

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
May 12, 1998

President Jeff Pinerio called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM at the home of Neil and Jo-Ann Arena in Yorktown Heights. Seventeen directors were present: Anderson, Arena, Arnold, Bloom, Hartmann, Keyes, Kuhn, Lunetta, John & Nina McCall, McKown, Pinerio, Romaine, Smolin, Sultanik, and Rita & Stan Wecker. Naturalist/Education Director Anne Swaim was also present.

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 4/8/98 and the Annual Membership Meeting of 4/18/98 were accepted as written.

Membership was reported by Office Worker Chris Nykwest to be 885.

President's Report Attention called to meetings being held by: Bedford Audubon on 5/13, featuring talk by County Executive Spano; New Castle League of Women Voters on 5/21, on Open Space; and Federated Conservationists (FCWC) Annual Meeting on 6/3. Sample of ECO Organic, shade grown coffee, sponsored by NAS was shown: it was priced at \$8.25 a pound. Other communications were noted.

Vote on a candidate to represent the Northeast Region on the National Audubon Board of Directors was taken with 8 votes tallied for Peter Mott and 6 votes tallied for Ralph Odell. It was agreed that the two ballots allotted to SMRAS should be split between the two candidates.

Treasurer's Report Anderson, acting as an agent of the treasurer, reported cash level holding steady because of income from annual giving. The balance he started with of \$9,839 was now slightly higher at \$9,981.

Nina McCall reported donations of about \$4,600 had been received so far and that thirteen board members had helped on the phonathon held at Pace University on 5/5/98. Jeff thanked the McCalls for their efforts in running the phonathon.

Rita Wecker reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on 4/30/89 and handed out a report on the investment portfolio performance which showed favorable comparison to the Balanced Fund Average. The portfolio had a market value of \$931,726 on 3/31/98. Rita Wecker moved and Stan seconded: <On behalf of the Finance Committee, I move that the Board authorize the removal of \$30,000 from the Vanguard Index Trust 500 Fund.> Passed with no dissent.

Midge Arnold gave a detailed report on the plans for the Pruyn Arboretum with projection of a total of \$21,750 needed over a five year period. Some grant money will be sought. Immediate need to get started is \$1,000. Herb Bloom moved and Rita Wecker seconded: <to give the Arboretum Committee \$1,000 now.> Passed with no dissent.

Jeff Pinerio reported that an engineer from the Department of Transportation met with him and Anne Swaim to assess problem on the rock obstacle on Route 133 near the driveway. The engineer said he could not commit until 5-6 weeks.

Jeff Pinerio and Anne Swaim reported on interest of Mrs. P. Weissman in donating twenty acres of land to SMRAS. The land is a varied habitat that is on the other side of Route 133 from Choate. Martin stated that he wished to have members of the Sanctuary Committee see the property. Contact will be made with Mrs. Weissman to have the committee, or other board members, to see the property. Pam McKown moved and Sophie Keyes seconded: <that Jeff be directed to write a letter expressing our great interest in receiving the property from Mrs. Weissman.> Passed with no dissent.

Anne Swaim reported on her Naturalist/Education activities and submitted her schedule for May. She noted special activity on preparing slides on mammals and reptiles for the Todd School in Briarcliff Manor. Anne also requested funding assistance to be able to attend the NAS 1998 Biennial Convention in Estes Park, CO from July 6 to 11. Since she has agreed to assist with workshops for setting up web sites her registration and room and board expenses would be waived. The air fare is estimated at \$500. She requested that SMRAS pay for half the fare. Jeff Pinerio proposed that we pay \$250 for her transportation. Proposal was accepted by the Board.

Pam McKown reported on the plans for holding the Louis Langdon Memorial on Sunday afternoon, May 17. The maple tree is already planted and Beverley Langdon is expected to be there with about seven others. Pam also reported that the April issue for the Armchair Activists was to encourage Gov. Pataki to buy 306,000 acres in the Adirondacks in order to preserve them. Pam also reported that scoping is under way for sites for a filtration plant and that Mount Pleasant did not accept the SEIS prepared for the Union Carbide property.

Sanctuaries Martin Smolin reported that there is a new boardwalk in Pruyn that almost crosses over the wet land in the Crystal Springs section. Extension may be done with the Trimax now going no where in Chernick. The Village of Croton is considering filling in the cistern on the Kaufmann property. The transfer of land to Mrs. Connie Corry is scheduled to occur on Monday, May 18, at 4:00 PM in Judge Gerald Klein's Croton office.

Jeff Pinerio reported on the Membership Committee Meeting on April 20 and that Valerie Hail is looking for committee members from outside of the Board.

Jeff nominated Bill Romaine for the position of Historian. Seconded by Rita Wecker and passed with no dissent.

Appointments: Jeff appointed Neil Arena to chair the Insurance Committee and Larry Bickford to chair the Education Committee. Jo Lunetta has been asked to work with the Personnel Committee.

Jeff called for a meeting of the Capital Fund Committee for 5/21 at his house at 10 AM.

Midge Arnold called for all who can make it to come to a work day at Pruyn, starting at 9:30 AM, bringing gloves, tools, and a sandwich.

Sophie Keyes needs input, including field trip schedule, for the Summer Bulletin.

John McCall said the Personnel Committee is considering having Chris Nykwest work five mornings a week, for which an additional \$2400 will be needed. He expects to formally propose this at the June Board Meeting

Stan Wecker asked for input on programs. He also reported that birding at Cape May, 5/8-10, had been generally good—and that they escaped the deluges.

Sophie Keyes reported that there were ten people who visited the Raptor Center on 4/25.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for June 3 at the Arnold's in Ossining. A picnic will start before the meeting at 6:00 PM. Refreshments will be supplied. A grill will be available for people to cook whatever they bring. Food to share will be appreciated.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.



Recording Secretary