

**Saw Mill River Audubon  
October 17, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes  
Held at Croton Point Park Nature Center, Croton-on-Hudson, NY**

**Present (in bold type):** Jan Bass, **Phil Heidelberger, Rik Kaufman, William Kellner, Brian Kluepfel, Karalyn Lamb, Donna Lassiter, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias, Jr.,** Joanne McAuley, **Christine McCluskey, Robert McCrillis,** Tom McEnerney, Ken Novenster, **John Phillips, Nina Romanoff, Tom Ruth, Richard Saravay,** Ponie Sheehan, **Jean Sparacin,** Larry Trachtenberg. **Anne Swaim** was also present.

Jan, Joanne, Ken, Larry, Tom M., Ponie all ABSENT

Meeting started at 7:30 pm. Minutes of September 12, 2016 Board Meeting were approved by all present voting in the affirmative.

**President's Report– Valerie Lyle**

Board retreat second follow-up meetings to take place in Nov. Board committees need to schedule meetings for November. Advocacy to be Wed 11/9 @ 7:00 pm; Sanctuary Committee to meet 11/14 @ 7:00 pm. Education Committee should have a chair to come from the board. Personnel and Budget Committees need to schedule..

VL wants to see new board members join before May (3 vacancies). VL wants to form Nominating Committee now and come up with a slate of candidates to be voted on in April. Board could make interim appointments to take effect Dec. or Jan. CM supports idea. PH would like candidates to write short bio/letter of intent. We have more potential candidates than vacancies. AS: ask people if they're interested in being considered, invite to a board meeting and write letter of intent. VL: do we need to vote on process? NR: not necessary. RS: this is a positive development. AS: A Nominating Committee could be proposed now and affirmed by email and voted in at Dec. board mtg. We will invite candidates to Dec. meeting. KL: Making it a competitive selection process may scare off some people who would be happy to serve if directly invited. AS: could invite top 3 identified by Nominating Committee. If any choose not to join, we can move down list.

**Community Relations and Development– Robert McCrillis**

Donations are healthy. Hopeful for December follow-up fund drive. Refer to reports from Ellen Heidelberger and Barbara Campbell.

Emergency boiler repair was unapproved expense. RK motion to approve. TR second. Board approved expenditure of \$7782.45 -- included new furnace and new water heater. Chimney to be done this month. RM walked perimeter of Pruyn House. We will eventually need to fix roof and paint exterior. Pruyn House needs to be maintained as we will need it for the near- and mid-term future. RS: look into adding solar to roof. AS: solar study was done as part of Pruyn House study. PH: can do solar with no money down. Lease should lower electric bills. VL: we don't have a Pruyn House committee. VL: we need to talk about raising funds for Pruyn maintenance. RM: perimeter plantings don't look good. AS: discuss at Pruyn House committee meeting.

**Finance Committee– Philip Heidelberger**

As of October 1, 2016 the portfolio balance was \$965,226, a year-to-date increase of 6.2% (\$56,368) above the January 1, 2016 balance of \$909,158. There have been \$8,000 in withdrawals from the portfolio and \$5,000 in additions to the portfolio during 2016. Another \$20,000 will be withdrawn this week to cover Pruyn House expenses.”

**Treasurer's Report– Tom McEnerney**

Received via email from TM and read at meeting by PH: For the first nine months of the year, Revenues are about \$8,000 ahead of budget expectations, due primarily to one-time donations. Expenses for that period are in line with budget expectations. In addition, off budget items are positive by about \$2,500 due primarily to a \$1,300 profit on the Gaspé trip and \$1,100 profit on the Annual Dinner.

**Executive Director's Report– Anne Swaim**

SW trip had 14 people. \$2,800 is donation to SMRA. At least \$2,000 net/contingency remains after trip expenses largely due to lower-than-expected park admissions. Young birders walk at Rockefeller was successful. PH: Were there any potential scholarship recipients? AS: a couple. NYS Young Birders Club event to be held in January. Suggest consider holding at Mariandale. School programs: 12 classes booked in Yorktown schools. Pete to go in May with Eagle Optics binoculars for students. Looking to get Pete in more schools. Can book him November to April.

