

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Draft Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
May 4, 2000

1. The **meeting** was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Fifteen directors were present: J. Anderson, M. Arnold, L. Bickford, J. Epstein, S. Hartmann, S. Keyes, M. Magel, R. McCrillis, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, H. Seduski, M. Smolin, R. Wecker, S. Wecker, and B. Wiesendanger. Education director Anne Swaim was also present.
2. The **minutes** of the April 6, 2000 meeting and the April 24, 2000 annual meeting were reviewed. Motions to accept both sets of minutes were seconded and unanimously accepted.
3. **Membership** was reported by office assistant Chris Nykwest to be 826.
4. **President's report:** The June picnic and board meeting has been changed to June 13 at 6:00 p.m. Phonathon dates are May 16th and 17th; \$2,564 has already been received from the solicitation letter that was sent. Called for a motion that the personnel policy which was distributed last month be approved. J. Anderson noted that the policy now calls for both the education director and the office worker to be paid bimonthly, and that compensation for business-related mileage was raised. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Called for nominations for northeast representative for National Audubon Society. A motion was made that nomination of Peter Mott be pursued; the motion was seconded and unanimously accepted. Read the slate of candidates for New York Audubon Council; a motion that the slate be approved was unanimously passed. Passed around a letter from National Audubon Society concerning membership changes.
5. **Naturalist's report:** Anne Swaim reported that in April she made presentations to two new groups: Scarsdale Adult School and Roker Adult Care Center in White Plains. Also reported that Scarsdale Golf Club is interested in birding programs, and that Greeley High School was organizing Sunday afternoon walks. Mentioned that fears over the West Nile virus were minimal so far, and that Todd School had canceled bookings for five days in May due to negative news about the virus. The school later requested that the bookings be reinstated, however, the dates had already been filled. The school has booked dates for June.
6. **Sanctuaries:** M. Smolin reported that the Westchester Department of Parks and Recreation had designated a portion of Croton Point Park as a "biodiversity preserve." Noted that this is an important step that will not only protect wildlife that is already there but also possible replace species that are absent. Discussed the need for replacement of approximately 200 feet of 2-foot-widewood boardwalks at Pruyn. Estimated that materials and labor would total \$9,000, and reported that Bill Arnold agreed to design it. A motion was made to authorize M. Smolin to obtain a bid from TriMax and spend up \$9,000 for materials and to hire Dean DiMauro to build the boardwalk. Motion unanimously passed. Grant funding will be sought for replacement of the existing 3-foot-wide wood sections.
7. **Trailwalkers:** J. Epstein reported 17 trailwalkers have been recruited and that a meeting was held in April. Will send a letter to all trailwalkers with suggested supplies to bring and procedures for dealing with hunters and other emergencies.
8. **Pruyn Driveway Construction:** J. Pinerio was informed by ConEd that they will take down the pole on the rock that obstructs the driveway view and pay for its replacement. R. Saravay noted that a bill for \$5,500 was received from R. Sells for work completed thus far. He also noted that a portion of the proposal for the next phase of work was triple the amount of their original estimate. Saravay will discuss a reduction in price with the firm.

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9. **Finance Committee:** R. Wecker distributed a quarterly report for the period ending March 31, 2000. Investment portfolio balance as of April 1 was \$1,112,347. A report showing asset allocation mix was also distributed. A new member of the finance committee, Jim Grefig, has been recruited to replace John McCall. Grefig has experience as an actuary consultant.
10. **Treasurer's Report:** J. Anderson noted that April had been an active month, and that \$3,717 in income had been received and \$6,850 was spent. Noted that income was expected to exceed expenses in May due to the phonathon.
11. **Capital Fund Committee:** J. Pinerio discussed the need for a new computer system for the SMRAS office. A Dell system has been selected for purchase. M. Magel suggested opting for a DVD drive rather than a CD-ROM drive. A motion was made to approve expenditure of up to \$1,800 for the new computer. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.
12. **Pruyn:** S. Hartmann noted that a new contractor had been hired to do the mowing and appeared to do a good job. The 15 trees that have been planted are doing well. Noted a need for signs and pamphlets. M. Arnold announced a planting day for the butterfly garden on May 18. There was discussion about whether to do a story in the newsletter on the butterfly garden given the driveway situation. It was decided that the story be covered in a general way, without specific directions on where to park.
13. **Director of Community & Public Relations:** S. Wecker reported that an announcement of the job opening had been made at a Westchester Association of Development Officers meeting, and that two resumes had been received. Stressed that whoever is hired can't be expected to do all the work of running SMRAS, and asked that each committee prepare a mission statement. J. Pinerio asked that this be delayed until committees are firmed up.
14. **New business:** S. Wecker announced that the Scholarship Committee had met on March 14 and that three Larry Light Scholarships and two adult scholarships were awarded for 2000.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15. The next meeting will take place at the Arnolds: a picnic will start at 6:00 and the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Betsy Wiesendanger
Recording Secretary

Directions to the home of Midge and Bill Arnold: 812 Pinesbridge Road, Ossining, NY. Please call the Arnold's if you cannot attend the board meeting/picnic. The phone number is 762-0689.

From the intersection of Pinesbridge Road and the Taconic Parkway, go east on Pinesbridge Road about one mile. *There is an exit to Pinesbridge Road on the Taconic from the northbound lane only.* When traveling east, the Arnold home is on the right and the number 812 is on the blue mailbox. *Thanks!*