

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
June 3, 1998

President Jeff Pinerio called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM at the home of Midge and Bill Arnold in Ossining, following a picnic. Eighteen directors were present: Anderson, Arena, Arnold, Bickford, Bloom, Hail, Hartmann, Keyes, Lincoln, Lunetta, John & Nina McCall, Pinerio, Romaine, Smolin, Sultanik, and Rita & Stan Wecker. Naturalist/Education Director Anne Swaim and Carol Coggeshall were also present.

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 5/12/98 were corrected to add to the Finance Committee report that the money removed from Vanguard would be used to purchase treasury notes maturing in three years, and to add to the Pam McKown report on page 2 that the encouragement of Gov. Pataki was to make a purchase on behalf of New York State.

Membership was reported by Office Worker Chris Nykwist to be 888.

A sign-up sheet for host's of board meetings was passed around. Monthly meetings will now be held on the first Thursday, except for the September meeting, which will be on 9/10.

President's Report Attended the "Audubon in Westchester Meeting" on 5/19/98 with Stan Wecker. Their next meeting will be on 6/23. Noted that Dave Miller is seeking input on where we stand on a Croton watershed filtration plant. Noted that the Federated Conservationists of Westchester are having a conference on considering building a rail line on I-287. Smolin said he would like to attend and suggested that McKown be asked. Other communications were noted.

Treasurer's Report Berna Lincoln reported an operating fund balance on 5/31 of \$10,610; a capital fund negative balance of \$329; and a Pinecliff boardwalk fund balance of \$747. On the Langdon memorial, \$552 was received and \$675 was spent. Berna moved and Martin Smolin seconded that: <The Board directs the Recording Secretary to sign and seal a corporate resolution designating any one of the persons currently holding the following offices: President (Jeffrey Pinerio), Vice President (Larry Bickford), Treasurer (Berna Lincoln), Chairman of the Board (Martin Smolin), to act on behalf of the corporation in connection with the corporation's Bank of New York checking account and any two of them to act on behalf of the corporation on any other transactions with The Bank of New York.> Passed with no dissent. Berna also moved and Martin Smolin seconded that: <The Board authorizes the expenditure of \$2,625. from the Larry Light Memorial Fund for six student scholarships in 1998.> Passed with no dissent. Berna also stated that the second quarterly report will go out in the mail in July.

Rita Wecker reported for the Finance Committee that the investment portfolio had a market value of \$938,908 on 4/30/98, a decrease of 0.3% from the April balance.

Memo received from Polly Kuhn on the Audit Committee noting that an audit for 1996 had never been done. She had contacted Mr. Larsen to do this for 1996 and 1997 and set up a date for doing so, but this did not coincide with Berna Lincoln's schedule. Kuhn also offered a

fee of \$400 to Mr. Larsen. Berna pointed out that the current budget includes \$500 for the audit. The problem occurred when we changed from a fiscal year to the calendar year.

Smolin reported on closing the sale of a piece of Graff Sanctuary to Mrs. Corry on May 25 for \$1,000. He and Anne Swaim reported on a new incursion into Graff by the Cartalemi's. A Graff neighbor, Bridget Heckle, reported on bulldozer activity in Graff. The incursion caused about 1,000 feet of damage in the southeast corner, just east of the Ferrin property. Smolin thought the incursion was vandalism, but the Croton police considered it was a civil matter. Pinerio discussed the problem with Judge Klein who would not draft a threatening letter without preparing to follow with legal action, which would cost us a \$1,000 retainer plus other expenses. Anne Swaim described the problem area involved about 250 feet of common border. Pinerio will draft a nonthreatening letter seeking to establish the boundary. The letter will be circulated to the Board before being sent. It was also suggested that Jeff talk to Brisson about the problem.

Discussion extended into the liability of individual board members to suits that might be leveled against SMRAS. Neil Arena and Jo Lunetta will review a proposal of insurance coverage which might meet this liability.

