

Saw Mill River Audubon
May 5, 2014 Board Meeting
Community Bible Church, Ossining, NY

Quorum Present and meeting began at 7:30 pm

Minutes of March 3, 2014 Board Meeting and April 6, 2014 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

President's Report Robert McCrillis

- The board welcomes new board members—Tom Ruth, Jan Bass and Karalyn Lamb. New members were given their handbooks.
- The resignation of Shirl Kaplan was announced.
- Annual Dinner at Table 9 in Peekskill was briefly discussed; generally a positive overall rating by board members at this first-time venue for our annual event.
- Board rosters and committee lists were distributed; a request made to distribute board roster by PDF and email.
- Annual picnic planning was briefly discussed and a committee formed to plan event on June 2.
- Summer Executive Committee, to include President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, was nominated and elected.
- The board's annual Retreat Planning meeting to be held Monday June 9, 7 pm at Robert's home.
- Rocky Hills open days will be May 10, 24 and 25 for this private garden in Chappaqua. Those interested are directed to visit the Garden Conservancy website.

Community Relations and Development Robert McCrillis

Donation and Membership Report—so far positive news for the year. Report circulated and briefly discussed. Fund Drive reminder – PS Party May 12, 6-9 pm at Church. Packets were distributed to members who will not attend PS party.

Finance Committee Philip Heidelberger

For our official quarterly report, as of April 1, 2014 the portfolio balance was \$951,063 a year-to-date increase of 0.3% over the January 1, 2014 balance of \$948,376. The three month, one year and three year investment rates of return were 1.7%, 12.1% and 7.6% respectively, compared to our Morningstar Allocation Fund Index benchmark returns of 1.4%, 8.4% and 5.8% for same periods. There have been \$18,000 in withdrawals from the portfolio during 2014. The portfolio balance as of May 1, 2014 was \$947,923 a year-to-date change of essentially 0%.

We regret to report that George Shakespear resigned from the Finance Committee for personal reasons. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, which meets four times per year, please let Phil know. Rik Kaufman volunteered to join the committee.

Treasurer's Report Tom McEnerney

Report circulated and briefly discussed. Revenues and expenses are more or less as expected for this juncture of the year.

Executive Director's Report Anne Swaim

Town of New Castle Master Plan: Anne is on the committee for the master plan, as an individual, not as a representative of SMRA. The current political landscape in New Castle was discussed briefly, as was the conservation easement on one of SMRA's properties in the town.

Laptop purchase: A refurbished laptop was purchased from techsoup.org for \$330.00 and Anne reported she is quite happy with it.

Executive Director's Report continued

Rockefeller SP birding blitz, June 19-23: We hope to work with new park superintendent Susan Antenen on this "blitz" which will provide her with data to help tailor habitat management. This will be a good opportunity for SMRA to work more closely with a local organization that has provided us a forum in the past, such as with our owl program.

Croton Point cooperative education programs: We did some successful programs with naturalist John Phillips and local middle schools. We hope to do more with young birders at this site during the summer.

Advocacy Richard Saravay

Richard gave kudos to board member Christine McCluskey for her report on grassland habitat at a state-level meeting. This July there will be an "invasive species" week that focuses on this issue at a state level.

Sanctuaries Committee Michael Madias

Weinstein property proposed donation: a committee should be formed soon to deal with the details of this proposed property donation. The property abuts Brinton Brook and is a nice addition to current SMRA-managed land. We hope to get the issue resolved within one calendar year.

Birchwood proposed donation: A "parcel walk" was recently conducted and it is thought the 10 acres would be another good addition to our managed properties. The easement issue is being fixed slowly.

SMRA hosted a native-plant planting on Earth Day in April at Brinton Brook Sanctuary.

Programs and Field Trips Christine McCluskey and Joan Wylly

Upcoming trips such as the Birders U warbler weekend and the coastal birding weekend have already attracted many signups; interest is high. May 17 we will host our early-morning Doodletown walk in Rockland County. The next Birders U event focuses on shorebirds, and will be held in July.

Newsletter

A re-design committee met to discuss potential new layouts for the newsletter. After the next edition, Brian Kluepfel will succeed Bill Kellner as editor. Bill was thanked for his many years of service.

Bird Seed Sales Ken Novenstern

Saturday sales are over for the season and SMRA did "pretty well" this year. Some seed and suet remains; prices are now 30% off.

In **other business**, SMRA will co-host a May 22 film at the Croton Public Library called the Lost Bird Project. Info can be found at www.lostbirdproject.org.

Sally Dow and Jean Sparacin provided the snacks and hospitality.

Meeting ended at 8:30; our next meeting is the annual picnic at Senasqua Park in Croton on June 2. Minutes taken by Brian Kluepfel