

**Saw Mill River Audubon
Minutes for October 6, 2014 Board Meeting
Community Bible Church**

Quorum present (17 members) and meeting began at 7:30 pm.

Minutes of September 8, 2014 Board Meeting were approved after Treasurer Tom McEnerney emended the Treasurer's Report to read, *"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."*

President's Report Robert McCrillis

Retreat Follow up: Robert noted that goals for the three discussion areas at the retreat (Advocacy, Education/Outreach, Sanctuaries/Habitats) will continue to be refined and tracked with upcoming November committee meetings and will check in at monthly board meetings.

Community Relations and Development Robert McCrillis

Donation and Membership Report was circulated and our 2014 donation income is above expectations.

Finance Committee Phil Heidelberger

The portfolio balance as of October 1, 2014 was \$962,764 a year-to-date increase of 1.5% over the January 1, 2014 balance of \$948,376 and a 2.2% decrease for the month of September. There have been \$25,000 in withdrawals from the portfolio during 2014.

Treasurer's Report Tom McEnerney

Tom circulated a report of revenues and expenses for the first nine months of the year and noted that results were very close to budget. There was brief discussion about SMRA signing up for the Amazon Smile donation program. There was an informal consensus decision to participate in this program.

Executive Director's Report Anne Swaim

Coyote concerns in New Castle: There is a subset of the population in New Castle who are quite anxious about the presence of coyotes in town and seem likely to advocate for trapping. A rumor was received that some trapping has already started. (This was clarified, following the meeting, as confusion with trapping that did happen two years ago behind Bell School, killing two coyotes.) We are co-sponsoring an information program at New Castle Town Hall hoping to get science-based information about coyotes into the community conversation.

Croton Point update: The Croton Point bird habitat sign is scheduled to be delivered on October 24 and will be installed by Westchester County parks staff. We hope to schedule a small dedication and photo opportunity with the sign with county officials sometime in November.

Olympic Peninsula trip: Trip details have not been finalized yet.

Advocacy Richard Saravay

Richard will attend annual NYS Fall Council Meeting Oct. 17-19 in Jamestown, NY. This meeting includes Ohio and Pennsylvania chapters because of location. Invasive species will be among topics discussed; site is home town of Roger Tory Peterson.

Sanctuaries Committee Michael Madias

Trees for Tribes Oct. 18: SMRA to receive 56 trees and shrubs for this program to be planted in the understory along Brinton Brook.

Bowhunting: A vote was held to continue the bowhunting trial at Brinton Brook Sanctuary from 11/1 to 12/31. Following the guidelines used by Westchester County Parks, we will post all known entrances to the sanctuary – informal as well as official entrances – but we will not close the hiking trails this year.

Programs and Field Trips Christine McCluskey

Upcoming trips and programs: Monday walks have become popular with 18 in attendance at recent walk. Upcoming events include film at Black Cow 10/15 – “Billions to One” – and a program entitled “Wild Suburbia” at New Castle Town Hall 10/22 about coyotes.

Christine will be the speaker for the November program focusing on her South Africa trip. This will be held at the Croton Library, November 13, 7:00 p.m. SMRA will lead a trip to the Great Swamp in New Jersey on Saturday, October 25.

Newsletter Brian Kluepfel: New content solicited for November 1 deadline.

Bird Seed Sale Ken Novenstern.

The 2014 seed sale weekend has been completed with rain on Saturday dampening walk-in sales a bit. Thanks to all who volunteered.

Hospitality: Thanks to Jean Sparacin, Joanne McAuley, Tom McEnerney.

REMINDER: We will not have a November full board meeting. Instead, committees will meet to discuss the 2015 budget and continue the retreat discussion on 2015 goals.

2015 meeting dates: 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/11 or 4/12 (Annual Dinner), 5/4, 6/1 (picnic)

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Minutes taken by Brian Kluepfel