

Saw Mill River Audubon Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 7, 2013
Held at Community Bible Church, Ossining, NY

Present (in bold): Robert McCrillis, presiding, William Kellner, Richard Saravay, Brian Kluepfel, secretary, Tom McEnerney, Joan Coffey, Sally Dow, Nick Fischer, Philip Heidelberger, Shirl Kaplan, Rik Kaufman, Donna Lassiter, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias, Jr., Joanne McAuley, Christine McCluskey, Ken Novenstern, Joan Wyly, Nina Romanoff, Ponie Sheehan, Jean Sparacin, Larry Trachtenberg. Anne Swaim was present as Executive Director.

A quorum was present and the meeting began at 7:32 pm.

Minutes from the September meeting were approved.

President's Report/Mail and Correspondence

Donna Lee Ubertalli will be leaving the board due to extensive professional commitments. She was thanked for her contributions.

No meeting will be held in November; committees will meet to plan 2014 activities and budget instead.

Refreshments were discussed for the Hudson River Cruise on October 14. We have 87 sign ups with a 125 maximum capacity on boat but have passed the break-even point.

Community Relations and Development:

Membership is up, according to our report. Report circulated.

Finance Committee (Philip Heidelberger)

The balance as of October 1, 2013 was \$933,523, an increase of 7.2% year-to-date and 3.0% for the month of September. There have been \$1,000 in contributions to and \$30,000 in withdrawals from the endowment during 2013.

Treasurer's Report (Tom McEnerney)

Copies of the report were distributed. Revenues and expenses are both slightly better than budget.

Executive Director's Report (Anne Swain)

The grants planning meeting on Monday, September 23 resulted in several ideas for 2014 including Audubon NY collaborative grant for Croton Point signage and seeking additional funds for upgraded signs for Pruyne Arboretum plant labeling.

Neighbors Link event in conjunction with Bedford Audubon was a success. The Hawk program was presented; Bill K, Joan W. and Shirl K. from SMRA attended. It is hoped to do a quarterly event with this group focusing on integrating our newest Latino neighbors and their families.

At Brinton Brook property, our selected deer hunters have not culled (killed) any deer yet. A deer contraceptive program in Hastings was mentioned. The success in Mianus Gorge was discussed, which was over a ten-year period.

Advocacy (Richard Saravay)

It was mentioned that November 5 is an off-year election. We should encourage our members to research the environmental positions of candidates and vote.

A report was circulated on the Conservation Policy Resolutions of Audubon New York. Members are welcome to comment on any of the positions, including fracking. Comments can be sent to Richard via email.

Ponie: Anti-fracking activities (Global Frack-Down) taking place around country/NY State on October 19. More information will be circulated by email.

Sanctuaries Committee (Michael Madias)

Recent replacement of posts/fences completed for Pruyn deer exclosures. The Fall Hudson Ramble was a success, held in conjunction with 2nd Saturday walk at Brinton. Michael and Donna Lassiter are working on another "Trees for Tribs" planting this fall.

Programs and Field Trips (Christine McCluskey)

September Meadowlands boat trip was a great success and sold out all 24 seats. Connecticut Coastal birding trip on Sept 22 had smaller numbers but was also a great experience for those who attended.

The Duluth, MN trip to see owls in the snow on Super Bowl weekend has a lot of interest already and we may add a second van if sufficient numbers sign up.

New York Birders conference on Long Island is first weekend in November. We may coordinate a group to go. Host: Queens County Bird Club, Uniondale, L.I.

Newsletter (Bill Kellner) Next deadline is November 1.

Bird Seed Sale (Ken Novenstern)

Signup sheet circulated; we have enough people to cover the weekend sale. Pizza Station in Mt. Kisco continues to support us in this endeavor by providing lunch. Call sheets circulated to contact past customers who have not yet ordered.

Hospitality Thanks to Sally Dow and Jean Sparacin for coordinating.

New Business Bonnie Talluto will be running Feeder Watch program weekend mornings at Croton Point. It was proposed that we offer a soup lunch again after the January Croton Point birding walk led by Charlie Roberto.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Minutes taken by Brian Kluepfel, Secretary