

**Saw Mill River Audubon Society**  
**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**  
**April 8, 1999**

1. The meeting, which was hosted by Pam Mckown at the Chappaqua First Congregational Church, was called to order at 7:40. Eighteen directors were present: Anderson, Arnold, Fletcher, Hartmann, Kuhn, Lincoln, Lunetta, Maram, John & Nina McCall, McKown, Pinerio, Romaine, Saravay, Smolin, Sultanik, and Rita & Stan Wecker. Naturalist/Education Director Anne Swaim was also present as were three candidates for the board, Judith Epstein, Mark Engel and Betsy Wiesendanger.
2. **Minutes** of the Board Meeting of 3/4/99 were read. (Item 2) Date was corrected to 2/4/99. (Item 4) Committee name was corrected to Nominating. (Item 13) Treasurer's report of capital expenses was separated from outlaying payments.
3. **Membership** was reported by Office Worker Chris Nykwest to be 904.
4. **President's Report**—Jeff Pinerio  
Jeff, Swaim, and Saravay attended an Audubon meeting with Jack Robbins on 3/16 on the status of county parks, particularly in conjunction with their biodiversity. Noted remarks by NAS President John Flicker on "2020 Vision for Centers," which looks for the formation of 50 state offices by year 2020; and other mail. Noted Land Trust Alliance Conference scheduled for 5/14-15; and League of Women Voters meeting on 4/26 at the New Castle Town Hall on septic fields. Presented Bill Romaine with a Certificate of Appreciation from David Miller, the Executive Director of National Audubon Society of New York State.
5. **NY Council Meeting**—Jim Anderson reported on highlights of the spring meeting in Oswego, in which the council voted to accept the formation of a State Board.  
The proposed resolution by Pam McKown on the Croton Watershed Protection was not presented to the council.  
Anderson attended the Chapter Workshops presented by Tony Deobil on "How's My Board Doing?" Jeff Pinerio is arranging for us to meet with Deobil in the fall.
6. **Phonathon**—Nina McCall asked for participation in the Annual Phonathon on April 21 & 22. The calls will be made from the office of Holmes and Kennedy in Chappaqua. Donations of \$1,890 have already been received.
7. **Sanctuaries**—Martin Smolin reported the new boardwalk in the Crystal Spring area of Pruyn was well supported by a work day on 3/13, under coordination by Jordan Ellsworth, and completed on the following Saturday. A record of photographs of the work effort will be presented to Ellsworth with our thanks. Di Mauro will remove the

old boardwalk and use part of it for other areas. Since the job went over the \$10,000 budget by \$562, Berna Lincoln moved that *the excess expenditure on the Pruyn Boardwalk project of \$562 be taken from the Capital Fund*. Alice Maram seconded the motion which was passed with no negatives.

A new map was prepared for Pruyn by Anne Swaim, which includes 360' of the new boardwalk. The map included the arboretum but showed no butterfly garden nor an entrance from Rte 133. Further consideration is to be made by Hartmann, Saravay, and Arnold on what can be done about the driveway; the rock obstruction on Rte 133; and provision for parking, including finding out what we can do legally.

John McCall moved, with second by Smolin, *that we add the butterfly garden to the map and show a small, unnamed driveway*. Motion passed with 8 for and 7 against.

A professional map of Brinton Brook that is in color and includes the Croton Arboretum with connecting village trails has been prepared. It was thought it might cost \$500 for 1,000 copies. Alice Maram moved that *we stay with the existing map of Brinton Brook*. Motion passed.

8. **Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden**— Some perennials have been planted and work days planned for Thursdays. A committee meeting on 4/22 (9:30) will decide on maintenance needs. Saravay suggested that work on the garden might be an attractive media activity.
9. **Naturalist's Report**—Anne Swaim distributed her Education Director's Report. Mention was made about a West Lake Middle School classroom feeder watch. Free bird seed will be offered to them now if they can store it for next fall. (Spare seed will also offered to Pace as was done last year.)

Earth Day celebrations offer several possible participations: IBM in Hawthorne, on 4/21 and Armonk, on 4/22; Greeley on 4/25; Croton, at Senasqua, on 4/24, Bell School at same time as IBM and Pace. Volunteers sought to help on some of these.
10. **Personnel Committee**—John McCall presented a proposed policy on Sexual Harassment. A typographical correction of adding "of" after "rejection" in the second bullet was accepted and *moved for acceptance* by Saravay and Lunetta. Motion passed.
11. **Treasurer's Report**—Berna Lincoln distributed a summary on how we stand on meeting our budget for the first quarter.
12. **Finance Committee**—Rita Wecker reported our investments value on 3/31 was \$991,943.

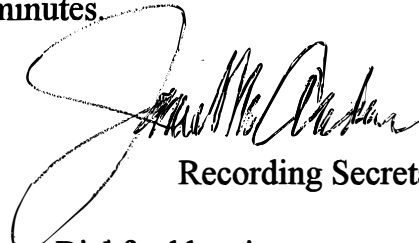
Martin Smolin submitted a resolution which directed the Finance Committee to seek environmentally responsible funds. It was seconded by Kuhn. Discussion included Rita Wecker's observation that socially responsible funds may or may not truly be

environmentally responsible; that investing in mutual funds rather than dealing directly with stocks, which we do not do, gives us less control on what companies are being supported; and that the resolution might make it difficult to meet the restrictions we have on fund balances. Amendment was accepted to change "directs" to "urges" as:

*WHEREAS: A primary mission of the Audubon Society is to protect the environment,*

*BE IT RESOLVED: The Board of Directors of Saw Mill River Audubon Society urges the Finance Committee to explore ways of increasing the proportion of Society holdings in environmentally responsible funds. The resolution was accepted.*

13. **Membership Committee**—Doug Fletcher reported progress with the preparation of a letter which was drafted to be sent to the 108 people who are nonmember neighbors to our sanctuaries urging them to consider becoming members and to report any problems in the sanctuaries. The proposed letter will be distributed to the Board. Presentation material to new members will be updated. Fletcher also said we should raise our "profile" in the community. Stan Wecker submitted a summary on the longevity of our members listed by the period of time they joined. It showed 55.5% of our members have memberships lasting 4 years or less.
14. **Environmental Action**—Pam McKown reported that the two Greeley high school students who have been testing the Kisco River water quality have entered into a science competition scheduled for 4/10. Pinerio reported on a meeting he and Carole Coggeshall attended on 3/15 with the CWCWC and the Riverkeepers, (Robt. Kennedy Jr.) On the question of adding alum to reservoirs, particularly where Muscoot spills into the Croton, it was pointed out that a previous attempt at using alum had resulted in a large fish kill and that there was still an outstanding judgment that prevents the use of alum this way.
15. **By-Law Change**—The proposed change in the makeup of the Audit Committee was revised to make the exclusion be just for the Chair of the Finance Committee, but excluding *all* who have signatory authority, not just the President and Treasurer. The revised change is being submitted along with the Board minutes.
16. Meeting was adjourned at 10:15.



Recording Secretary

Next meeting Thursday, 5/6, at Croton Nature Center, Larry Bickford hosting.