

**Saw Mill River Audubon  
June 12, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes  
Meeting at Senasqua Park, Croton-on-Hudson, NY**

**Present (in bold type): Cary Andrews, Sarah Hansen, Phil Heidelberger, Roger Garrison, Rik Kaufman, William Kellner, Brian Kluepfel, Karalyn Lamb, Donna Lassiter, Valerie Lyle, Michael Madias, Jr., Joanne McAuley, Christine McCluskey, Robert McCrillis, Tom McEnerney, Ken Novenstern, Nina Romanoff, Tom Ruth, Richard Saravay, Jean Sparacin, Larry Trachtenberg, Debbie Van Zyl, Kathleen Williamson.** Anne Swaim and Dan Ferguson were also present. Kathleen, Christine, Roger and Brian ABSENT

Meeting started at 7:31 pm.

**President's Report– Valerie Lyle**

Apr. 24 meeting minutes approved by all present voting affirmatively following motion by Ken with Nina seconding. Motion by Bill to approve bylaws changes to terms of Audubon New York Council members was approved by all present voting affirmatively (Joanne seconded the motion.) Val reminded the board of the makeup and responsibilities of the Summer Executive Committee.

**Finance Committee– Philip Heidelberger**

The SMRA portfolio balance on June 1, 2017 was \$969,446 representing a 4.7% (\$43,855) increase for 2017 and a 1.0% (\$9,591) increase for the month of May. There have been \$11,000 in withdrawals from the portfolio in 2017. We are 30.4% (\$46,644) above our guideline to maintain two years of budgeted expenses in highly liquid assets such as checking and money market funds.

**Treasurer's Report– Tom McEnerney**

Refer to financial report distributed at the meeting. Total revenues are approximately \$4,000 over budget, due primarily to higher donations, while expenditures are close to the budgeted amount so revenues vs. expenses reflect this \$4,000 surplus. The largest off-budget expense was approximately \$6,000 for Pruyn House repairs. Although \$3,000 was taken from the garden endowment in January to pay for a portion of the new fencing, market improvements resulted in a \$2,700 increase in the endowment balance so the net reduction in the garden endowment after fencing purchase is approximately \$300.

**Development Report– Robert McCrillis**

Reference printed membership report. Membership is holding firm.

**Seed Sale– Ken Novenstern**

Ken mentioned we have some seed left in the shed. Phil asked if the older seed will be discarded as some may be 2 years old. A discussion of dealing with maintenance issues relating to the seed shed followed. Possible replacement of the shed with a shipping container was covered. A committee consisting of Richard, Danny, Rik, Ken, Robert and Phil will make detailed recommendations to the board about how to deal with the shed issues. Report to be circulated prior the September board meeting.

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

Anne discussed the Connect Kids to Parks program and reminded board members to see the article and photos in the current issue of the newsletter. Positive changes to this program will allow non-Title I school buildings to participate (as long as there is at least one Title I school building in the district) and an increase in reimbursements from NYS to \$1,000 per class. Young Birders walks will continue with Eric Stone leading.

**Sanctuaries– Michael Madias**

Michael reported on the TriMax issue.

- TriMax is now prohibitively expensive, something of an orphan product that is only produced on demand and only available in very large lots.
- SMRA is now out of TriMax stockpile to repair currently damaged rails at Pinecliff or any likely future damage to our boardwalks.
- Danny Ferguson will salvage TriMax lumber to repair broken Pinecliff railings from some TriMax used elsewhere in sanctuaries (used for level wet area crossings.)
- Danny suggests that we replace top rails at Pinecliff with another plastic lumber product -- one w/o fiberglass components since TriMax occasionally causes itchy irritation to sanctuary visitors.
- This would also supply us with a TriMax inventory for when we need to use TriMax for structural strength or appearance, i.e. if any decking boards get damaged in the future at either Pinecliff or Pruyn.
- Suggestion is to do this for one or more Pinecliff pull-outs first to have consistent look in those areas. Would match color as much as possible. Would pick lower cost product that we could more easily buy in the future.
- This summer, Danny will measure Pinecliff lookout railings and also full Pinecliff railing length and also investigate pricing for a smaller SMRA purchase of alternative plastic lumber replacement.
- This decision point may be in the summer -- in which case Summer Executive Committee could approve -- or it might be decided at a fall board meeting.

Tree plantings in our sanctuaries continued with 75 white spruce planted in Brinton Brook and Graff. Wildflower plantings are ongoing as well. Note July 22 rescheduled workday for Choate Sanctuary.

**Garden– Donna Lassiter**

The Garden tour will be held earlier this year to coincide with peak blooming: it is scheduled for Aug. 5 at 10:00 am. An anonymous donation of Larry Weiner's new garden book has been made; the book will be raffled off as part of the Aug. 5 tour.

**Advocacy– Tom Ruth**

H2H: Working groups are formulating future programs across the constituent organizations, and furthering landowner outreach.

Richard discussed his attendance at a recent Conservation Café at Pace University. The topic was pesticide use. Richard will follow up to see what information from this event will be of further interest to SMRA.

**Programs and Field Trips**

Val noted that Debbie van Zyl has agreed to coordinate the field trip calendar. Scheduling for 2017-18 events is in progress.

**Newsletter– Anne Swaim**

The deadline for the next newsletter is Aug. 1 for the fall 2017 issue.

**Hospitality– Jean Sparacin**

Thanks were expressed to Jean and Joanne. Jean received a round of applause in appreciation for leading the planning of this successful picnic as did Rudy Fasciani for his much-appreciated efforts working the grill on this sultry evening.

**New Business– Robert McCrillis**

The Pruyn driveway drain repair will be addressed over the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03.

Minutes taken by William Kellner.