A report from Pam McKown was read on Environmental Action, which included reference to the memorial tree dedication for Louis Langdon on May 17, an ongoing lobbying to have the County Soil and Water Conservation District review the wetland delineation for the Keren property, the public hearing on June 17 on the Home Depot additional information on their FEIS to the Mt. Pleasant Town Board, and the fact that the CWCWC lost their court case against EPA to prevent the construction of a filtration plant for the New York City drinking water from being in the Croton Reservoir area. In discussion it was noted that we had never joined CWCWC. [The Board accepted McKown's motion on 3/4/98 to join, but no money was sent to CWCWC.]

Midge Arnold reported on the work detail at the Pruyn Arboretum about three weeks ago, some preliminary work in establishing a butterfly garden, and some progress in eliminating the creeping briar. Plans include a planting of a few trees this fall and a bigger planting next arbor day. Svend Hartmann described the extent of our fern plantings. Hartmann has been appointed to be in charge of the Pruy house.

Jeff Pinerio reported on the Capital Fund Committee meeting and the need for recapitalizing by assigning an additional non-emergency expenditure of 1.0% of the Endowment Fund allotment, which raises the previously assigned 0.5% to 1.5%. This would apply only to the 1998 budget. It was moved by John McCall and seconded by Martin Smolin: <To accept the recommendation of the Capital Fund Committee to add \$7200 to the 1998 Capital Fund.> Passed with no dissent.

Valerie Hail reported on a preliminary meeting of the Membership Committee and distributed a post card that is being mailed to members looking for volunteers. Edie Hartmann has agreed to work on this committee. Hail is also looking for another, non-board member.

John McCall reported for the Personnel Committee the wish to increase the schedule of the office worker from three mornings to five, an increase of 9 hours a week to 15. He moved and Stan Wecker seconded to: <To increase the office worker's hours to 15 hours and that \$1700 be added to the budget for this purpose, effective July 1.> Passed with two negatives.

Anne Swaim presented the Education Director's Report, noting a new contracting with the Ardsley Middle School. Contact was made with Bruce Donahue, a Croton Village consultant, on remediation at the border between Brinton and the golf course. On the possibility of adding some Weissman property to Choate Sanctuary, Anne reported that the Weissman's are more concerned with the property not going to a builder than for the savings on taxes. They also would like to settle the issue before the end of the year. In discussion it was agreed that we would be amenable to accepting the Weissman property if it was offered with acceptable terms.

On the designation of representation at the National Audubon Society of New York State, Pam McKown was named as delegate and Jim Anderson as alternate delegate.

Jeff Pinerio nominated Jim Anderson, as chair, and Berna Lincoln, Stan Wecker, and Martin Smolin to serve as the Executive Committee until the September meeting. The nominations were accepted by the Board.

In connection with Programs, Stan Wecker said Andy Young, a world renown film maker who has prepared films for the National Geographic on China and Madagascar, is willing to have his video on Madagascar shown to us. This might be done on the first Sunday in December at the Chappaqua Library, which is equipped to show videos. It would take the place of our Holiday Tea. The Board indicated its approval of this suggestion.

Larry Bickford has been accepted to serve on the Teatown Board, with his first meeting on June 25. He will not represent SMRAS at these meetings, but will serve as a liaison.

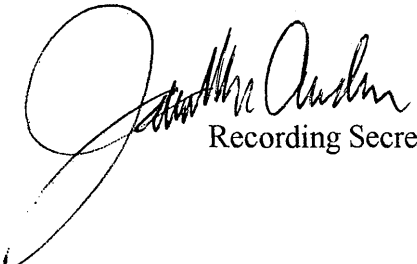
Nina McCall reported that the Phonathon has generated about \$7,000 so far. (This is a higher figure than will appear for 1998 since it includes some corporate shares on contributions which will not be received until 1999.)

Sophie Keyes set July 1 as the deadline for contributions to the September Bulletin.

The next Board meeting will be on September 10 at 7:30 at the First Congregational Church in Chappaqua, with Pinerio acting as host.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

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Recording Secretary