

**Saw Mill River Audubon**  
**June 3, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes (taken by Bill Kellner)**  
**Meeting at the Senasqua Park, Croton-on-Hudson, NY**

**Present (in bold type):** Cary Andrews, **Ginger Bernardin**, Earl DePass, **Louisa Gagliardi**, Roger Garrison, **Phil Heidelberg**, Rik Kaufman, **Bill Kellner**, **Donna Lassiter**, **Valerie Lyle**, **Michael Madias, Jr.**, **Joanne McAuley**, **Tom McEnerney**, **Ken Novenstern**, **Nina Romanoff**, **Tom Ruth**, **Lynn Salmon**, **Richard Saravay**, **Jean Sparacin**, **Larry Trachtenberg**, **Debbie van Zyl**, **Kathleen Williamson**. Executive Director Anne Swaim and board candidate Steve Rappaport were also present.

ABSENT: Cary, Earl, Roger, Rik

Meeting started at 7:13 pm.

**President's Report—Valerie Lyle**

It was noted that a quorum was present.

Tom R. moved that the board vote on approving minutes from the May 6 board meeting as corrected by Richard. Lynn seconded this motion, which was approved by all present voting in the affirmative.

Board of Directors candidate Steve Rappaport was reintroduced to the board. Bill moved that the board vote to approve Steve as a member of the board of directors with a term to expire April 2021. Jean seconded this motion, which was approved by all present voting in the affirmative. The board welcomed our new member with a round of applause.

Valerie explained the need to appoint an Executive Committee to take care of business as needed during the period when board meetings are not scheduled. She asked the board to approve appointing Valerie Lyle, Tom Ruth, Bill Kellner, Phil Heidelberg, and Tom McEnerney as members of the committee. Debbie moved with Louisa seconding that the board appoint the committee as described by Valerie. The motion was adopted with all present voting in favor.

Joe Moyik, a new volunteer at the Pruyn Sanctuary Garden, was introduced to the board. The board expressed its thanks with a round of applause.

**Treasurer's Report—Tom McEnerney**

[Reference handout: *Operating Revenues and Expenses for the 5 Months Ended May 31, 2019*]

Revenues and expenses are both within \$1,500 of budgeted amounts to date.

**Finance Committee—Philip Heidelberg**

On June 1, 2019 the portfolio balance was \$941,236, a \$54,660 (6.2%) increase above the January 1, 2019 balance of \$886,576. The portfolio was down \$42,694 (4.3%) during May. There have been \$19,000 in withdrawals from and \$250 in additions to the endowment during 2019. As of June 1st, we are \$17,704 (12.2%) above our guideline to maintain two years of budgeted expenses in highly liquid assets such as checking and money market funds.

**SMRA Logo—Philip Heidelberg**

Last fall, Phil attended a ProBono workshop on Online Content and Data Security issues. As a result of the workshop, Phil and Anne worked with lawyers from Covington & Burling LLP to develop appropriate Terms of Use and Data Security statements which now appear on SMRA's website and Facebook page. At the workshop it was suggested that SMRA also consider, as a lower priority issue, trademarking our logo to provide protection against unauthorized uses of it. However, the lawyers at Covington advised that rather than applying for a registered trademark, which is designated by an ®, costs \$400, and could take up to two years, we could instead adopt a free "common law" trademark designated by a "TM." Samples were distributed to the board. Given the low risk of a trademark infringement, they felt this would provide adequate protection. They also felt that applying for a copyright on the logo, which costs \$50, would provide little additional protection. This was discussed via email by the members of the former Executive Committee who are recommending to the Board that the common law trademark for the logo be adopted.

Ken moved that SMRA adopt a common law trademark for its logo. Val provided a second for this motion, which was approved by all present voting in the affirmative.

**Development Report—Valerie Lyle**

[Reference handout: *Membership and Donation Report as of June 3, 2019.*]

There are currently 1,015 member households (507 SMRA Chapter member households and 508 joint NAS/SMRA member households). Donations are going well so far this year, with \$16,726 received for the Annual Fund to date.

**Seed Sale—Ken Novenstern**

The fall 2019 seed sale date has been set for September 28.

