

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Draft Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
February 1, 2000

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Ten directors were present: J. Epstein, D. Fletcher, S. Hartmann, J. Lunetta, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, J. McCall, M. Smolin, S. Wecker, and B. Wiesendanger. Education director Anne Swaim was also present.
2. The minutes of the January 6, 2000 meeting were reviewed. The year on the minutes will be corrected. A motion was made to accept the minutes with the correction; motion was seconded and unanimously accepted.
3. Membership was reported by office assistant Chris Nykwest to be 824.
4. President's Report-An NAS membership video was shown. Discussion arose about the new dues-sharing structure proposed in the video, in which the \$20 dues for members recruited by NAS would be retained by NAS, rather than the present arrangement in which the local chapter receives \$5.50. Renewals and upgrades in membership would be retained by local chapters. Question also arose about whether NAS's financial situation was as dire as stated in the video.

Also made mention of the fact that nominations for Audubon Medals are being sought.

Announced appointment of D. Fletcher as chairman of the nominating committee.

Proposed possibility of a professionally-produced video on SMRAS for use on local cable access channels. Discussion arose over the goals of such a video, which might include membership and grant solicitation.

5. Naturalist's Report-A. Swaim reported on her participation in a Croton Point Master Plan. Noted that a broad range of interests was represented, including people and organizations focused on the park's history, recreation, and natural habitat. Also reported that plans are moving ahead for Westchester Audubon participation in the Clearwater Festival June 17 & 18. Also reported that the NAS Pesticide Committee had adopted a mosquito-spraying policy statement very similar to that of SMRAS.

6. Sanctuaries- M. Smolin reported that a meeting with ConEd had been set for Feb. 19 to discuss a contract for SMRAS management of ConEd property adjacent to Brinton Brook.

Also reported on a meeting in Yorktown, sponsored by the Supervisor, Linda Cooper, which a number of environmental organizations attended. Yorktown

& Cortlandt are contracting with the Wildlife Conservation Society (Bronx Zoo) to survey critical wildlife in several areas of the towns. These groups are interested in protecting existing open space, including much land that is still in private hands.

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7. Governance Group-J. Pinerio noted that the lack of candidates for the presidential vacancy that will occur in April is becoming a critical problem. The governance group looked at ways to function without a president or make the job more manageable. S. Wecker presented a possible organizational structure in which committees would report to one of three vice presidents. The idea of a part-time executive director was again discussed; R. Saravay noted that the board should move quickly to secure such a person by June so that he or she could spend the summer slow season getting acclimated to the job.

8. Finance Committee & Treasurer's Report-J. Anderson reported that income for January was \$2,047, and expenses were \$4,834. Distributed a report from the finance committee showing that the SMRAS portfolio balance as of December 31, 1999 was \$1,090,487, and that the investment rate of return for the year ended December 31, 1999 was 14.79 percent.

9. New Business-R. Saravay reported that he was still waiting for the engineer's survey regarding driveway solutions for Pruyn sanctuary, but expected to receive it soon. Also, a change in the annual meeting date was discussed. S. Wecker will look into the possibility of holding it April

10. The next meeting will take place Thursday, March 2, 2000, at the Chappaqua Library. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Directions to the Chappaqua Library- From the Saw Mill River Parkway take Route 120, Chappaqua Exit. Turn south on Route 120 into Chappaqua. After crossing over bridge, bear right at fork, onto South Greeley Avenue. The Chappaqua Library is located on South Greeley Avenue, 1/4 mile ahead on the left side, opposite the New Castle Town Hall. Additional parking is available on the street and at the Town Hall.