

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
October 12, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Sixteen directors were present: J. Anderson, M. Arnold, J. Epstein, S. Hartmann, S. Keyes, J. Lunetta, M. Magel, A. Maram, R. McCrillis, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, H. Seduski, M. Smolin, R. Wecker, S. Wecker, and B. Wiesendanger. Education director Anne Swaim and Community Relations and Development Director Lynn Tchoblangolous were also present.

Discussion of the revised job descriptions for the Community Relations and Development Director and the Education Director took place. The following changes were suggested for the Director of Community Relations description:

- change "purpose" to read "...and institutions and businesses."
  - change title of Managing Editor of newsletter to Editor
  - change item #11, regarding reporting to SMRAS president and attending board meetings, to read the same as the Education Director's description.
- S. Hartmann moved to accept changes, R. Saravay seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

Regarding the Education Director's description, discussion arose over whether the position require living in the house on the Pruyn property. This clause would be inserted so that, if the Education Director lived elsewhere, SMRAS' nonprofit tax status would not be jeopardized. Jo Lunetta is checking with the auditors to see if this is the case. A. Maram raised the need for another phone line in the SMRAS office.

The minutes of the September 7, 2000 meeting were reviewed. J. Anderson asked that the report on the bird seed sale be changed to reflect that an alternate supplier could not be found and that the composition of the SMRAS mix has been changed. A. Maram asked why SMRAS wasn't taking a position on the millennium pipeline (this was discussed later in the meeting; see below). S. Hartmann moved to accept minutes with changes; J. Lunetta seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

Membership was reported by office assistant Chris Nykwest to be 766.

President's Report: J. Pinerio proposed holding an Annual Board Member Awards Dinner. The date of Nov. 15 was decided on. A committee will select a restaurant. L. Tchoblangolous pointed out that this could evolve into a fundraising event. Reviewed results of Sept. 26 meeting with NAS membership staff. Noted that NAS State Office had renewed SMRAS' chapter certification.

Director of Community Relations and Development Report: L. Tchoblangolous reported that building promotion and publicity, and developing membership materials, were her first priority. Distributed samples of printed materials she had developed, including a calendar of events, and an event press release. Mentioned that she was developing a "top priority" list of approximately 35 important media outlets, and asked board members to send her samples of newspapers and magazines to add to the list. Discussed need for a clipping service so that results can be gauged.

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Treasurer's Report: J. Anderson reported that income exceeded expenses in September, with the receipt of \$45,000 from the Hemp estate, over \$10,000 in bird seed sale income and contributions of \$800.

Bird Seed Sale: J. Anderson reported that 27 tons had been ordered. Orders had been received from 260 people, and another 50 or so walk-ups are expected.

Finance Committee: R. Wecker reported that the value of the investment portfolio was \$1,141,320 as of September 30 (including the addition of the \$45,000 Hemp bequest), down 3.5% from August.

Audit Committee: H. Seduski noted that the audit had been received for the year ended December 31, 1999, with no problems reported. Also received a one-page letter attesting to such that can be included with fundraising materials. Stressed need to receive audit results earlier next year, and noted that since the same firm would likely be used again next year, a less comprehensive audit could be done.

NAS Membership: S. Wecker noted that implementation of membership policy changes is delayed until July 1, 2001, and that NAS board had passed a resolution regarding the importance of chapters. Noted that a special promotion is running through the end of the year: for any member we recruit, we get \$30 back. Stressed need to take advantage of promotion, and noted that our cut of NAS dues will be gauged on the number of members we have on June 30, 2001. Suggested a phone campaign welcoming local members as they join. Seduski noted that confusion arises over joining a local chapter and

receiving renewal materials from NAS.

Naturalist's Report: A. Swaim noted new outreach at Bell School in Chappaqua, plus a new program of "family walks" for preschool and kindergartners and their parents.

Sanctuaries: M. Smolin asked for ideas for maintaining sanctuaries now that Dean DiMauro is gone, such as a "work day." Has a candidate for the position of sanctuary worker who wants to be guaranteed one day of work per week. Trimax was expected to arrive shortly; DiMauro will travel from Maine to construct the remainder of the Pruyn boardwalk replacement. Received contract from town of Cortlandt for money for insurance of ConEd property. Asked if SMRAS should take a stance on the millennium pipeline. A. Swaim said she doesn't see a position for SMRAS to take, given that the pipeline needs to be constructed to serve the area's energy needs.

Other Reports: J. Pinerio reminded committee chairs that their mission statements should be completed.

The next meeting will take place Thursday, Nov. 2, at Hendrick Hudson library, 185 Kings Ferry Road in Montrose. (Please see attached directions)

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.