

**Saw Mill River Audubon**  
**Minutes for September 8, 2014 Board Meeting**  
**Community Bible Church, 301 Chadeayne Road, Ossining, NY**

Quorum present (20 members) and meeting began at 7:30 pm.

**Minutes of June 2, 2014 Board Meeting** were approved.

**President's Report** Robert McCrillis

Board Handbook Review: new pages were circulated for review prior to Sept. 20 retreat. Board members were encouraged to review handbooks, including history of sanctuaries and our group affiliations.

Retreat Preparation: To be held at Community Bible Church, 9/20, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Remembering Bill Arnold: An obituary of long-time SMRA friend was circulated.

Weinstein meeting: An initial meeting regarding the 18-acre property adjoining Brinton Brook sanctuary was held. The possibilities of a "life estate" and conservation easements, as well as use for special SMRA events, were discussed.

Board meeting schedule for year: dates circulated (see bottom of this report) Short discussion of next year's annual dinner took place.

**Community Relations and Development** Robert McCrillis

Donation and Membership Report: "All good news" according to President. Information circulated regarding Larry Light Scholarship Fund, Pruyn Garden fund, fundraising needs.

**Finance Committee** Phil Heidelberger

For our official quarterly report, as of July 1, 2014 the portfolio balance was \$981,342, a year-to-date increase of 3.5% over the January 1, 2014 balance of \$948,376. The three month, year-to-date and one year investment rates of return were 3.7%, 5.5% and 16.7% respectively, compared to our Morningstar Allocation Fund Index benchmark returns of 3.0%, 4.4% and 12.5% for the same periods. There have been \$25,000 in withdrawals from the portfolio during 2014. After a down July and an up August, the portfolio balance as of September 1, 2014 was \$984,820, a year-to-date change of 3.8%. We are pleased that Tom Ruth has joined the Finance Committee.

**Treasurer's Report** Tom McEnerney

A report showing budgeted and actual revenues and expenses for the first eight months of the year was circulated. Results so far this year are very close to budget with revenues being better than budget due primarily to higher donations. Expenses are also running a little better than budget with no problem areas.

**Executive Director's Report** Anne Swaim

Intern – Clinton Fagan: a SUNY Geneseo grad student will be working 120 hours for SMRA with tasks including: GPS marking invasive species and collecting sanctuary water samples to assess water quality by studying invertebrate life.

Coyote concerns in New Castle: two different coyote advisory boards have been formed in the town prompted by recent pet losses and heightened fears in some residents. Anne Swaim is serving on one of these boards. More community education is needed and we will be co-sponsoring a program on coyotes on Wed 10/22 at the New Castle Town Hall.

Croton Point update: Grant for sign from Audubon NY: sign is in production with a hoped-for installation this fall. Work has begun on methane collection pipe replacement on the landfill; SMRA continues to monitor situation.

Olympic Peninsula trip: Desired trip for 2015 is still in progress for planning.

Climate change and birds initiative & Sept. 12 program: 8 year study, press blitz launched this week by National Audubon; we will host program Friday in Chappaqua to discuss.

**Advocacy** Richard Saravay

Richard will attend annual NYS Fall Council Meeting Oct. 17-19 in Jamestown, NY which will include Ohio and Pennsylvania chapters. The issue of a casino possibly to be sited near Sterling Forest, in Orange County, was discussed.

**Sanctuaries Committee** Michael Madias

Trees for Tribes Oct. 18: SMRA to receive 56 trees and shrubs for this program. We will do some replanting at Brinton Brook Sanctuary.

New bench at Pruyn: new bench was installed at intersection of the Green, Blue and White trails funded by a grant from the Camp Fire Association.

Our September 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday walk at Brinton was listed among the Hudson Valley Ramble events again this year.

**Programs and Field Trips** Christine McCluskey

Upcoming trips and programs: September 12 Chappaqua climate change talk, September 17 Hook Mountain hawk watch, and September 27 Fire Island trip were discussed. A new Birders U event will take place on Friday, September 26; others have been well-attended.

**Newsletter** Brian Kluepfel

Board members who contributed to new issue, which included new layout, were thanked (Larry Trachtenberg, Christine McCluskey, Anne Swaim).

Next Deadline Nov. 1

**Bird Seed Sale** Ken Novenstern

Volunteer Sign-up for Oct. 4-5 sale: sign up sheet was circulated for both live event and phone calls to seed customers

**Hospitality** Jean Sparacin, Joanne McAuley were thanked.

**New Business:** David and Patricia Watson hosted a gathering on Labor Day weekend for Pruyn neighbors and SMRA board members involved in Pruyn Sanctuary projects.

2014 meeting dates: 9/20 (Retreat), 10/6, 12/1; 2015 meeting dates: 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/11 or 4/12 (Annual Dinner), 5/4, 6/1 (picnic)

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm. Minutes taken by Brian Kluepfel