

Saw Mill River Audubon Board Meeting Minutes
Annual Picnic, Monday, June 11, 2012 (rescheduled from 6/4/12 due to rain) Held
at the Senasqua Park, Croton-on-Hudson, NY

Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding, William Kellner, Richard Saravay, Donna Lee Ubertalli, secretary, Tom McEnerney, Joan Coffey, Sally Dow, Nick Fischer, Philip Heidelberger, Shirl Kaplan, Brian Kluepfel, Donna Lassiter, Michael Loyola, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias, Jr., Joanne McAuley, Christine McCluskey, Ken Novenster, Nina Romanoff, Ponie Sheehan, Jean Sparacin, Larry Trachtenberg. Anne Swaim was present as Executive Director. Other staff present were Ellen Heidelberger and Danny Ferguson.

A quorum was present and the meeting began.

Minutes from the May 7 Board Meeting were approved.

President's Report/Mail and Correspondence: Robert welcomed the board members, guests and special friends to the Annual Picnic.

There will be a committee meeting to begin planning the 60th anniversary of SMRA at Robert McCrillis' house on June 18th at 7:00pm.

Community Relations and Development: See the distributed report

Finance Committee Philip Heidelberger reported that the portfolio balance as of June 1, 2012 was \$825,925, a decrease of 1.2% year-to-date, and a decrease of 7% during the month of May. There have been \$25,000 in withdrawals year-to-date, including a \$10,000 withdrawal in May.

Treasurer's Report Tom McEnerney briefly reviewed the financial results for the first 5 months of the year. Overall results were about \$3,000 less than budget expectations due primarily to lower seed sale revenue and, to a lesser extent, slightly lower annual fund revenues. Copies of the report were distributed.

Executive Director's Report (Anne Swain) Anne thanked volunteer Rudy Fasciani for protecting and improving wildlife. She presented him with a copy of "Sibley's Field Guide to Birds" in appreciation for all that he does on behalf of SMRA.

"Birds Mean Business" cards produced by National Audubon and Together Green were distributed. These can be filled out on the back with SMRA information and given to local businesses patronized during birding trips to demonstrate the value of ecotourism.

Several sign-on letters were passed around and the following items were shared:

- National Audubon is hosting a webinar "Drilling in the Arctic" on June 18
 - NY State Audubon Strategic Plan, "A Roadmap for Hemispheric Conservation"
- A copy will be available in the office for anyone who is interested

- The NY and NJ Audubon chapters are hosting a meeting on the Flyway Initiative, November 4,5 and 6 in northern NJ
- A hard copy of the Board Roster was passed out and was also shared digitally as an attachment on the June board meeting announcement email.

NY State is soliciting ideas to replace the heart in "I (heart/love) NY" with icons representative of NY. Ponie Sheehan will draw something to represent Audubon.

We were approached about a possible donation of 14 additional acres near the Graff Sanctuary. This would provide new access to the Sanctuary and to the Hudson River. There will be more news to share at the next meeting in September.

Sanctuaries Committee Michael Madias reported on the success of recent work days. SMRA is the beneficiary of native plants donated from Donna Lassiter's garden which will be planted in Brinton Brook Sanctuary. There will be a planning committee meeting in late June. Michael noted that he is trying to secure permission from ConEd to walk under power lines so that Second Saturday walkers can enjoy the summer wildflowers.

Program and Field Trips Christine McCluskey reported on the early morning bird walk series in May which included abundant warbler sightings. The Sterling Forest walk located a Mississippi Kite exhibiting nesting behavior which has since drawn many birders to view the first nesting pair in Orange County.

A program by the authors of Walkable Westchester will be held on June 20th at 7:30pm in the Ossining Library. There will be books at the program for signing. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Christine reported that work is underway on new programs including some with new themes such as: cocktails and moths on an August evening.

The Putnam County Breeding Bird Survey is taking place in June through July 1st and will be led by Charlie Roberto and Rik Kaufman. If you have a few hours to participate in the survey, please contact Christine, Larry or Charlie.

Newsletter Bill Kellner said newsletters should be in hand by the end of next week.

Bird Seed Sale Ken Novenster said that fall planning will begin soon and he hopes that prices will be lower. The new price list will be available in July. Fall dates for the sale are still to be determined.

Anne thanked Joan Coffey, Jean Sparacin and Sally Dow for organizing the picnic.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.
Minutes taken by Donna Lee Ubertalli, Secretary