

**Saw Mill River Audubon Board Meeting  
Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester  
Minutes for February 7, 2011**

**Present:** Robert McCrillis, presiding, Sally Dow, Nick Fischer, William Kellner, Michael Madias, Jr., Valerie Lyle, Jean Sparacin, Donna Lassiter, Nina Romanoff, George Shakespear, Ponie Sheehan, Christine Smith, Richard Saravay, Joanne McAuley, Tom McEnerney, Rik Kaufman, Ken Novenstern, Larry Trachtenberg. Anne Swaim was also present.

**Minutes from the January 3, 2011 board meeting** were approved.

**President's Report - Robert McCrillis.** Robert welcomed 2 Board candidates to the meeting: Christopher Drury and Donna Lee Ubertalli. Third candidate, Michael Lolya, was unable to attend tonight but will come in March. Two pieces of mail were circulated: (1) regarding Hudson River Foundation seminars and (2) flyer on April 9, 2011 Chappaqua Green Fair. An email will be sent for volunteers if we decide to participate.

Robert asked for volunteers to serve on the Annual Dinner Committee – first meeting to be held Friday, February 11 at Pruyn. Jean, Nina, Joanne volunteered and Bill will ask his wife, Joan, if she also wants to participate this year.

**Community Relations and Development -** The annual report prepared by Barbara Campbell was attached to e-mail sent with January's minutes. Robert commended Barbara for an excellent report design this year. Development and Membership and Fund Drive report for February 2011 was handed out. Chapter membership is up.

**Treasurer's Report - Tom McEnerney.** No report printed since there is only one month of information to compare with Annual budget. Made \$3,300 at Seed Sale. Received \$770 grant from National Audubon for signage at Pruyn. Unemployment Insurance bill reduced to \$748 for former teacher. Received notice from IRS that we owe \$1,880 for late filing. Tom believes this is due to mistake made by Auditors. They are reviewing. If their mistake – they will have to pay IRS not SMRA.

**Finance Committee Report - Phil Heidelberger.** For our official quarterly report, as of January 1, 2011 the portfolio balance was \$797,113, an increase of \$53,389 (+7.2%) for the year. The portfolio balance increased \$29,815 during the third quarter. There were \$20,000 in additions to and \$71,900 in withdrawals from the endowment during 2010. The one year and three year investment rates of return were 14.3% and -1.0%, respectively, compared to our Morningstar Allocation Fund Index benchmark returns of 9.0% and 2.6% for the same period. As of February 1, 2011 the portfolio balance was \$805,907, a 1.1% increase for the year.

**Executive Director's Report - Anne Swaim.** Anne proposed we support the NYS Young Birders Club, a 2- year-old organization which encourages children ages 10 – 19. Club activities include field trips, annual meetings, and other events. In addition, youth members communicate via website, a private mailing list, and an online discussion group. More information: <http://www.nysyoungbirders.org/> Cost to become NYSYBC Partner Club/Organization is \$100. A motion was offered and seconded and then approved for SMRA to support this group in 2011.

Lower Hudson Round Table is planned for Saturday, February 26 at same location as our board meetings, at a time to be announced. This includes the 5 Westchester Audubon chapters along with Orange, Putnam and Rockland chapters. More information to follow.

Anne thanked Patricia Loquet and Jean Sparacin for their willingness to be listed on the Nominating Committee. The current roster of board officers is willing to be nominated for election to another one-year term as are all directors in the current class of 2011.

Northeast Hawk Migration Conference will be held on April 2, 2011 in Holyoke, Mass. Nina Romanoff volunteered to file our request with the Village of Croton to use Senasqua Park for picnic this June 6. Anne has information on free teleconferencing for non-profits. See her if you need such information.

SMRA has received paperwork confirming that we will receive the full \$100,000 of Rita Wecker's estate that she intended for us. Robert signed the paperwork at the meeting with Ken as notary.

**Sanctuaries Committee - Michael Madias.** No one showed up for the scheduled January workday due to weather. Next scheduled workday is Sunday, February 27 at Graff. Meet 9am on Briggs Lane. Robert/Donna spoke about Pruyn Butterfly Garden. Plants ordered for Garden for spring planting. Donna has power-point of planting plan. If anyone is interested in seeing this, ask Donna.

**Newsletter - Bill Kellner.** Thanked Larry for his e-mail about Kyle's winning photo. Also thanked Jean and Joan for sending out Newsletter last Monday. March 3 is deadline for next issue covering April/May/June.

**Bird Seed Sale - Ken Novenstern.** January seed sale netted over \$1,500 in sales. Seems to be correlation to super cold weather and seed sales. The colder it gets, the more the birds eat bird seed and the more seed we sell. We will remind people of the monthly Saturday sale date in our member email list. Sign-up sheet sent around for volunteers for Saturday, February 19.

**Programs and Field Trips - Christine Smith.** Good turnouts for the Montauk Point and Owl Prowl trips. Second Saturday walks continue on February 12 at Brinton and Pruyn. Greenwich Point Park trip scheduled for Monday, February 21. Costa Rica trip is 6 weeks away. Looking into a trip to Delmarva for a 3-day weekend for April.

**Publicity - George Shakespear.** Continues to have our events connected to various blogs and online calendars.

**Hospitality.** Robert thanked Rik, Nina, Jean and Ponie for bringing refreshments.

**New Business.** The issue of hydrofracking for natural gas was briefly discussed. The movie "Gasland" will be shown again soon in Yorktown and information on the showing will be circulated to the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Minutes taken by Joanne McAuley.