

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
June 3, 1999

1. The meeting, which was preceded by a picnic hosted by the Arnolds at their house in Ossining, was called to order at 7:50. Fifteen directors were present: Anderson, Midge Arnold, Bickford, Epstein, Fletcher, Keyes, Lunetta, Magel, Maram, John McCall, Pinerio, Saravay, Smolin, and Rita & Stan Wecker. Naturalist/Education Director Anne Swaim was also present, as well as some of the picnickers, including Carol Coggeshall, Bill Arnold, and Nina McCall.
2. **Minutes** of the Board Meeting of 5/6/99 were corrected to change the reference at the end of the Naturalist's Report from the Fairchild Wildflower Garden to Yonkers Audubon, correcting misinformation that had been given to Secretary Wiesendanger. The Finance Committee report was corrected to change "period" in the second sentence with "quarter" and to add that the total return for the twelve months ending March 31, 1999 was 10.22%. Rita Wecker also pointed out that the last line of that first paragraph should be to a "similar *index* fund." Anderson noted that the minutes failed to show three resolutions that were passed to change the signatories of our various funds. He will send copies of the resolutions to Wiesendanger and ask that a full submission of the corrected May 6 minutes be submitted to the Board to have an improved display presented in place of the text file that was sent out. Saravay moved, and the corrected minutes were accepted.
3. **Membership** was reported by Office Assistant Chris Nykwest to be 808. Carole Coggeshall remarked that the size of the membership had not changed much from when she had held the presidency. Saravay offered an explanation that although people have become more attentive to the environment, there are now more organizations concerned about the environment that interested people can turn to.
4. **Sign-up Sheets** were passed around for hosts at board meetings and programs. Pinerio noted that Board meeting in September will be on the second Thursday. He also suggested we should look for an informal start of 7:00 to permit some socializing until the official meeting starts at 7:30.
5. **President's Report**—Jeff Pinerio
 - Invitation to join NAS and the Park Commission at a picnic at the Rockefeller State Park on Sunday, 6/27. Call 333-0102 to make a reservation. Parking will be at IBM near the Phelps Memorial Hospital. Cost will be \$30 for adults.
 - Received a letter from Jeffrey Folmer encouraging us to join the Birdathon. Discussion followed about why we do *not* hold a Birdathon.

- Jack Robbins, Assistant Commissioner of County Parks, is interested in having an endangered species list for birds in Westchester. Mike Bochnik of Yonkers prepared a list, which will be distributed to our Board members for comments.

6. **Sanctuaries**—Martin Smolin, thinking he had persuaded Pinerio to form a new Conservation Committee, indicated his wish to chair such a committee, which might take on small projects to enhance the environment, such as joining in an effort in having osprey nesting towers erected in Croton Point Park and considering a project to restore oysters in our area, following the work Bay Keepers had succeeded in in Raritan Bay and the lower Hudson area of Yonkers. Pinerio, however, wanted the Board to make such a decision about our committees.

Discussion followed on erecting Osprey nesting towers that Robbins and a group of Ossining Police had shown an interest in. Questions were raised about whether or not there are heavy metals in the Croton waters that might be detrimental to young Ospreys and that SMRAS should not take on this specific project without making a scientific study to determine its feasibility.

It was suggested that the Conservation Committee be made a Subcommittee of Environmental Action. Stan Wecker moved and Saravay seconded that *we change the name of the Environmental Action Committee to Conservation and Environmental Action Committee*. Motion was passed.

Smolin and Anne Swaim met with Ron Charlton of Con Edison about their land abutting Brinton and how we might connect to it. Hunters and bikers would be banned.

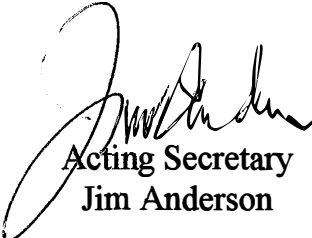
Smolin noted there was a new sign for Graff on Furnace Dock Road.

7. **Naturalist's Report**—Anne Swaim noted IBM employees at Watson are monitoring bird boxes on their perimeter. Filling a work day for Dobbs Ferry Middle School eight students helped with work at Pruyn. A new program with schools will start on June 30 and extend for six weeks at Leonard Park in Mt. Kisco. Completed an interpretative display at Pruyn. Details on activity and a schedule handout was distributed.
8. **Bulletin**—Sophie Keyes said the Bulletin would be mailed in a day or two and that the deadline for the next Bulletin would be July 1.
9. **Membership**—Doug Fletcher said 121 letters to neighbors of our sanctuaries were sent out. Met with the Publicity Committee to prepare a new brochure, which is expected to be ready in a couple of months. At the end of Anne's teaching sessions a report will be sent to parents stating what we do. This will reach parents of about 8,000 kids.
10. **Treasurer's Report**—Jim Anderson reported the income for the Operating Fund in May was \$1,921 and expenses of \$10,884, which included \$4,700 for accounting. Reported

receipt of \$5,000 from Norcross for the Arboretum. His interpretation that this was strictly for the arboretum was disabused by the McCalls and that it also should include the butterfly garden, as outlined for Norcross. Review made on where we stand on the Capital fund and the Pruyn Boardwalk. Preliminary view shows we are meeting our budget: the half-year positions will be mailed out in July.

11. **Finance Committee**—Rita Wecker reported the value of the Endowment Fund reached \$999,000 on May 31.
12. **Pruyn Entranceway**—Richard Saravay reported on meeting he and Svend Hartmann had with an engineer on how to correct the problem rock that obscures the Driveway. Some expression was made that removal of the rock may not make much improvement.
13. **Audit Committee**—Jo Lunetta. Some board members were very disturbed at the management letter which the Kravitzes sent with their audit. Others felt the letter and the report were very proper. Further consideration will be made in September when we expect to hold a Planning Meeting.
14. **Pruyn Arboretum and Butterfly Garden**—Midge Arnold reported she plans to label all plants in the garden with their common and Latin names. Swaim reported nine species of butterflies have been seen there. The pool has attracted some birds—well at least a Cow bird. A sign-up was passed around for members to agree to monitor the watering of the garden for a week. John McCall moved to thank Midge for her efforts on the garden, which was favorably accepted.
15. **Executive Committee**. Anderson, Stan Wecker, Bickford, Smolin, and Magel were appointed to act as the Executive Committee until the next Board meeting in September.
16. A meeting which was to have been held with Gladys Goldman in June has been postponed to September 28.
17. Stan Wecker noted we had 16 people on the Cape May trip, which was joined by 3 others.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:23


Acting Secretary
Jim Anderson