**Pruyn House Committee—Ginger Bernardin**

Power washing of the exterior of the house has been completed as has painting of the building's trim. The annual cleaning and maintenance of the oil burner has been scheduled (to be done in August). The valve for the outside spigot needed to be replaced. This has been completed at a cost of \$285. Electrical work is scheduled for June.

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

The project to restore the grassland habitat on the Croton Point Park landfill has started with initial mowing and herbicide application. SMRA hosted a program at the Croton Free Library on May 23 to inform the public about this important project. It was very well attended. Bobolinks and Grasshopper Sparrows are nesting in the "refugia" (unmowed/untreated area) portion of the capped landfill.

There was a recent incident where the dog of a visitor to the Pruyin Sanctuary ran onto a neighbor's property and killed a pet chicken. This dog was off leash, in violation of the posted SMRA policy that dogs in our Sanctuaries must be leashed at all times. Val, David Watson and Anne held a meeting with neighbors of the Pruyin Sanctuary to discuss this issue and also issues related to the use of the sanctuary by the Forest Preschool. SMRA will ask the preschool to ensure that students are picked up at and returned to the vehicles bringing them to the sanctuary. We are looking into installing additional signage to inform sanctuary users about the SMRA policy on leashing dogs.

The AVID (Assessing Vegetative Impacts of Deer) study is continuing this summer at our Brinton Brook and Pruyin Sanctuaries with Peekskill High School student, Daniel Machado.

SMRA has signed onto the NAS letter on the conservation of populations of small (forage) fish. Declines in these fish populations are having devastating impacts on some species of sea birds.

SMRA has scheduled a trip to Trinidad and Tobago for Nov. 14–21. The always popular Asa Wright Nature Centre will be on the itinerary.

Please refer to the agenda for this meeting, which was distributed to all board members via email. The agenda contains the board meeting schedule for the period Sept. 2019–June 2020.

**Advocacy—Tom Ruth**

The Advocacy Committee is planning a half-day workshop on Oct. 26, 2019 on Mitigating Climate Change Where We Live. The public will be invited; local Audubon chapters will be asked to participate. The Committee is planning a screening of the film *Paris to Pittsburgh* in advance of the 1-day workshop that will generate interest and help promote the Oct. 26 workshop. We are looking to hold the screening at the Jacob Burns Film Center, if possible. Our preference would be to screen the film one day during the week of Sept. 23.

Upcoming training sessions being offered by the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H) include a program on how to apply for grants. See the H2H website at [h2hrpc.org](http://h2hrpc.org) for more information on this and other H2H events.

**Sanctuaries—Michael Madias**

Seventy-five white pine seedlings purchased from the Saratoga Tree Nursery were planted in SMRA's Graff Sanctuary by Michael, Ken and Bill. Additional plantings have taken place at Brinton Brook and Pruyin Sanctuaries. Thanks were expressed to Donna for her assistance.

**Programs and Field Trips—Debbie van Zyl**

We have a visit to Sterling Forest State Park scheduled for June 9. Anne will lead a Birders U. course on shorebirds on the last weekend of July. The Friday evening classroom program will be followed by a trip the next day (Sat. July 27) to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

**Kathleen Williamson—SMRA Nature Book Club**

Our dedicated readers are getting the summer off but we'll resume our book discussions on Sept. 17 when the topic will be the book *American Eden: David Hosack, Botany and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic* by Victoria Johnson. We'll discuss *Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition* by Caroline Alexander in November. The club meets in the Mt. Pleasant Library in Pleasantville; start time is 7:00 pm.

**Newsletter—Anne Swaim**

The fall issue deadline is Aug. 1. Our goal is to have this issue with descriptions of our many fall offerings distributed by early September. Brian Kluepfel is continuing as SMRA newsletter editor.

**Refreshments—Jean Sparacin**

Jean's work on coordinating tonight's picnic was recognized by the board with a round of applause. Joanne, Rudy Fasciani and Greg Madias were also thanked for their much-appreciated help.

**Adjournment—Valerie Lyle**

Debbie motioned at 7:38 that the meeting be adjourned. Ginger seconded the motion. The motion passed with all present voting in the affirmative.