

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

Sophie Keyes hosted the meeting at her house which was called to order at 7:40. Eighteen directors were present: Anderson, Arnold, Bickford, Hartmann, Keyes, Kuhn, Lincoln, Lunetta, Maram, John & Nina McCall, McKown, Pinerio, Romaine, Smolin, Sultanik, and Rita & Stan Wecker. Naturalist/Education Director Anne Swaim was also present as was a newly elected director, Douglas Fletcher.

Minutes of the Board Meeting of 11/5/98 were accepted as presented.

Membership was reported by Office Worker Chris Nykwest to be 881.

Nominations were made by Nina McCall to fill two board vacancies until the Annual Meeting. They were Douglas Fletcher and Richard Saravay. In separate votes they were both elected unanimously.

President's Report—Jeff Pinerio called attention to some corrections in the replacement sheets for the Director Handbook that were sent out recently. They are as follows:

- On the penultimate paragraph of the "Overview," on the Bird Seed Sale, the "now exceeding 33 tons" should be changed to "up to 33 tons."
- On the second page of "Financial Highlights," the spelling of Mildred "Hembtz" should be corrected to "Hembdt."
- The single new page marked "Finance and Audit Committee Final Draft of February 22, 1998" should be replaced with two pages: "SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS," and "SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., CONTROL OF FUNDS." [These may be obtained from Jeff Pinerio.]
- On the first page of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, Inc. Sanctuaries, change the last entry for Brinton Brook from "9/97" to "9/98" and change the Comment to "Year to year management agreement with the Village of Croton-on-Hudson."

Pinerio read a letter, Friends of Wickers Creek, received from Walter Terrell of Scarsdale Audubon on a habitat protection problem.

Pinerio noted that donation proceeds from the Pace University Environment Club program of 12/9 will be awarded to SMRAS for our activity on habitat restoration.

For the Finance Committee, Rita Wecker reported the portfolio 11/30 value was \$960,857.

Treasurer's report Berna Lincoln reported the 11/30 balance on the Operating Fund was \$11,309.94; the Pinecliff Fund, \$614.70, and the Capital Fund, \$6,871. She also advised that any final requests for reimbursement should be sent to her before Christmas.

Budget Report Berna Lincoln submitted the Budget Committee's proposal of \$67,928 for the 1999 Operating Budget. Since this allowed only 0.3% for the Capital Fund Budget, the report of the Capital Fund Committee was also submitted since it dealt with how the capital fund would fare with only an additional \$2,427 going into it for 1999. It was proposed that the \$615 remaining in the Pinecliff Fund would be transferred to the Capital Fund. John McCall moved <to approve of the five items presented in the Capital Budget.> This was passed. Bickford then moved and Stan Wrecker seconded <to accept the Operating Budget as presented.> This was passed. Stan Wecker and the Board thanked Berna Lincoln for her work in preparing the Operating Budget.

Audit Committee Polly Kuhn reported that she and Martha Childs had met with Berna Lincoln on Nov. 14 to review the bank statements for August. She distributed a detailed report on what the function of the Audit Committee should be, noting they had received no direction from the Board. As provided by the By-Laws, they are seeking an accountant to audit our books. With Pinerio, they met with some prospects. Action on these findings, including a decision on what level of auditing we need, will be addressed at the January board meeting.

Concern was expressed about the delay in the audits for 1996 and 1997. Berna emphasized that these delays were not caused by Larsen, who is waiting for information from her.

Environmental Action Committee Pam McKown reported that GE has withdrawn its improved plans for a new hangar at the Westchester Airport. On an original plan, GE is appealing a decision of the State Court (Appellate Div. of the Supreme Court) that did not endorse their EIS.

McKown, Swaim, and Pinerio attended a meeting on PCB's that addressed forty hot spots in the Hudson River. A question remains about a decline in the PCB levels in sediment on the river bottom: GE claims there is clean sediment on top of old.

Pam distributed copies of the New York Council Smart Growth Resolution. Bob Elliott, mayor of the Village of Croton on-Hudson is an advocate of Smart Growth and the CWCWCW supports it. Pinerio moved and Smolin seconded <that we should maintain voting membership in CWCWCW.> Motion passed. (Lincoln noted the \$25 fee is covered in the budget.)

Bulletin Sophie Keyes distributed a schedule of Bulletin deadlines. Johnnie Sultanik is helping her. (Deadlines set for the first of a month, or at least by the board meeting.)

Pruyn Butterfly Garden Midge Arnold reported that a request for a grant from Norcross for the butterfly garden is being resubmitted.

Sanctuaries Martin Smolin reported that Bill Arnold has made plans for the Crystal Spring boardwalk and that they had visited an artificial lumber plant in New Jersey. Martin also found out that Trex did not hold up well for another boardwalk. He also reported that a Funding Branch of Lever Brothers had made donations to national parks and that they had an interest in plastic lumber.

The Millennium Pipeline (natural gas) has not been granted permission to run large pipes in the Con Ed right of way, but will be seeking land next to Con Ed. This could affect the Kaufmann property. It also could affect some Brinton property.

On posting sanctuary borders, John McCall and Anne Swaim walked Pinecliff and distributed a detailed report on its borders. A part of Brinton was resurveyed in conjunction with the Kaufmann property. (Martin notes Kaufmann has a triangle that touches the golf course.) Jeff Pinerio is sending letters to neighbors who may be encroaching on our land.

Naturalist's Report Anne Swaim gave out schedules for December and January. She ~~reported on the dedication of the Edith Read Sanctuary as an Important Bird Area (IBA), which was also attended by Pinerio and Bickford.~~ that she, Jeff Pinerio, and Pam McKown had attended a ceremony at Edith Read Sanctuary commemorating the designation of three Westchester County properties as Important Bird Areas (IBA).

Stan Wecker called for applicants for scholarships for both adults and young. He noted problems with program meetings at the Congregational Church and got some sense from the board that we could hold programs on a Tuesday or a Thursday, which would make the Chappaqua Library a possibility.

Midge Arnold would like to see reports on wildlife sightings in the Bulletin.

Anderson moved <to resolve that we rent a safe deposit box from the Bank of New York in Pleasantville and that any one of the following: Jeffrey Pinerio, Martin Smolin, or Lawrence Bickford are authorized to access said deposit box.> Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10.20.

  
Recording Secretary