

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
January 7, 1998

President Jim Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM at the First Congregational Church in Chappaqua.

The following directors were present: Anderson, Arnold, Bickford, Bloom, Hail, Hartmann, Keyes, Kuhn, Berna Lincoln, Stan Lincoln, Jo Lunetta, Maram, John McCall, Nina McCall, McKown, Pinerio, Romaine, Smolin, and Rita and Stan Wecker. Education Director Anne Swaim arrived at 8:30 PM.

The minutes of the December 3, 1997 Board of Directors meeting were accepted with the following correction: page 1, line 28, replace "13" with "30".

Jim Anderson said that the latest membership count is 832.

John McCall stressed on behalf of the Personnel Committee that our policy is to approve the acquisition of office equipment in advance. Alice Maram moved that Anne Swaim be reimbursed \$1,355 for computer equipment now in the office. Seconded and carried. Alice Maram moved that Secretary Chris Nykwest's hourly pay rate be increased from \$9.50 to \$10.00 effective July 1, 1998 subject to satisfactory performance, and that Dean DiMauro's hourly pay rate be increased to \$24 an hour effective January 1, 1998. Seconded and carried. John McCall moved that Anne Swaim's salary be increased from \$22,500 to \$23,000 effective January 1, 1998. Seconded and carried.

Jim reported that he had received a letter of resignation from the Board from Julie Amaral who was dissatisfied with her role as a Director.

Jim said that he had received a letter from Dave Miller of National Audubon's New York regional office requesting a contribution. Treasurer Berna Lincoln said that she was prepared to send a check for \$350 as provided in last year's budget. Jim said that there will be a vacancy for the Northeast Region on National Audubon's Board. Jim reported that the National Audubon Society has adopted a resolution on the control and management of feral and free-ranging domestic cats.

Chairman of the Board Nina McCall proposed that Valerie Hail, Svend Hartmann and Jo Lunetta be elected to serve as Directors until Saw Mill River Audubon Society's next Annual Meeting. Seconded and carried. Nina said that Don Lunetta has sent a letter of resignation from the Board.

Rita Wecker, Finance Committee Chair, reported that the December 31, 1997 value of our investment portfolio was \$863,087. Over \$40,000 was removed from the portfolio last year for expenses. Bill Romaine moved that Domini Social Equity Fund not be mentioned by name in an upcoming bulletin item. Seconded and carried.

Larry Bickford said that 28 species were reported in the Christmas Bird Count. There is to be a field trip on the 10th starting from the Croton railroad station parking lot.

Vice-President Jeff Pinerio reported that the driveway at Pruyn House has been repaired. Jeff wants to have the New York State Department of Transportation remove a rock which is in the line of sight near the driveway exit. Jeff has scheduled a meeting at his house on the 21st to consider a plan for the Pruyn Arboretum.

Jeff, Anne Swaim, Midge Arnold and Martin Smolin met on December 29 to consider our institutional relationship with Teatown Reservation. Anne received a call and subsequent fax from Gail Abrams, Executive Director of Teatown, asking for our support on a zoning change in the Town of Cortlandt. Polly Kuhn suggested that Jeff write to John DeVito, President of Teatown, proposing a meeting.

Jeff asked for our permission to co-sponsor with other Westchester Audubon chapters and Rosedale Nurseries a lecture by Stephen Kress on "The Bird in the Garden" at the Osborn Home on October 22. We agreed.

Martin Smolin is continuing to update maps of the sanctuaries. Anne Swaim has prepared a sanctuary status report. Martin said that he and Anne walked the easement from Woodmill Road into Pruyn Sanctuary in November.

Anne Swaim distributed copies of her December report and of her January schedule. Anne has arranged several programs in the schools and is set to address a chapter meeting of the American Association of University Women at the Chappaqua Library on February 4. Anne's topic will be Westchester wildlife.

Sophie Keyes asked that she receive material for the next bulletin by the 10th.

Jo Lunetta is concerned about a leaning tree adjacent to the Pinecliff Boardwalk.

Stan Wecker said that volunteers are needed by the Partners for Sustainable Development to assist in water quality testing by school groups.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 4 at the First Congregational Church in Chappaqua.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

William Romaine