

Saw Mill River Audubon Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 7, 2013
Held at Northern Westchester Community Church, Ossining

Present: Robert McCrillis, presiding, William Kellner, Donna Lee Ubertalli, secretary, Tom McEnerney, Ken Novenster, Joan Coffey, Nick Fischer, Philip Heidelberger, Christopher Drury, Rik Kaufman, Donna Lassiter, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias, Jr., Joanne McAuley, Christine McCluskey, Nina Romanoff, Jean Sparacin, Larry Trachtenberg. Anne Swaim was present as Executive Director.

A quorum was present and the meeting began.

Minutes from the December 3, 2102 Board Meeting were approved with the following correction: Ponie Sheehan is redesigning the front banner page of the newsletter.

President's Report/Mail and Correspondence (Robert McCrillis):

- Fund Drive Packets were distributed. Robert reminded the group that the PS Party is scheduled for February 11 from 6-9pm at the Church.
- The Audubon (national) Annual Report was passed around.
- The annual Potluck has been changed to Saturday, April 13

60th Anniversary Update

- The event "Raptors Uncorked: will likely be held at a lodge at Croton Point Park. Anne and Robert visited the lodge and liked it very much. The Park Superintendent has offered to waive the \$250 fee. The planning committee recommended that the event be a wine & cheese event for adults. Further board discussion recommended that it be held in the late afternoon, 5pm to 7pm. The Board agreed to both of these ideas.
- The Hudson River cruise is now booked for Monday, October 14 on the "River Rose" out of Cold Spring. The goal is to sell 100 tickets with a maximum of 125/150 participants and a minimum of 83. Tickets will be priced at \$50. Board members will be asked to provide hors d'oeuvres. Bedford Audubon is interested in co-promoting.
- The anniversary stationary has been ordered. Program cards will be available for EagleFest.
- The newsletter should be fully updated for April/May issue with a front page update for the Feb/Mar issue.

Nominating Committee (Anne Swaim)

There is one Board vacancy. Nominations were requested. The Wyllys were suggested as possible board candidate.

Community Relations and Development (Robert McCrillis):

The Donation and Membership Report was distributed. Chapter member donations have increased while overall membership is down.

Finance Committee (Philip Heidelberger)

The balance as of January 1, 2013 was \$870,932 an increase of \$35,091 (4.2%) for 2012. There were \$63,043 in withdrawals from the endowment during 2012. There were \$600 in additions to the Larry Light Scholarship Fund during 2012.

Treasurer's Report (Tom McEnergy)

Copies of the financial results for 2012 were distributed. Tom noted that revenues for 2012 were about \$6,000 below budget, primarily due to lower than expected seed sale revenues. Expenses for the year were about \$5,000 less than expectations. That resulted in net expenses for 2012 exceeding budget by about \$700.

Audit Committee

George Shakespeare was appointed to the Audit Committee.

Executive Director's Report (Anne Swain)

- EagleFest Volunteers are needed (Feb 9). A sign up sheet was passed around.
- SMRA will be at 3 different locations. The boat ramp near the Croton-Harmon train station, George's Island in Montrose and inside Croton Point Park.
- SMRA will lead 3 bird walks inside the park and Anne will present Raptors for Rookies. The snow date is 2/10.
- Animal Ambassadors Volunteers needed (Jan 10). 90 People have signed up for this public program co-sponsored by the Ossining Village Parks & Recreation Department to be held at the Ossining Community Center.
- This Saturday is Charlie's Eagle Walk at the Croton Boat Ramp at 9 am followed by a Soup Lunch at Croton Point Park Nature Center. Volunteers are needed to provide soup.
- Second Saturday at Brinton Brook is also this Saturday as is the ongoing FeederWatch at the Croton Park Nature Center.
- Our youth scholarship for 2013 is still available.

Advocacy (Anne Swain)

NY Conservation Policy Resolutions were emailed to the Board. They include a revised resolution about Marcellus Shale fracking. The question was asked whether, as a Chapter Board, we would want to vote (up or down). It was moved to add our name to the list of approving organizations. The motion was carried.

Croton Point Habitat Management Update

- Anne reported on the positive progress of the negotiations. A subset of the larger group will be meeting again with officials from the county Parks department and from the county Dept. of Environmental Facilities (which has oversight of the landfill management.). Croton Point Park has the great potential of being an important Grasslands IBA. Chris Drury led the Board in offering thanks to Anne for her leadership.
- Anne will be leading Monday morning birding walks with rotating locations at Muscoot, Tarrytown Lakes, Rockefeller State Park and Croton Point Park.

Sanctuaries Committee (Michael Madias)**Boundaries Survey Update**

Pruyn boundaries have been partially reviewed. Some minor fixes were noted. New dates for continuing the survey will be after EagleFest for the second half of Pruyne and also for remaining portion of Brinton Brook boundaries.

Program and Field Trips (Christine McCluskey & Chris Drury)**Past Field Trips**

- Christmas Bird Count and the Member's Best Night were both successful. The committee will be considering additional photo events in future.
- New Year's Day walk at Rockwood Hall was also a success (15-20 people).

Upcoming Trips

- MLK weekend trip to Adirondacks is nearly full.
- This Saturday is the Eagle Walk followed by Soup.
- 1/26 Owl Prowl with Drew and Trudy – 9am start.
- A woodcock walk is scheduled for March 16 at Westmoreland Sanctuary. Start time will be evening/dusk.
- A winter duck walk will take place at the Meadowlands on 2/2.

Upcoming Programs

- On 1/9 Jacob Burns is hosting a documentary about fracking and there are free tickets available.
- There will be a lecture the same night in Katonah sponsored by BAS on effects of Hurricane Sandy on the Hudson River Estuary.
- SMRA will be underwriting a talk with the Together Green grant with Bedford Audubon on 2/13 about The Atlantic Flyway Connection.
- A bat program is being scheduled for 10/10.
- Kevin Karlson will be presenting a talk in March.
- A new David Attenborough documentary on Africa begins on Tuesday on the Discovery Channel. There are 5 parts.

Newsletter (Bill Kellner)

- The newsletter should be in hand by the end of next week.
- The Feb/March issue deadline in next couple of days.

Bird Seed Sale (Ken Novenstern)

- Volunteers are needed for January 19.
- Feedback on woodpecker mix is good; feedback on the pepper suet is not good.

Hospitality (Sally Dow, Joan Coffey, Jean Sparacin)

Robert thanks the committee (and Nick) for the refreshments at tonight's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Minutes taken by Donna Lee Ubertaini, Secretary