

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Thirteen directors were present: J. Anderson, M. Arnold, S. Hartmann, S. Keyes, M. Magel, A. Maram, R. McCrillis, J. Pinerio, 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, as was Danny Ferguson, the new sanctuary worker, who was introduced by M. Smolin.

Minutes of the November 2 board meeting were reviewed. R. Wecker asked that the minutes for the Finance committee be changed so that "Invesco Total Return" be substituted for "Invesco large-cap." Minutes unanimously approved as modified.

Membership was reported by office assistant Chris Nykwest to be 745.

Membership Initiative: S. Wecker discussed several promotions being proposed by NAS, including one in which SMRAS will get \$30 for the first year for every new member recruited at the \$20 level. Wecker recommended that we use the promotion to give away free memberships and boost our member roster before June 30 cutoff date at which the baseline membership number will be established. Suggested that memberships be offered to teachers whom Anne is in contact with, people who buy birdseed, neighbors of sanctuaries, government officials, and libraries. A. Maram asked if follow-up has been done with members who do not renew. J. Anderson noted that if we give memberships away, we are not recruiting active members. J. Pinerio questions the need for more members. A motion was made to approve the concept of giving away free memberships and was seconded and unanimously passed.

President's Report: J. Pinerio reported on a Bedford Audubon meeting with David Miller on November 16, and said that Miller disavowed complicity with NAS membership efforts. Mentioned exhibit of John James Audubon art at the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences.

Finance Committee: R. Wecker announced that the value of the investment portfolio as of November 30 was \$1,053,651, down 5.5 percent from October 31.

Capital Fund Committee: J. Pinerio reminded the board that the capital fund is a "rainy day" fund and is not for planned projects. Rather, it is for large (\$500+) unplanned non-annual budget projects. S. Hartmann noted that money will be needed from the fund for repairs to the Pruyn House living quarters. Pinerio moved that the board approve adding \$3,680 to increase

the fund to \$10,000. M. Magel seconded, motion was unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report: J. Anderson noted that expenditures and income in November were light. \$1,276 had been received in income, and \$7,832 had been spent. Noted that total funding of \$31,052 had been required from the endowment as of the end of November.

Budget Committee: J. Anderson distributed 2001 budget. L. Tchoblangolous asked why, if SMRAS was trying to do more education, the education budget had been cut. J. Anderson replied that as of the end of November, A. Swaim had used only \$593 of the \$2, 875 budgeted for 2000, and that overall, SMRAS is trying to increase income and cut expenses.

L. Tchoblangolous noted that future grant proposals will include funding for administration, which should help cut administrative costs overall. A. Maram moved to approve the budget, S. Hartmann seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. A copy of the budget is attached.

Sanctuaries Committee: M. Smolin discussed the hiring of Danny Ferguson, the new sanctuary worker. Smolin had been impressed with Ferguson's work at the Croton Arboretum and said Ferguson loves to work outdoors.

Smolin also suggested that L. Tchoblangolous explore ways to secure grant money to buy the Silverman property adjacent to the Con Ed property and Brinton Brook, which is being offered for \$225,000. The Open Space Institute had it appraised and found that to be a reasonable price. J. Pinerio said land acquisition should not be a priority for SMRAS and that Lynn was already stretched thin. M. Arnold noted that we should concentrate on developing what we have. H. Sanduski asked what SMRAS's policy was on land acquisition; J. Pinerio said we accept it only if given as a gift. Smolin motioned that Lynn explore acquisition of the Silverman property; S. Wecker proposed that the motion omit mention of Lynn and instead be assigned to a committee. M. Magel seconded motion as amended. Motion was unanimously passed.

Smolin also noted that the contract with the Town of Cortlandt to insure the Con Ed property is with J. Pinerio.

Bulletin: L. Tchoblangolous is working on getting an in-kind donation of needed software including Photoshop and PageMaker. Noted need for another computer for the office. Distributed schedule with deadlines for the next bulletin.

Naturalist's Report: A. Swaim noted that of the 134 schools visited that are north of Route 287, 65 are in SMRAS territory and 51 are in Bedford Audubon's territory. Noted that she would like to spend more time developing relationships with teachers in our membership region. Noted that two Westchester zip codes in Croton Falls and Crompond are unclaimed by any Audubon chapter. Said she plans to use school winter break time to develop the SMRAS Web site as a teacher resource center. Need help with programs and field trips for February through August.

Nominating Committee: S. Hartmann reminded everyone that he has extra bird seed. Thanked M. Magel for pruning the Pruyn Arboretum. Noted that the terms of S. Hartmann, M. Arnold, S. Keyes, J. Lunetta, M. Magel, A. Maram and R. Wecker would expire in 2001, and that they should let him know if they plan to run for reelection. J. Pinerio stressed the need to get a slate of nominees ready quickly and to publicize it in the next newsletter.

L. Tchoblangolous noted that we could mail the ballot separately for an additional cost of about \$300; this would allow more time to prepared the slate.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05. Next meeting will be held January 4 at the Chappaqua Library and hosted by Richard Saravay.