

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
September 7, 2000

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Twelve directors were present: J. Anderson, M. Arnold, J. Epstein, S. Hartmann, S. Keyes, J. Lunetta, R. McCrillis, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, M. Smolin, S. Wecker, and B. Wiesendanger. Education director Anne Swaim was also present.

2. The minutes of the June 13, 2000 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously accepted.

3. Membership was reported by office assistant Chris Nykwest to be 755.

4. President's Report: J. Pinerio thanked the executive committee for serving in his absence over the summer. Discussed communication from NAS stating that there is a new chapter certification process in which each chapter must submit a strategic plan. Announced that phonathon had yielded \$8,820 to date, which is much better than last year. Made mention of Fall NYSAS Council Meeting

5. Membership Task Force: S. Wecker noted that the new NAS membership dues-share policy is still being discussed, and that a third proposal had been put forth. R. McCrillis asked if a counterproposal had been offered. There will be a vote by NAS in mid-September, The new NAS membership director will meet with SMRAS at 2:00 p.m. on Sept. 26; anyone interested may attend.

6. Director of Community Relations: Wecker announced that the task force had advertised the opening for the director of community relations and development job over the summer and had received 61 resumes. The task force interviewed candidates and recommended that Lynn Anderson be hired. B. Wiesendanger had checked her references and said that Anderson received glowing recommendations. A motion was made that the board accept the findings of the task force and give J. Pinerio the authority to hire. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

6. Naturalist's Report: A. Swaim passed out a brochure that will be distributed at New Castle Community Day. Announced that she will be a contract tutor for home-schooled students and had developed a curriculum. Also noted that the county had bought property on Pinesbridge Road from IBM and had asked her to be on a committee to design a new golf course.

7. Sanctuaries: M. Smolin announced that a deposit had been placed on materials for completion of the Pruyne boardwalk and that Dean Di Mauro would build it. Noted that there had been more vandalism in Brinton: trees had been spray-painted and dirt-bikes had left tracks. Smolin noted that the vandalism is difficult to prevent, since the entrance must remain open. It was decided that trail-walkers would monitor the situation. Also noted that he is awaiting the town of Cortlandt's agreement to insure the ConEd property. Noted that the millennium pipeline, a gas pipeline that is being constructed from Canada, may cause major environmental disruption. Pinerio suggested that we watch the situation but added that unless the planned route invades a SMRAS sanctuary, SMRAS should not get involved.

8. Finance Committee: J. Anderson distributed the midyear financial report. Noted that many of our funds are heavily weighted toward large-cap stocks and discussed the need for a long-term financial plan. Asked for new members for the finance committee. Distributed a report on behalf of R. Wecker, noting that the value of the SMRAS investment portfolio was \$1,136,134 as of Aug. 31. Also noted that we had received a request from Workman's Compensation that nonpaid executives submit a document certifying that nonpaid executives be excluded from coverage. Anderson moved that such a document be prepared. J. Lunetta seconded, and motion was unanimously carried.

9. Bird Seed Sale: J. Anderson is still trying to locate a supplier who will provide sizes smaller than 50-pound bags. Is also looking at changing the composition of the SMRAS mix.

10. Pruyne Arboretum & Garden: S. Hartmann reported that the arboretum and garden are in good condition. Reported that an inventory of equipment in the house had been taken for insurance purposes, and that there was a need for off-site data backup. B. Wiesendanger volunteered to store backup zip disks. Also noted a problem with the ceiling of the living quarters.

11. Pruyne Driveway Obstruction: R. Saravay reported that Phase I of the project had been completed, and that he was awaiting receipt of the drawings and specs. Asked for board approval of Phase II, permitting with the state DOT, and Phase III, putting the project out for bids. Sells would handle both, for a cost of \$950 for Phase II and \$750 for Phase III. Motion was made and unanimously accepted.

12. New Business: S. Keyes asked for photos for the archive.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The next meeting will take place Thursday, October 12 (note change of date) 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.