Hudson River Cruise: 68 are signed up, includes 5 comps. Expenses now covered. Looking at about \$600 net. Hoping for more. Need 2 or 3 people to receive food. Will ask Jan and Kathleen Williamson. \$100 budgeted for additional food.

Thurs. night 10/20 will be *Saving Jamaica Bay* at Burns Film Ctr. SMRA co-sponsoring Federated Conservationist program on climate change effects 10/21 at Tarrytown Senior Ctr. at 9:00 am. Good response on helping to promote Colombia film: Thurs 11/3 at Ossining Library. 12/12 author program on NYC & LI birdwatching book at Chappaqua Library @ 7:00 pm. Thanks TR, WK, Sarah Hansen for leading Monday walk at Rockefeller. Northern West/Putnam Sportsman Club -- AS will do program for them in November.

**Sanctuaries Committee– Michael Madias, Jr.**

Park on street for Sanctuaries Committee meeting at NR's. Described tour of 2nd Weinstein house. Gerry Weinstein to make another presentation at 2nd Sat walk in Nov. Asked for vote on hunting program at Brinton 11/1 - 12/31. AS: need to limit to 3 hunters. MM: Motion. PH 2nd. RS: should we expand to more sanctuaries. AS: would like to see Pruyn added but political fallout possible. Suggest hold off until fall 2017. Board approved 2016 Brinton hunt with all present voting yes.

RS: Passed around *Record Review* article on climate change initiatives that also discussed Weinstein easement.

**Advocacy– Karalyn Lamb**

Kiwi project – mostly eradicated in Brinton. KL and MM to follow-up on T. Lewis treatment.

**Pruyn Garden– Donna Lassiter**

Garden is in good shape. Request pictures of birds in Pruyn garden. Fencing around shrubs in Arboretum has helped reduce deer damage. More fencing will be needed.

**Advocacy– Tom Ruth**

H2H all-partner meeting in Ridgefield will be tomorrow for Regional Conservation Partnership. Funding for landowner gifts has come through. RCP website now up: [H2Hrcp.org](http://H2Hrcp.org). (Note photo on website of Tom, Anne, Karalyn.)

**Advocacy– John Phillips**

Anchorage proposal: statement to emphasize impact on eagles. Richard gave JP Audubon NY statement on anchorages. Will circulate Audubon NY statement by email to Advocacy Committee. SMRA will make its own statement. 10/19 will be community meeting on anchorages 7:00 pm at Croton Municipal bldg. US Coast Guard will not be there. USCG is still assessing public reaction. Riverkeeper is doing a good job of keeping public informed. New deadline for public comment to USCG is 12/6. So far USCG has 3,000 comments. SMRA comments to be completed by subcommittee by 11/7 and presented at 11/9 Advocacy Committee meeting. Final to be circulated to full board for approval. There are 2 existing anchorages in Hudson for tankers. USCG action came from citizen complaints about illegal anchorages near Kingston.

Article referenced advocating trap-neuter-release of feral cats in Westchester.

**Advocacy– Richard Saravay**

Has packet of legislative resolutions. AS will send out, comments to go to RS. Offshore wind farm to be main topic of LI council mtg. VL to attend council mtg. Maybe TR, CM, BK.

**Programs and Field Trips – Christine McCluskey**

10/19: Marshlands; 10/23: Sandy Hook; 10/26: Hook Mtn; 11/2: DeKorte; 11/5 Queens Birding Club, 11/12: owl prowl at Muscoot; 11/18-20: Montezuma weekend.

**Newsletter– Brian Kluepfel**

Nov.1 is deadline.

**Bird Seed Sale– Ken Novenstern**

AS spoke on behalf of Ken: Pre-orders up a little from last year. Total receipts \$14,600. Seed cost was \$14,800. Seed cost for 2016 was down \$2,000.

**Hospitality**

Thanks to Jean, Nina & Brian

**New Business:** None.

**Meeting ended at:** 9:09 pm **Next meeting:** Dec 5, 2016

Minutes taken by William Kellner