

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Corrected Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
January 6, 2000

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Sophie Keyes hosted. Fifteen directors were present: M. Arnold, L. Bickford, J. Epstein, S. Hartmann, S. Keyes , J. Lunetta, M. Magel, A. Maram., J. McCall, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, M. Smolin, R. Wecker, S. Wecker and B. Wiesendanger. Anne Swaim was also present.

2. Membership was reported by office assistant Chris Nykwest to be 821.

3. President's report-J. Pinerio distributed copies of a letter to be sent to Governor Pataki regarding the proposed Highway 120 expansion near the Kensico Reservoir. There was unanimous agreement that SMRAS should be added as signatory. Made mention of an invitation to set up a membership booth at the Clearwater Festival on June 16 and 17. It was agreed that we should participate; ideas were offered for how to make the table prominent. Mentioned a letter from the Kitchawan Institute that said that conference space was available. Noted that board elections are coming up in April, and that nominations are being sought. Announced that he would not seek reelection as president. R. Saravay pointed out that if plans proceed to hire an executive director or executive secretary, it may be easier to attract candidates for president, since the job will be less time-consuming. L. Bickford added that he would not seek reelection as vice president. S. Wecker suggested that we restructure the board to include multiple vice presidents. New leadership for the Phonathon is also being sought.

4. Naturalist's report-A. Swaim made mention of a conference sponsored by the Westchester Department of Health to be held Jan. 19-21 to help develop a mosquito-spraying policy. Announced approval of an Endangered Species Act for Westchester, and noted that the act will probably have implications for SMRAS sanctuaries. Made mention of an online New York State rare plant list. Noted that a new link exists from the SMRAS Web site to county-wide field trips.

5. Sanctuaries-J. Epstein has composed a letter that will go out to residents

of sanctuary neighborhoods to recruit trail-walkers. M. Smolin said that he has had further discussions with ConEd, and that it was decided that no new trails would be added to the ConEd property adjacent to Brinton Brook. Existing roadways and trailways will be used. He will meet with lawyers to sign a formal agreement with ConEd. Also met with the Westchester County Parks Department to discuss "greenway" links between their properties and ours . Also proposed discussions with other local environmental groups to link protected areas in northern Westchester.

6. Bulletin-S. Keyes noted that the Feb./March issue will include a listing of programs and field trips. It was suggested that a blurb about board nominations also be included. M. Smolin asked that mention also be made of the appointment of Stan Lincoln as honorary director.

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7. Finance Committee-J. Pinerio expressed concern that the audit wouldn't be ready for the annual meeting. It was agreed that a treasurer's report will suffice. R. Wecker said that the finance committee was discussing what should be presented at the annual meeting. Also noted that the value of the investment portfolio as of December 31, 1999, was \$1,090, 487. Distributed 1999 budget and gave recording secretary one copy of treasurer's report.

8. New Business-Question arose over whether the Nov. planning meeting should be covered in the bulletin. L. Bickford moved that the verbs in the mission statement be changed from past tense to present tense. Motion was unanimously accepted. It was agreed that the board should review the materials from the planning meeting before the next board meeting. R. Saravay mentioned that the engineering firm has done a survey and will complete its study by the end of the month.

9. The next meeting will take place Tuesday, Feb. 1 at the Wecker's. (Note that this is a date change.) Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Directions to the Wecker Home: From downtown Chappaqua, go up King Street Hill and make the fifth right onto Poillon Street. (Opposite the Grand Union driveway). The Wecker home is on the second block, second house on the right, number 76. Please telephone if you are unable to attend. 238-4509 Thanks!