

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Fifteen directors were present: J. Anderson, M. Arnold, J. Epstein, S. Hartmann, S. Keyes, J. Lunetta, 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.

Membership was reported by office assistant Chris Nykwest to be 771.

President's Report: J. Pinerio announced an Audubon in Westchester meeting to take place Nov. 16 at Westmoreland Sanctuary. Board members are invited.

David Miller, president of NYAS will attend. Announced a committee to oversee the work of the director of community relations and development, to be headed by the president. Committee members Stan Wecker, Richard Saravay, and Betsy Wiesendanger were appointed. Announced that he had closed sections of the Pruyn boardwalk because they were unsafe.

Sanctuaries Committee: M. Smolin noted that the contract with the town of Cortlandt to pay for insurance for the ConEd Property adjacent to Brinton Brook was now in the hands of J. Pinerio's lawyer. Announced that Trimax for Pruyn boardwalk had been delivered and that construction would commence around Nov. 20th. Met with representative of Achilles lumber, a Brooklyn firm, who wasn't receptive to donating Trimax but offered the name of a state representative. Smolin will give the name to L. Tchoblangolous to pursue. Raised the possibility of extending the boardwalk to circle the entire pond.

Community Relations and Development: L. Tchoblangolous noted the overwhelming success of October's program on wolves, and said that a follow-up press release had been sent out. Emphasized the need for membership recruitment to be strong at programs; since only about 25 nonmember names had been collected at the program. Is planning a major publicity push for the upcoming environmental quiz. Discussed possibility of getting donation of binoculars or equivalent funds. Noted that newsletter is being overhauled. Is creating a computer photo library; anyone with digital photos should let Lynn know.

Pruyn Rock Exit: R. Saravay noted that bids had been received, and that a low bidder was recommended by the engineering firm. Bid is for \$12,575 for rock removal, driveway widening, roadway remediation. Recommended that we

enter into a contract and move forward quickly. Moved to authorize signing of the contract, plus additional funds of \$4,500 for engineering observation as required by DOT. Discussion arose whether we want to inform neighbors. Stan amended motion to authorize funding of up to \$30,000. J. Epstein seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

Budget Committee/Treasurer's Report/Bird Seed Sale: J. Anderson announced that he will not seek reelection as treasurer, due to time demands with bird seed sale. Noted expenses for Oct. were \$27,521; income was \$18,973. Major expenses included a \$6,800 bill from Sells and \$4,857 for Pruyne boardwalk materials. Noted that net proceeds from the bird seed sale exceeded \$10,000.

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Naturalist's Report: A. Swaim announced that our Web site is no longer being hosted by NAS and that SMRAS has a new domain name: [www.sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org). New email addresses for office staff are also in effect. Distributed a guide to trees and shrubs found in Westchester that she had compiled. J. Lunetta suggested that SMRAS's name be more prominently displayed. Distributed postcards to Westchester Parks Department urging that funds be budgeted for the position of assistant curator.

Finance Committee: R. Wecker announced that the value of the investment portfolio as of Oct. 31 was \$1,122,978. Noted that an Invesco large-cap fund had been sold and replaced with two mid-cap funds.

Mission Statements: Committee mission statements were submitted to J. Pinerio. S. Wecker suggested using them to come up with committee descriptions that could be given to new members looking for volunteer opportunities.

New Business: L. Tchoblangolous suggested that bequests be publicly recognized in the newsletter. S. Wecker asked for suggestions for new programs. A. Swaim suggested a cavity nesting program in May. L. Tchoblangolous suggested that at least every other program be family oriented, and that they be on Friday nights. M. Smolin asked that a corrected roster of Sanctuary Committee members be printed in the newsletter.

Next meeting will take place Thursday, December 7, 2000, at 7:30 p.m. at Sophie Keyes's house.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Directions to Sophie Keyes home- From the intersection of Pinesbridge Road and the Taconic Parkway, travel east about one mile on Pinesbridge Road. Turn left on to Chadeayne Road and then take a left onto Syska

Road. Proceed on Syska Road and a short distance to the end, then turn right on Barnes Street. Sophie's home is immediately on the left. There is an exit to Pinesbridge Road from the Taconic Parkway northbound, but not southbound. Sophie's address is 209 Barnes Street, Ossining. Please call Sophie if you are unable to attend the meeting. 762-2569 Thanks!