

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
May 6, 1999

The meeting, which was hosted by Larry Bickford at the Croton Nature Center, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. 14 directors were present: J. Anderson, M. Arnold, L. Bickford, J. Epstein, S. Hartmann, S. Keyes, M. Magel, J. McCall, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, M. Smolin, R. Wecker, S. Wecker, B. Wiesendanger. Naturalist/Education Director Anne Swaim was also present.

Minutes of the Board meeting of 4/8/99 were read and approved. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 4/17/99 were read and approved.

Membership was reported by Office Assistant Chris Nykwist to be 831. It was noted that membership has decreased by some 70 members since last month. Sophie Keyes noted that membership fluctuations are common, and that there is typically an upswing after Christmas.

President's Report-Jeff Pinerio

A motion to change a bylaw concerning the audit committee members was discussed. A motion was raised that all mention of the word "should" should be changed to "shall." Both motions were unanimously passed. Phonathon results to date are \$5,246, not including matching grants and pledges not yet been received.

Noted a luncheon and press conference in April that announced a county committee to name Important Bird Areas and to unveil a new Chinese pagoda at Lasdon Park.

Noted meeting with other Westchester Audubon presidents. These meetings will likely occur less frequently in the future, and there is some possibility of more linkage at other chapter levels, such as between program chairs.

Noted Board of Directors election for New York State Audubon Society. A slate of candidates was presented by the state organization and unanimously accepted by those present.

Made available several reports including New York State legislative resolutions and a report by the DEC.

Noted awards being offered, and solicitation of nominees, by the Federation of New York bird clubs.

Pruyn Sanctuary-Richard Saravay reported that a committee had met to discuss solutions to the problem of poor visibility from the driveway entrance on Route 133. Possible solutions include removing the rock by the phone pole and dragging it back, clearing the loose rock and soil off of the bedrock wall, having a line painted that would divide the driveway into two lanes and push exiting cars into the far right lane, and shifting the driveway to the right. The problem of getting necessary permits and permissions from either Bell Atlantic or the State Department of Transportation was discussed. A motion was made that, by the next meeting, we hire an engineering consultant, or find one to work on a volunteer basis, to advise on the best solution. Motion unanimously passed.

Midge Arnold reported that nearly all planned perennials and bushes had been planted in the butterfly garden. A sign-up sheet for maintenance was passed around.

Field Trips-Larry Bickford reported that the field trip schedule is set through February, 2000. Turnout for the morning May walks has been low, possibly because of the early starting time. Publicity on local cable stations has resulted in new participants on bird walks.

Naturalist's Report-Anne Swaim thanked Jim Anderson and Martin Smolin for assisting with SMRAS participation in several Earth Day celebrations, including events at Croton Point, two IBM sites, and Greeley High School. Mentioned creation of a web program that will link calendars of events for all Westchester chapters. Also, sanctuary maps will be uploaded; the map for Pruyn is already available on-line. Mentioned that many schools are now requesting two-part presentations: One classroom session and then a field trip to a sanctuary. Mentioned a May 22 bird walk at Van Cortlandt Manor, a joint effort between SMRAS and Fairchild Wildflower Garden.

Sanctuaries-Stories were proposed for the bulletin on the availability of a Pruyn map on the web site, and the new bridge at Pruyn built by Dean Di Mauro. Alice Maram is blazing a new trail at Pruyn. Mowing has been done at Brinton Brook.

Finance-Rita Wecker distributed an investment portfolio performance report for the quarter ending March 31, 1999. Holdings at the end of the period totaled \$991,943. Wecker noted that the portfolio's total return of 1.8% for the period is much higher than a similar fund SMRAS uses as a benchmark.

Also reported that finance committee had met to discuss the resolution that SMRAS should invest in socially responsible companies. Possible ways to implement resolution include 1) Using Smith Barney to assemble a customized portfolio. 2) Investigate the Corporate Sunshine Working Group. 3) Examine investments of the National Audubon Society.

Treasurer's Report-Jim Anderson reported that in April we received \$6,610 in income. Of that, \$4,776 was in donations. Expenses were \$8,486, including \$495 for the Capital Fund and \$838 for the Pruyn Boardwalk. Present cash balance is \$6,633. Jeff Pinerio commended Jim Anderson for computerizing bookkeeping. Anderson reported that New York State Charitable CHAR 497 reports have been submitted for 1996 and 1997.

Bulletin-Sophie Keyes reported that a June/July/August bulletin will be prepared that will include mention of the August 28 field trip to Jamaica Bay. Martin Smolin suggested profiling Carol Coggeshall, who is one of SMRAS' original charter members.

Personnel Committee-John McCall reported that the job description for Anne Swaim's and Chris Nykwist's positions are being updated, along with Dean Di Mauro's contract.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Betsy Wiesendanger  
Recording Secretary