

**Saw Mill River Audubon Society**  
**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**  
**January 7, 1999**

1. Alice Maram hosted the meeting at the First Congregational Church in Chappaqua which was called to order at 7:40. Eighteen directors were present: Anderson, Arnold, Bickford, Bloom, Fletcher, Hartmann, Keyes, Kuhn, Lincoln, Lunetta, Maram, John & Nina McCall, Pinerio, Saravay, Smolin, and Rita & Stan Wecker. Naturalist/Education Director Anne Swaim was also present.
2. **Minutes** of the Board Meeting of 12/3/98 were read and corrected as follows:  
On The Environmental Action Committee, reference to CWCWCW was corrected to be CWCWC and the "join" in the penultimate line was changed to "maintain voting membership in."  
On the first line of the Millennium Pipeline, "be" was changed to "been."  
On the Naturalist's Report, the attendance and purpose of the meeting at the Read Sanctuary was changed to: "that she [Swaim], 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)."
3. **Membership** was reported by Office Worker Chris Nykwest to be 905.
4. **President's Report**—Jeff Pinerio raised the question of how we wanted to maintain our library in the office. There is some duplication in about 400 books of which one-third pertain to natural history. Anne Swaim described 75 of these as being "valuable." It was suggested that a recommendation be made by the Education Committee.  
He also reported on:  
Signs New Castle Recreation and Parks will be posting on waterfowl regulations that Anne Swaim helped to prepare.  
The Audubon in Westchester meeting on 1/26/99 that will include discussion of fund raising and the Quality of Water Survey being done by students.
5. **Finance Committee**—Rita Wecker reported the 12/31 value of our portfolio was \$997,018 and that it peaked on 1/6 at \$1,022,514. A formal report will be given at the February Board Meeting.
6. **Sanctuaries**—Martin Smolin reported we received a \$10,000 grant from the Hudson River Foundation for trails in the Crystal Spring portion of Pruyn. Construction planned for the springtime. Committee meeting called for 1/28 at Martin's house. Anne Swaim reported on preparing pictures for the Pruyn Sanctuary trail.  
At Pinecliff, a tree fell on the boardwalk, which required it to be closed. Walk material from Chernick will be used for repairs. John McCall recommended preparing an

inventory of the materials we have available for the sanctuaries. Kids were seen playing hockey on ice, but not on skates: some discussion about needing a new caution sign there.

Preliminary trails have been laid out at the Kaufman property, with posting set for Tuesday, 1/12.

Karen Bernard has invited us for a joint walk at the Croton Arboretum.

Map box repaired at Choate.

7. **Naturalist's Report**—Anne Swaim distributed an extensive report on sanctuary boundaries including details on who owns land that abuts the sanctuaries as shown on town maps.

Jeff Pinerio noted that Chris Nykwest is working on project deadline lists of times when various things will have to be filed, including chapter recertification.

Martin Smolin reported that Hudson National Golf Course has been fined for problems they had caused and that that money is being paid to the Croton Arboretum.

8. **Pruyn Arboretum & Butterfly Garden**—Midge Arnold reported plans are being prepared for planting in the spring. Nina McCall reported that a resubmission has been made for a Norcross Grant.

9. **Treasurer's Report**—Berna Lincoln has waited to close the 1998 books to receive insurance bill and make final 1998 payments. The total assets as of 12/31 should be slightly over \$1,000,000. She has not yet delivered all the papers needed by auditor Ernest Larsen to complete 1996 & 1997 audits, but will advise Pinerio when that has been done.

10. **Audit Committee**—Polly Kuhn noted that both the certified public accountants the committee had contacted recommended that our records should be computerized. She moved, and Bickford seconded that *we have a full audit for 1998 prepared by Kravitz*. Passed by a vote of 12 for to 5 against.

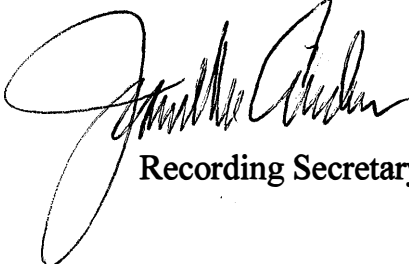
11. **Environmental Action**—Reporting for Pam McKown, Pinerio asked for support for a proposal made by Bedford Audubon to nominate the Great Swamp for Land and Water Conservation Fund money. Bickford moved and Hartmann seconded *that we support Bedford Audubon's nomination*. Passed.

On a recommendation to support peak load toll pricing for the Tappan Zee Bridge, Hartmann moved *we should not take a position on the Tappan Zee tolls*. Passed.

On a recommendation that we sign a letter to George Latimer requesting the County Board of Legislators to vote for a positive declaration for the original application of GE to build a new hangar at the Westchester airport, which included reference to a

letter Scarsdale Audubon is drafting asking for a re-vote, Richard Saravay moved *the question to support Scarsdale Audubon*. Passed.

12. **Membership Committee**—Doug Fletcher wishes to have a meeting within thirty days to plan what the committee should do. Those who will be asked or who indicated they would participate are Jim Anderson, Larry Bickford, Edie Hartmann, Alice Maram, Pam McKown, and Stan Wecker.
13. **Fall Programs**—Stan Wecker noted that we will not be able to schedule Friday programs at the Congregational Church, but that we would be able to schedule them for either a Tuesday or Thursday night at the Chappaqua library or a Thursday night at the Croton Library. For Chappaqua meetings, the consensus of the board was to use Tuesday.
14. **Christmas Tea**—Jo Lunetta thanked everyone for their help at the recent tea at the Chappaqua library.
15. **Field Trips**—Larry Bickford mentioned upcoming field trips including 1/16 at Croton Point, where eagles have been seen, 2/14 at Pelham Bay led by Michael Bochnik, six morning walks in the spring, Central Park on May 6 and Cape May, 5/21-23.
16. **Nominations for Board Members**—Nina McCall asked for suggestions for new board members.
17. **Health Insurance Increase**—Berna Lincoln noted a 38.4% increase in health insurance benefits cost that will exceed our budget. John McCall moved and Rita Wecker seconded *that we increase the budget for insurance (employee benefits) cost by \$663.48*. Passed.  
Meeting was adjourned at 10:15.



Recording Secretary