberg, Ken Novenster. Anne Swaim was also present.

Quorum present at 7:30 p.m. Minutes from the September board meeting were accepted as presented.

President's Report. Web casts from National Audubon regarding Gulf Oil Spill announced. A draft concept for our spring program was circulated. Open to all. The following text was suggested: "Suggested donation \$10 to support the local conservation work of Saw Mill River Audubon." Committees will meet in November to prepare for the 2011 budget. Robert also mentioned the passing of Rita Wecker this past week.

Community Relations and Development was reviewed by Robert.

Treasurer's Report. Donation and seed sale income are both low compared to last year at this time. Revenues overall are down about \$3000 from expectations and would be even lower but for the ConEd grant received earlier this year. Some expenses are over budget because of March 2010 storm damage, however, expenses overall are about \$2000 less than expected. Tom reviewed the unemployment claim from Melissa Garcia being charged against SMRA as her last employer when she filed the claim. Tom is contesting this claim.

Finance Committee. Phil reported that, as of October 1, 2010, the portfolio balance was \$767,298, an increase of 6.4% (\$46,455) for the month of September and an increase of 3.2% (\$23,574) for the year. There have been \$20,000 in additions to and \$40,000 in withdrawals from the endowment during the year.

Executive Director's Report. Anne Swaim reported on the status of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson bowhunting pilot project which appears to be stalled this fall. One proposal is to allow the Westchester Bowhunting Association to hunt in the Town of Cortlandt portion of Brinton Brook Sanctuary. Discussion followed. Michael Madias, Jr. offered a motion and Ken Novenster seconded to allow Westchester Bowhunting Association to hunt in Brinton Brook Sanctuary during December if the Village of Croton-on-Hudson pilot program is not approved this fall. The vote for this proposal was 11 for and 3 opposed. The details on notification and safety issues will be circulated via email.

Sanctuary Committee. Saturday October 30, 9am, Brinton Brook Sanctuary invasive removal. Saturday, October 23, 9am, Graff Briggs Lane entrance "Trees for Tribs" planting. Monday, November 1, 7pm Sanctuary Committee meeting at Community Bible Church.

Newsletter. Deadline is November 1st. Jean Sparacin reported that she filed the "Statement of Ownership" for SMRA for the newsletter. Jean suggested, on behalf of Sophie, that we send a letter of thanks to the Chappaqua Post Office for their assistance over the year.

Seed Sale. The volunteer sign up is looking good for the weekend sale. Volunteers were found for the follow-up calls to past year customers who have not yet ordered: Christine, Nina, Rik, Jean, Bill and Ken. Michael will help with the delivery to the shed on Monday, October 11.

Programs & Field Trips. Ithaca trip is booked with 14 people signed up for long Columbus Day weekend. Second Saturday walks at both Brinton Brook and Pruyne this Saturday. Marshlands field trip on Saturday, October 30, 8am, to be led by Charlie Roberto. Need for more program ideas with possibility of different people suggesting and following through on individual programs that they suggest.

Publicity. George reported that releases for the early fall have been picked up by local media and another round of mid-fall releases will be done in the coming weeks.

Hospitality. Jean thanked Sally Dow and Joan Coffey for the refreshments they left for the meeting even though they were unable to attend.

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Anne Swaim in substitution for Recording Secretary, Joanne McAuley, who was unable to attend this meeting.