

**Saw Mill River Audubon Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, March 3, 2014**  
**Held at Community Bible Church, Ossining, NY**

**Present (in bold):** Robert McCrillis, presiding, William Kellner, Richard Saravay, Brian Kluepfel, secretary, Tom McEnerney, 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. Tom Ruth and Karalyn Lamb were also present as 2014 board candidates.

**A quorum was present and the meeting began. 7:30 pm.**

**Minutes from the February meeting were approved.**

**President's Report/Mail and Correspondence:**

Robert reported on ongoing plans for the Sunday, April 6 annual dinner and encouraged board members to complete their online dinner reservations and proxy vote. The dinner committee, Joan Kellner, Joanne McAuley, Robert McCrillis, Jean Sparacin and Anne Swaim, will be finalizing details about room setup and menu with Table 9 on Wednesday March 6. An updated board roster was circulated for board member review.

**Community Relations and Development:** The updated report was circulated.

**Finance Committee (Philip Heidelberger):**

The portfolio balance as of March 1, 2014 was \$956,243, a year-to-date increase of 0.8% over the January 1, 2014 balance of \$948,376 and a 2.8% increase for the month of February. There have been \$7,000 in withdrawals from the portfolio during 2014.

**Treasurer's Report (Tom McEnerney):** Expenses and income are both at expected levels over the past months. Tom also circulated a summary of revenue and expenses and amount of budgeted deficit compared to withdrawals from the endowment fund over the past ten years up to and including 2013. He noted that off budget income and expenses from grants and trips varied considerably from year to year. He also noted the positive increase in revenue since the market decline in 2008-2009 while expenses have only increased slightly due to careful budgeting.

**Executive Director's Report (Anne Swain):**

With both Anne and Ellen away March 8 to 18 on the SMRA Belize trip, Tom McEnerney will be stopping by the office to collect mail and Danny Ferguson will be stopping by regularly to fill the bird feeders. The phone message and email reply will simply note that "the office will be closed to public access March 10 up until March 21. Both Anne and Ellen will be back to work on Friday, March 21.

Anne briefly discussed the proposed plans for a driving range and teaching facility on the 20-acre Ryan (formerly Silverman) property adjacent to Brinton Brook. This will be a complex review process with the Town of Cortlandt as lead agency. Several names were suggested as possible assistance to SMRA as needed as the project goes into full town review including Clinton Smith, Michael Gerard and John Grant.

A vine cutting work day has been organized by the Saw Mill River Coalition on Saturday, March 22, 10am to 2pm at Croton Point involving seven different organizations including SMRA.

We will be co-sponsoring and helping to promote the “Walkable Westchester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition” book launch to be held on Saturday, April 5, 2pm at the Ossining Library.

**Advocacy (Richard Saravay):**

Richard expanded on last month’s observations about the proposed culling of mute swans in New York. The proposal is being re-considered by NYDEC based on comments received. He suggested that SMRA offer a brief presentation on the grassland habitats at Croton Point at the upcoming Audubon NY Council meeting. Anne Swaim will provide some slides from the longer Croton Point talk recently prepared for the Croton Conservation Advisory Committee and Christine McCluskey agreed to present them at the Council Meeting.

**Sanctuaries Committee (Michael Madias):**

Michael will be contacting Danny Ferguson at the end of March, as soon as ground conditions permit, to mow Pruyn and Brinton Brook meadows. He has been raising wildflower seedlings and a planting day in the Brinton Brook meadow is planned for 9am to 12noon on Saturday, April 5.

Ken Novenster has assisted with contacting Erik Tinkhauser, VP of Birchwood Swim and Tennis Club adjacent to Pruyn, to continue discussions about the possible donation of club land. Anne and Ken will be meeting with Erik in late March about this.

**Programs and Field Trips (Christine McCluskey & Joan Wyly):**

We had a good response to our February public program on nature photography and a strong response to the follow-up field workshop. A second field workshop date was scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 4pm-6pm at Croton Point and is also almost full. The Spring Coastal Birding Trip on Fri May 9-Sun May 11 is also near capacity. Joan is continuing to work on publicity for our programs. Our next public program will be Thu Mar 27 at Rockefeller State Park Preserve presented by new Park Manager Susan Antenen.

**Newsletter (Bill Kellner)** – Bill will be working on the Apr/May newsletter next week with a goal of going to press on Monday, Mar 24. Any items to be included should be sent to him as soon as possible.

**Bird Seed Sale (Ken Novenster):**

We had \$1,000 in sales at the Feb Sat bird seed sale and have a full complement of volunteers for the Sat Mar 15 sale.

**Hospitality:** Thanks again to Sally Dow and Jean Sparacin for coordinating.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes taken by Anne Swaim substituting for Brian Kluepfel, Secretary