

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Draft Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
March 2, 2000

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Sixteen directors were present: J. Anderson, M. Arnold, J. Epstein, D. Fletcher, S. Hartmann, S. Keyes, J. Lunetta, M. Magel, A. Maram, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, J. McCall, M. Smolin, R. Wecker, S. Wecker, and B. Wiesendanger. Education director Anne Swaim was also present, and two guests, David Durst and Henry Sedusky.
2. The minutes of the February 1, 2000 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was seconded and unanimously accepted.
3. Membership was reported by office assistant Chris Nykwest to be 820.
4. President's report--J. Pinerio read a letter from Stan Lincoln in which Lincoln thanked SMRAS for naming him an honorary director. Pinerio announced that he would attend NYS Audubon Society Spring Council Meeting March 24-25 in Saratoga. Announced that Audubon had written a ten-page response to the Chappaqua School District's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The SMRAS response is available on the SMRAS Web site. S. Hartmann expressed reservations that the board had not seen the response before it was sent, but D. Fletcher said that a Chappaqua School Board vote could occur at any time and that SMRAS needed to respond quickly. Fletcher also praised A. Swaim and S. Wecker for their work on the response. Mentioned the need for a new computer for the SMRAS office. A telephone meeting of the Capital Fund committee will be called to discuss buying a new monitor and CPU. Said that Phonathon was in progress and that the office staff would handle it. Made mention of an Audubon in Westchester meeting on March 14 to discuss the upcoming Clearwater Festival, membership, and leader training. Announced that he would seek election as SMRAS president for another year.
5. Naturalists' report--A. Swaim mentioned that the New Castle Beautification Committee was interested in making a donation to SMRAS, and that she would suggest that they fund signs at Pruyn. Also made mention of ongoing meetings concerning Croton Point with various historical and environmental groups, and a meeting at Teatown among various groups interested in land preservation. Also showed a new one-page SMRAS flyer.
6. Personnel Committee--S. Wecker, reporting for L. Bickford, announced

that further analysis of the new SMRAS staff position had been done, and that the committee suggests that the position be for a part-time director of membership and development, with a salary of \$35,000. Changes to the wording of the draft job description were discussed.

7. Membership Committee--S. Wecker is working on a response to the NAS membership video.

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8. Sanctuaries Committee--M. Smolin reported on a February 17 meeting with ConEd. Said he was disappointed with some of ConEd's demands, including one that each person who entered the property sign a release. Also under contention is the amount of insurance SMRAS would carry on the property.

Said he had received a letter from the Open Space Institute, regarding the Silverman property, in which the Institute proposed that SMRAS contribute half of the \$225,000 purchase price. Read draft of a response letter.

9. Finance Committee--R. Wecker reported that the value of the investment portfolio as of February 29, 2000, was \$1,070,914.

10. Treasurer's Report--Reported that income for the month of February, most of which was from the bird seed sales, was \$1,456; expenses were \$4,623. Motioned to open up a \$30,000 CD with Telebank, with J. Pinerio, R. Wecker, and J. Anderson as signatories. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

11. Pruyn Arboretum and Garden Committee--S. Hartmann reported that the committee had met several times and had done much planning for spring planting. Is looking for volunteers for planning and maintenance. Announced a March 30 meeting concerning the butterfly garden.

R. Saravay said that he had received a draft report from the engineering firm, and that it looked as if the best solution would be to widen the present driveway and remove the rock that blocks sight lines. Estimated cost would be \$24,000 plus design fees; Saravay mentioned that he hoped that ConEd would shoulder the cost of removing their pole, which sits on the rock. Said that he hopes to have a final proposal at the next meeting.

12. Bulletin--S. Keyes announced deadlines for the April/May issue and said that it would be more cost-effective to announce board nominees in the issue rather than send out a separate mailing.

13. New Business--J. Lunetta said that the audit was in progress. S. Lincoln reminded everyone that the annual meeting is on April 24 at Croton Library at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 6, 2000, at 7:30 p.m. at the Chappaqua Library.

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.

Betsy Wiesendanger
Recording Secretary