

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
September 10, 1998

President Jeff Pinerio was host and called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM at the First Congregational Church in Chappaqua. Fourteen directors were present: Anderson, Arena, Hartmann, Keyes, Kuhn, Maram, John & Nina McCall, McKown, Pinerio, Romaine, Smolin, and Rita & Stan Wecker. Naturalist/Education Director Anne Swaim was also present.

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 6/3/98 were corrected to change the date of the portfolio market value, as reported by the Finance Committee, from 4/30/98 to 5/31/98.

Membership was reported by Office Worker Chris Nykwest to be 847.

President's Report — Pinerio read letter from David Miller acknowledging our chapter recertification. He announced the Ralph Odell election to the NAS Board of Directors. Board encouraged to attend joint Westchester Audubon meeting at The Osborn on 10/22 to hear Dr. Stephen Kress.

Reported resolution of the Cartalemi encroachment on Graff and that Cartalemi donated \$500.

Noted memorial service for Jim Rod on 9/20 at 5:00 pm at Boscobel.

Read letter from NYS Dept of Transportation that only offered to put up a warning sign at our driveway. That was done, but other avenues will be explored, including Polly Kuhn contacting local politicians like Leibel.

Other communications from NAS an NYS were noted.

Responding to a letter from Berna Lincoln, there was a unanimous vote to appoint Stan and Berna Lincoln as delegates to the annual meeting of the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs on 9/25-9/27 in Rochester. Alice Maram moved to <instruct out delegates to vote "yes" on proposed changes to the by-laws and for the nominees for officers and directors.> Passed with one negative and one abstention.

Pinerio reported that we have taken steps to inform New York State that we raised the number of board members to 21 from 18. We will receive a revised charter from the state.

Treasurer's Report—Berna Lincoln submitted a financial report noting an operating fund balance on 8/31/98 of \$6,947 which included a transfer of \$24,545 from the endowment fund. She noted contact had been made with our auditor, Bud Larsen.

Audit Committee Report submitted by Polly Kuhn. Their review of the May and June bank statements concurred with the report on the Bank of New York statements. Question raised on why this account has been charged a \$12 a month service fee. Questioned whether the 1996 and 1997 audits had been done by Mr. Larsen. Expressed concern that we should have a duplicate copy of the books in the office. Pinerio stated we should have the books on computer. Romaine suggested having records kept by a local CPA. Jeff will discuss this with Berna.

Finance Committee—Rita Wecker distributed portfolio record for 6/30/98. She also reported where we were on the high market point of 7/19 17 and low of 8/31 in which the Dow went down 18.4% while our funds went down only 11.3%. The market value of our funds on 9/9 was \$882,211. At its Sept 3rd meeting, the Finance Committee decided to sit tight with the current portfolio in this volatile market environment.

Sanctuaries—Smolin reported on the proposed agreement from the Village of Croton on-Hudson have us manage 20 acres of Kaufman property, which does not include the cistern we previously thought to be on that property.

Graff needs more work since the bulldozer activity.

Pruyn has been recommended for a Hudson River Foundation Grant of \$10,078 for trails in the Crystal Springs section. DiMauro opened a spring there which attracts deer.

It was noted that Trimax is under a new ownership and that prices have been raised three-fold. Bill Arnold is testing Trex to see how much water it absorbs.

Pinecliff—Pam & Bruce Gilchrist submitted a complaint about dogs using the boardwalk. The committee will look into this matter. Their next meeting is scheduled for October 8.

Choate—Weissmans are still interested in having us receive part of their property. Removal of a small boat house would give us access, but larger groups, like classes, could use their driveway.

Neil Arena reported his move to Virginia this summer, which will prevent his active participation on the board. Reporting on insurance, he recommended getting coverage that would protect board members, officers, and employees from law suits. Two Virginia companies offer acceptable policies, including our present insurance broker Frank Parr & Muha. Kuhn moved <to purchase a policy that would cover us for two million per occurrence and with an umbrella addition that would cover up to five million, for a total cost of \$600.> Motion passed. Preliminary application will be filled.

Plans made for participation in the New Castle Community Day on 9/12.

Anderson read letter from Pace University inviting us to their Annual Harvest Fair on 9/27. He, Pam McKown, Stan Wecker and Anne Swaim are scheduled to man a booth there. Anderson also reported on initial returns on bird seed orders. Polly Kuhn is preparing work schedules for the sale weekend.

Environmental Action Committee—McKown reported that protests on a proposed bike path through the Jamaica Bay Sanctuary have been heeded and that an alternate is being considered that would use two lanes of the southbound boulevard, one for bikes, one for a buffer, and that an EIS would be prepared.

Two meetings of the Westchester Audubon Conservation Chairs have been held. A resolution is being prepared by John Moyle Moyle on the modernization of the Westchester Air Field,

addressing the lack of monitoring of water run-off into Kensico. McKown is preparing a report on the protection of the Croton Water Shed and Eco system.

There is no concurrence on a proposal by the County Board of Legislators Environment Committee Subcommittee on the Croton Watershed about a filtration plant. An engineer has prepared a recommendation to erect the plant but EWCE has moved to support a dual track approach that includes filtration. Audubon proposes the alternates greater protection of a buffers and stream banks has encouraged the Planning Board to uphold an ordinance that there be no building on the west bank. They also support for a new ordinance that there be no building in the "100 year flood plain." A memo encourages stream bank protection.

McKown and Kuhn attended a DEP meeting that considered non-filtration alternatives.

The DEP wants to try adding alum to Muscoot to reduce carbon which contributes to poor color.

This would require an EIS. Swaim noted we have an extensive file on the use of alum.

The DEC has money for water quality improvement projects and stream bank restoration, but only for public land.

Smolin invited members to join him on a visit on 10/2 to a MERF plant where glass and plastic is assorted.

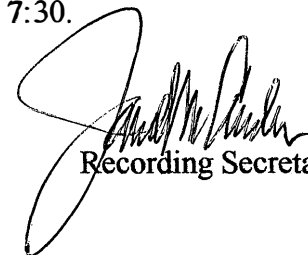
Education Directors's Report—Anne Swaim passed out a new brochure for Audubon Classroom & Outdoor Programs, which can also be placed on a bulletin board. She submitted her summer activity, specifically mentioning a diverse program at Leonard Park in Mt. Kisco, preparation of an interpretive trail for Pruyn, blue bird houses at Crittenden school, and the Blythedale Children Hospital visit to Pinecliff. A brief report was given about her attendance at the NAS Convention at Rocky Mountain Park in Colorado where she participated in environmental education and activism on the Internet.

Pruyn House & Arboretum—Hartmann reported that some ferns had died because of the dry summer. (Anne thought some would recover.) It was also observed that the Langdon memorial maple tree is not doing well, but that it is at least under a guarantee.

Sophie Keyes asked for copy for the Bulletin.

The next Board meeting will be on October 1 at Polly Kuhn's house at 7:30.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM.


Recording Secretary