

**Saw Mill River Audubon Board Meeting  
Held at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester  
Minutes for May 2, 2011**

**Present:** Robert McCrillis, presiding, Joan Coffey, Christopher Drury, Philip Heidelberger, Nick Fischer, William Kellner, Donna Lassiter, Michael Lolya, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias, Jr., Joanne McAuley, Tom McEnerney, Ken Novenster, Nina Romanoff, Richard Saravay, Christine Smith, Jean Sparacin, Donna Lee Ubertalli and, by invitation, Anne Swaim.

**Minutes from** the March 7, 2011 board meeting and the April 10, 2011 Annual Meeting were approved.

**President's Report - Robert McCrillis**

Robert welcomed our new Board members: Christopher Drury, Michael Lolya and Donna Lee Ubertalli. Member handbooks were given to each.

Two pieces of mail were circulated: (1) Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Newsletter and (2) the Westchester Land Trust bulletin.

Annual Dinner. 64 people attended the Annual Dinner. We made a profit of \$184. Robert thought all presenters were outstanding.

All Board members were asked to review the Roster and Committee lists and let the office know if anything is incorrect.

Robert spoke briefly on the upcoming Fall Board retreat. We have not had one in a few years.

**Community Relations and Development**

A copy of Barbara Campbell's Development Report and Membership and Fund Drive Report was handed out to all Board members. Please read reports for information on pending grants and the upcoming Annual Appeal fundraising drive. "PSing Party" is scheduled for next Monday night, May 9, from 6 – 9pm. Letters have gone out to Board members. Happy note: membership is at an historic high.

**Treasurer's Report - Tom McEnerney.**

Tom reviewed the Operating Revenues and Expenses Report dated April 30, 2011 (see handout). Heating and snow plowing bills have put Pruyn house expenses over budget. Otherwise, expenses and revenues are close to budget.

**Finance Committee Report - Phil Heidelberger.**

For our official quarterly report, as of April 1, 2011 the portfolio balance was \$825,720, an increase of 28,607 (+3.6%) for the year. There were \$11,000 in withdrawals from and no additions to the endowment during the first quarter. The year-to-date, one year and three year investment rates of return were 5.1%, 15.2% and 3.2%, respectively, compared to our Morningstar Allocation Fund Index benchmark returns of 3.0%, 9.3% and 2.0% for the same period.

As of May 1, 2011 the portfolio balance was \$950,868, a 19.3% increase for the year. The \$100,000 Wecker bequest was received in April accounting for most of the \$125,148 increase between April 1st and May 1st. There have been \$11,000 in withdrawals so far during this year.

Control of Funds update: Phil thanked Valerie, Tom and George for their work on this. Control of Funds procedure was last changed/reviewed in 2001. A discussion on proposed COF procedure followed with the proposed changes accepted by the Board. See attached for new guidelines.

**Advocacy – Richard Saravay**

Today, May 2, is the 21st annual Earth Day Lobby Day in Albany. Ponie Sheehan went to Lobby Day. This year's Earth Day Lobby Day focused on critically important environmental issues such as expanding solar energy, curbing greenhouse gas emissions, regulating water withdrawals, protecting watersheds from the dangers of hydrofracking, and making communities more pedestrian-friendly.

Anne received/responded to 3 NY Audubon Alerts: (1) Land and Water Conservation Fund  
(2) Funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants  
(3) Water Management Bill in Albany

**Executive Director's Report - Anne Swaim**

At the April 2 Lower Hudson Roundtable we discussed how to involve all area Audubon Chapters in increasing Latino outreach. The program "Neighbors of the Earth" / "Vecinos de los Terras" will be run through NY Audubon's TogetherGreen Innovation Grants Program. A planning grant was proposed with notification in August.

Con Edison Grant: Would like to apply again but need another project – something in \$6,000 – \$10,000 range. It was suggested that we use Con Ed grant for Pruyn House financial feasibility study but this may not be a match for this grant program.

Pruyn House: Next step is a capital fundraising campaign at a cost of \$30,000 - \$70,000. A meeting of the Pruyn House Vision Committee will be scheduled soon. Current committee members include: Robert, Richard, Bill Kellner, Nick Fischer, and Anne Swaim. Future plans to be discussed at next meeting of the Board.

A forestry management plan for Choate was begun by Ted Kozlowski. We would like to do plans for Graff and Brinton Brook. Ted is preparing a cost estimate for this. Since these two sanctuaries are outside the NYC watershed area we would need different funding for them.

Sunday August 7 will be River Day at Van Cortlandt Manor. We will have a table. Volunteers will be needed from 10am – 5pm.

Anne thanked those who helped at Croton-On-Hudson's Earth Day (Saturday, April 30) at Senasqua Park.

**Sanctuaries Committee - Michael Madias**

March 17 was a workday at Brinton meadow.

Michael thanked Nina and her husband for donation of a spice bush on April 16 for Brinton.

The DEC brochure for native trees and shrubs was circulated.

May 8 – will go to Brinton meadow to plant. Not mowed as yet but will be done shortly.

May 21 – Work is needed on the Laurel Rock Trail in Brinton due to continuing golf course erosion.

May 14 – Second Saturday Walk at Brinton and Pruyn.

**Newsletter - Bill Kellner**

Deadline for next issue is this week – May 6. Bill thanked Christine for DeIMarVa photos and write-up.

**Bird Seed Sale - Ken Novenster**

There are a few 50 lb bags of black oil sunflower seed remaining. At the final Saturday sale in April we took in \$650. Ken thanked everyone who helped on Saturday. Let Ken know of any special requests for seed for next sales cycle.

**Programs and Field Trips - Christine Smith**

DelMarVa trip (April 14-17) was successful. Had 10 participants. Would repeat.

Spring Migration began two weeks ago – birds early this year. Programs planned are:

May 7: Doodletown at 6am.

May 12: Central Park – with Charlie Roberto. Be at Millwood at 6am or at Central Park West and 77th Street at 7am.

May 13 – 14: World Series of Birding (Christine and Charlie Roberto are going.)

May 18: Anglefly Preserve (Somers) at 6am. Rik Kaufman will lead

May 19: Rockefeller State Park at 7:30am. Led by Richard Nelson of RSPP

May 21: Sterling Forest at 6am from Millwood.

May 29: Shawangunk Grassland NWR at 6am from Millwood.

New programs – any ideas are welcomed. Charlie Roberto has offered to do a bugs/butterfly program.

**Publicity - George Shakespear**

No report given – George absent.

**Hospitality -**

Robert thanked everyone who brought refreshments tonight.

**New Business -**

Butterfly garden work day tomorrow (Tuesday) and all future Tuesdays through the Spring/Summer. All invited to come and work.

Next meeting is annual picnic. Remember to RSVP to Nina.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. Minutes taken by Joanne McAuley.