

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
December 2, 1999

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Richard Saravay hosted. Thirteen directors were present: J. Anderson, M. Arnold, D. Fletcher, J. Lunetta, S. Keyes, A. Maram, J. McCall, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, M. Smolin, R. Wecker, S. Wecker, and B. Wiesendanger. Naturalist/education director Anne Swaim was also present.

2. Membership was reported by office assistant Chris Nykwest to be 808.

3. President's report-J. Pinerio summarized a letter that had been received from County Executive Andrew Spano, explaining his decision to undertake mosquito spraying next spring only as a last resort. The letter also mentioned that \$250,000 has been budgeted next year for surveillance and determination of best practices. Also made mention of a letter from the NYS DEC outlining October wildlife highlights, and of the resignation of Pam McKown.

4. Sanctuaries-Martin Smolin reported on the November 11 Sanctuaries Committee meeting. J. Epstein will try to revive the trail walkers program, possibly by recruiting volunteers from households abutting sanctuary property. M. Smolin said that ConEd has sent maps of power lines adjacent to Brinton Brook and that the next step was to determine trail locations. Smolin also discussed intentions to increase the sanctuary's acreage to 200 + through, among other things, acquisition of the Silverman property and pledges from neighbors not to allow hunting or trails.

5. Naturalist's Report-Anne Swaim distributed a summary of 1999 programs showing that 7,962 students had benefited from outreach. Also noteworthy was the fact that 41 middle and high school classes had been reached. Swaim noted that these numbers are similar to Teatown, and L. Bickford pointed out that Teatown has many more educators. Also reported that concern over spraying meant that many scheduled programs for the year 2000 would take place in classrooms. Distributed fact sheet on backyard bird feeding in multifamily dwellings.

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6. Budget Report-J. Anderson distributed a budget for the year 2,000. Noted that income was up for contributions, due largely to the phonathon and the bird seed sale. S. Wecker suggested that if the budget is published the "N/A" figures for environmental action and field trips be omitted, since the "N/A" might send a misleading signal. It was decided that any need for expenditures in these categories will be handled under "administration." J. McCall moved that the budget be accepted. Motion was second and passed unanimously.

7. Treasurer's Report-J. Anderson noted that the total income for the operating fund in November was \$3,071. Expenditures were \$5,237.
8. Finance Report-R. Wecker reported that the value of the SMRAS investment portfolio as of November 30 was \$1, 049,712.
9. Pruyne Driveway Obstruction Report-R. Saravay reported that a new proposal had been received with an estimate of \$5,500 which would include a topographical survey, data collection, development of conceptual plans, meetings with the committee, and cost estimates. Phase II will entail engineering, cost estimates, and design for the selected driveway location. It was agreed that the engineering firm be urged to move as quickly as possible. J. McCall motioned that the proposal be accepted, L. Bickford seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with A. Maram abstaining.
10. Audit Committee-The committee recommended retaining the accounting firm of Arnold Berman & Company to perform a full audit of SMRAS for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1999. A. Maram moved that the recommendation be accepted. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
11. New Business-M. Arnold said that work has begun on a plan for the Pruyne Arboretum and announced a meeting of the arboretum committee on January 8 at 9:30 a.m. A. Swaim mentioned that a new book, "Birding on the Internet," mentioned SMRAS. S. Wecker suggested that each committee write a mission statement in preparation for recruiting new members.
12. Next meeting will be Thursday, January 6, 2000, at Sophie Keyes' house. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

MEMO: Board Notes

TO: SMRAS Board

FROM: Chris

RE: Corrected notes for November 4, 1999 and directions to January 6, 2000 meeting

Enclosed please find corrected notes for the November 4, 1999 meeting. A paragraph has been added to item number ten under finance committee.

Also, included below are directions to Sophie Keyes home for the January 6, 2000 board meeting.

Directions to Sophie Keyes home- From the intersection of Pinesbridge Road and the Taconic Parkway, travel east about one mile on Pinesbridge Road. Turn left on to Chadeayne Road and then take a left onto Syska Road. Proceed on Syska

Road and a short distance to the end, then turn right on Barnes Street. Sophie's home is immediately on the left. There is an exit to Pinesbridge Road from the Taconic Parkway northbound, but not southbound. Sophie's address is 209 Barnes Street, Ossining. Please call Sophie if you are unable to attend the meeting. 762-2569 Thanks!