

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
AMENDED Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
February 1, 2001

The **meeting** was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Thirteen directors were present: M. Arnold, J. Anderson, S. Hartmann, S Keyes, J. Lunetta, M. Magel, A. Maram, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, M. Smolin, R. Wecker, S. Wecker, and B. Wiesendanger. Also present were Education Director Anne Swaim, Community Relations and Development Director Lynn Tchoblangolous and two guests, Rosalie Nathan and Joan Coffey.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and the following changes proposed: that the investment portfolio total be changed to \$1,058, 299, and, under the Sanctuaries Committee notes, that the Silverman property has been assessed at \$225,000; the phrase “assessment is real” be changed to “assessment is accurate”; and that “who will be the owner of record” be changed to “what will be our relationship.” Motion was made to accept minutes with changes; unanimously passed.

Membership was reported by Chris Nykwest to be 964.

President’s report: J. Pinerio read aloud a letter from John Askildsen concerning SMRAS advertising and membership recruitment. Noted that an NAS letter regarding national board elections was received late. Noted a “smart growth” document from NAS’s David Miller. Discussed efforts to protest reassignment of Allison Beale from Marshlands Sanctuary that were discussed at Audubon of Westchester meeting.

Environmental quiz: Quiz scheduled for January was canceled due to lack of participation. Discussion arose over the wisdom of rescheduling and possible public relations damage from the cancellation. A motion was made to reschedule for Sunday, March 4 if five teams commit and submit names of participants by February 14. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s report: J. Anderson noted a donation of \$750 from the Mount Kisco Beautification Committee for interpretive signage for Pruyn and the receipt of \$19,000 from the Hembdt estate. Motion was made and seconded to direct Anderson to have SMRAS seal applied to the acknowledgment of the Hembdt bequest and have it notarized. Unanimously passed.

Finance committee: R. Wecker distributed the investment portfolio performance report for period ending December 31, 2000. Noted that portfolio had lost 6% in 2000, which may be comparable to the Morningstar Balanced Fund Average’s gain of 1.7% for the same period, given that SMRAS probably had more large-cap stocks than the Morningstar Average. Total holdings as of January 31 were \$1,071,103. Rita also distributed the Asset Allocation Report for December 31, 2000 that showed: Stocks, 61.9%, Cash 19.3%, Foreign 10.9%. She also relayed concern of the Finance Committee that continued low market returns and high deficit spending by SMRAS could erode our Endowment Fund very quickly.

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Community Relations Report: L. Tchoblangolous noted an in-kind donation of PageMaker software. Discussion arose on whether donors should be listed in newsletter after one donor called to complain. Noted need for backup materials such as invoices to keep in SMRAS office in preparation for applying for grants. Tchoblangolous asked for permission to drop the word "society" from SMRAS press releases and materials. J. Lunetta moved that permission be given, R. Saravay seconded. Unanimously passed.

Naturalist's report: A. Swaim distributed report on January activities. A question arose about Swaim's involvement with science instruction for a group of home school students. It was determined that religious content was not involved. Swaim noted involvement in NY Science Teachers regional conference and a meeting with the Rockefeller State Park environmental educator.

Personnel Committee: J. Lunetta distributed a job description for the sanctuaries maintenance worker position. It was noted that general duties should be changed to read "part-time outdoor maintenance and repairs." Lunetta motioned that SMRAS hire Danny Ferguson as an hourly worker, R. Saravay seconded, unanimously passed. Lunetta discussed need for a new computer for the SMRAS office and distributed a price quote. J. Pinerio moved that expenditure of up to \$1,200 from the capital fund be approved to fund the purchase, S. Wecker seconded. Passed.

Sanctuaries Committee: M. Smolin noted that the Town of Cortlandt has funded an additional \$3 million of insurance on the Con Ed property. Presented a "memo of understanding" from the Croton Arboretum for mutual promotion and event help. Motion was made and seconded not to sign the agreement but to continue support on an ad hoc basis. Passed, with three opposed.

New Business: S. Hartmann announced that further exploration of damage to A. Swaim's living quarters had been done and that a proposal by a contractor would be redone to reflect the findings. Motioned was made that R. Nathan and J. Coffey be appointed as members of the board to fill unexpired terms. M. Smolin seconded. Unanimously passed.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held at the Chappaqua Library on March 1, 7:30 p.m. and hosted by the Weckers'.

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 the 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.

Minutes prepared by Betsy Wiesendanger.

Amended by Anne Swaim as directed at the March 1, 2001 Board Meeting.

