

**Saw Mill River Audubon Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 7, 2011 – Annual Picnic**  
**Held at Senasqua Park, Croton-on-Hudson, NY**

**Present:** Robert McCrillis, presiding, Joan Coffey, Sally Dow, Nick Fischer, Phil Heidelberger, William Kellner, Donna Lassiter, Michael Lolya, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias, Jr., Joanne McAuley, Tom McEnerney, Ken Novenster, Nina Romanoff, Richard Saravay, George Shakespear, Ponie Sheehan, Christine Smith, Donna Lee Ubertalli and, by invitation, Anne Swaim.

Absent: Christopher Drury, Rik Kaufman, Jean Sparacin, Larry Trachtenberg

Minutes from the May 2, 2011 board meeting were approved.

**President's Report – Robert McCrillis**

Pieces of mail were circulated: (1) NYS Audubon Annual Report 2010 which is available at the Office and (2) notice of State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's hosting of a discussion on Energy Consumption and Meeting the Demand, Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm at the Croton Harmon High School Auditorium, 36 Old Post Road South, Croton-on-Hudson.

Updated copies of the Board Roster and SMRA Board and Committees List were distributed for insertion into Board handbooks.

Election of Executive Committee for Summer 2011- Robert McCrillis, William Kellner, Thomas McEnerney, Joanne McAuley. Moved, voted and approved.

**Community Relations and Development – Robert McCrillis**

Please read June Report prepared by Barbara Campbell and Ellen Heidelberger. Report shows membership is up and donations from the Annual Appeal are at \$12,200 (YTD).

**Treasurer's Report – Tom McEnerney**

The Board (i) approved the addition of Bill Kellner as a signatory on SMRA's checking account, (ii) approved the addition of Phil Heidelberger, George Shakespear and Valerie Lyle as authorized persons on SMRA's investment accounts at Vanguard, Fidelity and T. Rowe Price (the "Brokers"), (iii) adopted the resolutions provided by the Brokers, copies of which were available at this meeting, to implement the foregoing, and (iv) authorized the officers and directors of SMRA to execute any documents as may be necessary or appropriate in connection with the foregoing.

Expenses and revenues are in line with budget projections.

**Finance Committee Report – Phil Heidelberger**

As of June 1, 2011 the portfolio balance was \$937,800, a 1.4% decrease for the month of May and a 17.6% increase for the year. There have been \$100,000 in additions to and \$16,000 in withdrawals from the investment portfolio during the year.

**Advocacy – Richard Saravay**

Richard handed out copies of his Advocacy report, which is attached. The report briefly outlines the key Federal and NY State legislative priorities of Audubon New York. The report also has a few items of interest on National Audubon. He also spoke briefly about "bird safe glass." Copies of Richard's report can be obtained through the office.

Audubon NY Fall Conference will be held the weekend of October 21 at Alexander Bay in the 1,000 islands.

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

Forestry Plan for Choate was completed. Would like to do the same for Brinton and Graff, especially looking at deer damage. Cost for such a plan would be between \$3,000 - \$4,000. Currently exploring sources for grants that would cover the cost, i.e., the Girl Scouts, Norcross, etc. Ann will e-mail copy of Forestry Plan to those interested.

We are installing a gate in the deer enclosure at Pruyn.

Ann asked for volunteers for River Day – Sunday, August 7, 2011 from 12noon to 5pm at Van Cortlandt Manor. Need volunteers to cover 3 shifts (11-1pm, 1-3pm and 3-5pm). A sign-up sheet will be passed around.

Tentative donation by Birchwood Swim Club of 30 acres of wetlands adjacent to Pruyn. Too late this year for property tax change through Village – probably happen in 2012.

Tentative potential source of income suggested by Ken Novenster – cell tower site at Choate. If sited on property one can earn \$1,000 - \$2,000 a month. Our next step in obtaining more information is to have someone from the company talk to us about this. More to follow.

Audubon New York sent us a proxy ballot. We will vote for Chair (Richard Saravay) and Vice Chair (???) and the following three candidates for directors: John Hannan, Craig Thompson and Bill Ostrander.

We continue to respond to Environmental Action Alerts from Audubon NY and National Audubon when they come in. If you are interested in getting this on your own computer please sign-up with each group through their website.

NYS Ornithological Association will have their annual meeting in Dutchess County on September 23 – 25. See their newsletter for more details.

**Sanctuaries Committee – Michael Madias**

Committee meeting will be held June 21 to set up work days for rest of year.

**Newsletter – Bill Kellner**

August 1 is the deadline for the Fall Newsletter.

**Bird Seed Sale – Ken Novenster**

The Bird Seed Sale is scheduled for October 1 and 2. Volunteers will be needed. This year we sold everything except for 6 x 50 lb bags of black oil sunflower seed. If interested in this please see Ellen at the office. Ken's only concern is that he is getting new prices for seed lists every month – prices keep going up.

**Programs and Field Trips - Christine Smith**

Program Committee to meet next week. Would like to participate in the Hudson River Valley Ramble in September. Charlie Roberto will lead a butterfly walk at Teatown co-sponsored by SMRA at 10 am on June 11.

**Publicity - George Shakespear**

We will do one more news release for the summer then will wait until September to do releases again on our programs.

**Hospitality -**

Robert thanked Nina, Joan, Jeanne and Rudy for all their work on the Picnic.

**New Business -**

None.

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

Dates of 2011-12 Board Meetings are: September 12, October 3, November – committees meet, December 5, January 9, February 6, March 5, April 2 (Annual Dinner), May 7, and June 4 (Picnic).