

Saw Mill River Audubon
October 19, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes
Held at Croton Point Park Nature Center, Croton-on-Hudson, NY

Present: Robert McCrillis, Jan Bass, Nick Fischer, Valerie Heemstra, Philip Heidelberger, Rik Kaufman, Brian Kluepfel, Karalyn Lamb, Donna Lassiter, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias, Jr., Christine McCluskey, John Phillips, Nina Romanoff, Tom Ruth, Jean Sparacin, Larry Trachtenberg, and Anne Swain

Meeting started at 7:30pm. Minutes of September 14,, 2015 Board Meeting were approved with one edit to Finance Committee report to change January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2015.

President's Report – Robert McCrillis

Robert noted that we won't have a board meeting in November but, instead, various committees will meet. New board members are encouraged to attend committees open to all for attendance: Sanctuaries, Garden, and Programs. The Personnel Committee will also meet. Robert noted that Nick Fischer will be moving to North Carolina soon and Nick updated the board on his plans.

Community Relations and Development – Robert McCrillis

Please look at report for period ending October 16, 2015.

Finance Committee – Philip Heidelberger

As of October 1, 2015 the portfolio balance was \$912,955 a year-to-date decrease of 4.4% below the January 1, 2015 balance of \$949,940, and a decrease of 2.0% during the month of September. Because of the volatility in the market, I re-valued the portfolio on October 18, 2015, and the balance had increased to \$950,185, a 4.1% increase since October 1st.

There have been \$0 in withdrawals from the portfolio during 2015 and \$600 in additions to the Larry Light Scholarship fund during 2015.

Treasurer's Report – Tom McEnerney

No report this month since Tom is away.

Executive Director's Report – Anne Swaim

Anne reported that we will have four bowhunters at Brinton Brook between November 1 and December 31 following dates and protocol of last year and the board approval for this year passed at the September board meeting: Scott Loos, Ed McKay, Frank Russell, and Dick Wiedenheft. The Trinidad and Tobago trip, Oct 7 to 14, was completed successfully with 24 people on the Trinidad trip and two SMRA leaders (Anne and Christine McCluskey) and 18 people on the Tobago trip with one SMRA leader (Anne). We had three different guides during our time in Trinidad and two in Tobago. The trip generated \$3600 in SMRA donations. Our school programming has increased, including four days of three classes on Westchester Birds that Anne taught for Crompond Elementary 4th grade classes. She noted that the Personnel Committee will need to discuss staffing for the heavy schedule of classroom programs and field trips in spring 2016.

Bird Seed Sale

In Ken's absence, Anne circulated the signup sheet for the Sat. Nov. 21st third Saturday bird seed sale at Pruyn. For the Oct. 3-4 annual weekend seed sale, 2015 pre-orders were \$11,708 compared with \$11,624 for 2014. However our sale weekend income was off due to the heavy rain on Saturday with 2015 weekend income at \$702 compared with \$2787 for 2014.

Advocacy

Tom Ruth reported on the successful Saturday, September 20 Hudson to Housatonic Conservation Initiative landowner gathering held at the Weinstein home. Follow-up activities will be planned. The H2H Initiative also plans to continue networking local conservation programs as part of a Regional Conservation Partnership.

In Richard Saravay's absence, Anne circulated the listed of conservation resolutions that the Audubon New York Council will be considering at its November Council Meeting.

Karalyn Lamb gave an update on the Lower Hudson Partnership for Invasive Species Management (LHPRISM) work. No hydrilla was found in an 80 mile survey of the Hudson River. Planning is still underway on how to address the hydrilla present in the Croton River. Spraying has finished for the year to control the invasive Hardy Kiwi vine at Brinton Brook and adjacent properties. Karalyn circulated a picture showing how carefully targeted this spraying was at Brinton Brook. ConEdison gave a presentation about this regional effort to regional land managers, noting their partnership with SMRA and displaying the SMRA logo in their powerpoint.

Programs and Field Trips – Christine McCluskey

Christine noted the upcoming SMRA events including:

Thursday, October 22 program at Croton Library – Reptiles

Thursday, November 12 program at Croton Library – Exploring Bolivia with Brian Kluepfel

Friday/Sat/Sun, November 13-15 - Weekend Field Trip: Forsythe NWR & Cape May

Registration will be limited on this last event and Charlie Roberto will be joining us and linking us with an evening owl banding effort in Cape May.

Michael Madias will be leading our annual Turkey Mountain hike the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 27 starting 9:00am in the main parking area.

Sanctuaries Committee – Michael Madias, Jr.

Michael reported on the Hudson Valley Ramble listing of the September 12 second Saturday walk at Brinton Brook: 16 in attendance with several new faces. Boundary survey walks for the remaining sanctuaries will be scheduled late fall into winter along with Anne Swaim.

Newsletter

Brian Kluepfel noted that the next newsletter deadline is November 1 and he encouraged articles from all areas of SMRA activities.

Hospitality

Robert McCrillis thanked Jean Sparacin for coordinating the refreshments and Jean thanked those who brought refreshments this month: John Phillips, Valerie Lyle and Jan Bass.

New Business: None.

Meeting ended at: 8:25pm **Next 2015 meeting:** December 7, 2015

Minutes by Anne Swaim for Joanne McAuley