

Saw Mill River Audubon Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 3, 2011
Held at Croton Point Park Nature Center, Croton-on-Hudson, NY

Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding. Sally Dow, Chris Drury, Phil Heidelberger, Richard Kaufman, William Kellner, Donna Lassiter, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias, Jr., Christine McCluskey, Ken Novenster, Nina Romanoff, Richard Saravay, Ponie Sheehan, Jean Sparacin, Larry Trachtenberg, Donna Lee Ubertalli. Anne Swaim was also present.

Minutes from the September 12 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

President's Report | Development: Robert reviewed plans for the board retreat on Saturday, October 22, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Maryknoll and circulated a sign-up sheet for discussion group choices. The development report was also reviewed.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Tom McEnerney, there was no treasurer's report for this month.

Finance Committee: Phil Heidelberger reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. As of October 1, 2011 the portfolio balance was \$798,790, a 7.4% decrease for the month of September and a 0.2% increase for the year. The balance decreased 13.6% during the third quarter during which time the S&P 500 decreased 14%. There were \$100,000 in additions to and \$28,100 in withdrawals from the endowment during the year.

Executive Director's Report: Anne gave an update on the proposed April 2012 birding trip to Texas and distributed the detailed itinerary to the board. The trip is being offered first to the board and then to the general public. A donation of \$100/person for Saw Mill River Audubon is built into the trip price.

Advocacy: Anne reported that SMRA signed onto a letter from Audubon NY regarding invasive species control. Directions on how to subscribe to Audubon National and Audubon NY action alerts will be included in the next email notice sent out from SMRA to encourage more participation and these links will also be sent out to the board and published in the next newsletter.

Sanctuaries Committee: Michael Madias reported that the following work days are scheduled: Saturday, October 29, 9am meeting at the main entrance of Blue Mountain Reservation to gather fallen acorns for replanting in our sanctuaries; Sunday, October 30, 9am meeting at main entrance of Brinton Brook to add native plants to the meadow; and Saturday, November 5, 9am meeting at the Briggs Lane entrance of Graff Sanctuary for removal of invasive species. The sanctuary committee meeting will be Monday, November 7, 7pm at the Croton Point Nature Center to plan the budget for 2012 and review sanctuary work. Donna Lassiter reported on information received at the invasive species workshop offered by Cornell Extension, also attended by Chris Drury. Bill Kellner reviewed information he received at the Deer Management Field Day sponsored by the NY Department of Environmental Conservation. Donna Lassiter was thanked for her extra efforts in the garden this season.

Newsletter: Bill Kellner reported that the next newsletter deadline is November 1, 2011.

Bird Seed Sale: Ken said that plans are in place for our annual bird seed sale weekend on Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16. A few more volunteers are needed especially for Saturday afternoon.

Publicity: Donna Lee Ubertalli reported that she and George Shakespear are working on a communication plan for SMRA including encouraging new media use by asking our members where they connect online.

Programs and Field Trips: Christine reported on past fields trips. The Block Island Weekend was very well received and should be repeated next year. There will be a meeting to plan programs and field trips for January through August on Monday, November 14, 7pm at the Ossining Library.

Hospitality: Those who brought refreshments were thanked.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Minutes taken by Anne Swaim in Joanne McAuley's absence.