

Saw Mill River Audubon
April 21, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes (taken by Bill Kellner)
Meeting conducted via Zoom

Present (in bold type): Erik Andersen, **Cary Andrews**, Ginger Bernardin, Louisa Gagliardi, **Mitchell Goldfarb**, **Phil Heidelberg**, **Rik Kaufman**, **Suzanne Kavic**, **Bill Kellner**, **Valerie Lyle**, Michael Madias, Jr., Tom McEnerney, Ken Novenster, **Steve Rappaport**, Tom Ruth, **Lynn Salmon**, **Richard Saravay**, **Jean Sparacin**, **Jenni Stern**, Larry Trachtenberg, **Debbie van Zyl**, **Kathleen Williamson**. Executive Director Anne Swaim was also present.

Absent: Erik, Ginger, Louisa, Michael, Tom M., Ken, Tom R., Larry
Meeting started at 7:01 pm.

President's Report—Valerie Lyle

Val began this abbreviated board meeting, held prior to our virtual training session with fundraising consultant Sharon Danosky, by noting that a quorum was present.

Val noted that a packet of treats was distributed to board member residences as a token of thanks for board members' work as volunteers and their generous gifts of time to SMRA. She went on to thank the ad hoc board committee formed to evaluate applicants for the position of Office Manager. The new hire will replace Ellen Heidelberg, who will retire this spring. Members of this committee are Valerie Lyle, Tom McEnerney, Kathleen Williamson and Bill Kellner. Anne Swaim and Ellen, working closely with the committee, conducted nine telephone interviews and five in-person interviews with candidates for the Office Manager position. The committee, along with Anne and Ellen, has selected Barbara Daniel for recommendation to the board for the position. Barbara was invited to be present at the start of this virtual meeting; she will be asked to say a few words shortly.

Anne Swaim took the floor. She thanked the ad hoc personnel committee and noted that Val and Tom M. also interviewed Barbara, who has broad experience in marketing and communications. She has a degree in journalism from Ithaca College. Barbara has significant experience with nonprofits, including working for Teatown. She currently runs a dog care business.

Barbara Daniel took the floor. She thanked the board for the opportunity to work for SMRA and said she felt the job would be a good fit for her experience and interests. She said that she would do her very best to fill Ellen's shoes. Val thanked Barbara for her statement. Barbara then left the meeting and Val asked the board if there were any questions about the recommendation to hire Barbara. Phil raised the question of whether Barbara would keep her dog care business. Val responded that she will retain some of her clients but that this should not impact her responsibilities at SMRA.

Anne noted that Barbara's expected start date is May 4. Ellen will stay on for two to three weeks to help with training. Barbara plans to keep the same office hours as Ellen currently works, at least through the month of May. Anne mentioned that the job description for the Office Manager Position allows for some flexibility in the Office Manager work schedule.

Suzanne moved that the board approve hiring Barbara Daniel for the position of Office Manager. Cary provided a second for the motion. The motion passed with all board members voting affirmatively.

Executive Director's Report—Anne Swaim

Anne reported that we have sold most of our inventory of bird seed and that board members should consider making final seed purchases while stock is still available.

Anne noted that the outbreak of avian influenza has spread around the U.S. Board members were referred to a statement by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology appearing on their website *All About Birds* in which the outbreak is discussed. Concerns that feeding birds may be spreading the disease appear to be overblown as avian influenza has been affecting domestic poultry as well as raptors, waterfowl and some shorebirds while songbirds have remained at very low risk.

Newsletter—Jenni Stern

Jenni informed the board of the May 1 deadline for the summer issue. She would welcome contributions from board members for the newsletter. She is available to help with writeup of suggested newsletter content.

Programs and Field Trips—Anne Swaim

Anne encouraged board members to register for the April 28 webinar on recycling that SMRA is hosting. This should be an informative discussion with an excellent panel.

Cary spoke, reminding board members that SMRA will have a table at the Croton Earth Day event to be held on April 30. We're looking for volunteers to help staff the table. Let Anne or Cary know if you can take a 1-hour shift.

Cary also noted that she will host a fundraising event at her home in Croton—SMRA's second annual Birding Tea on May 21. She encouraged board members to attend this fun event. Volunteer help is also needed.

Anne encouraged board members to review our online event calendar. She called attention to the evening of May 25 when we'll host a Zoom program with Alan Wells on "Long-legged Waders of Southern New York."

Finally, Anne mentioned our special program to be held in Croton Point Park featuring falconer James Eyring scheduled for June 4. Val noted that we need to discuss any refreshment arrangements. Anne said publicity for this program will begin the last week of April.

Adjournment—Valerie Lyle

Suzanne moved that Val adjourn the meeting; Cary seconded this motion. With all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.