

**Saw Mill River Audubon  
DRAFT Minutes  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 1, 2001**

The **meeting** was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Eleven directors were present: R. Nathan, S. Hartmann, A. Maram, J. Lunetta, J. Epstein, M. Arnold, S. Wecker, R. Wecker, J. Anderson, B. McCrillis, J. Pinerio. Education Director A. Swaim was also present.

**Minutes for the February 1, 2001** board meeting were reviewed. There were several changes. Rita Wecker submitted a list of changes for the Financial Committee report. Jim Anderson submitted changes for the Treasurer's Report and for the discussion on the home schooling in the Naturalist's Report. He also noted that there was one abstention on the vote for the new computer and suggested changing the wording from "Unanimously Passed" to "Passed." The date of the meeting should also have been recorded as February 1<sup>st</sup> not the 2<sup>nd</sup>. These changes are reflected on the attached, corrected February 2001 minutes. Alice Maram also noted that the minutes should indicate who prepared them. Motion was made to accept February, 2001 minutes as amended and passed.

**Membership** was reported by Chris Nykwest to be 978 with 211 added by the chapter's membership initiative. Of these, the following break-down of new member sources was given: 80 – school teachers; 15 – Croton Arboretum members; 94 – SMRAS board referrals; 7 – Trail Walkers; 6 – Web Site sign-ups; 7 – Seed Sale customers; 2 – Sanctuary neighbors.

**President's Report** Jeff Pinerio noted that Sophie Keyes gave six gift memberships to neighbors for which she paid. He reported that the contract was assigned for the **removal of the rock at the Pruyn driveway** and the driveway re-alignment and permits have been secured. The work is expected to begin as soon as the asphalt plant opens again in warmer weather.

Pinerio announced that the **2001 Phonathon Dates** would be Tuesday and Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> with location in Chappaqua to be determined. He noted that this year's Phonathon will be especially important with the financial markets' lower return in the endowment fund and with additional expenditures by the Society. A volunteer list for the Phonathon was circulated.

Pinerio also reviewed various **National Audubon publications and notices** including: the NAS Annual report; the NAS wetland issues newsletter and a note that all Birdathon monies may now be designated for chapter use. It was reported that the NY Armchair Activist program is being reactivated and a coordinator for SMRAS is needed. Henry Seduski expressed interest in reviewing this program.

**A letter from "Audubon in Westchester"** to Westchester County Parks re: the reassignment of Alison Beale from Marshlands to the Bronx River Conservancy was read. This letter followed a meeting with four of the five Westchester chapters and County Parks. It stated Audubon's understanding that the reassignment would be temporary.

A discussion was held regarding possible future action by SMRAS on the proposed **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil drilling**. Stan Wecker motioned that SMRAS send a letter to undecided congress members in our territory urging them to oppose drilling. The motion was seconded by Midge Arnold and passed.

Pinerio noted that SMRAS has signed onto a letter proposed by **the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition** to new EPA Administrator Christine Whitman urging her to reconsider the Croton Watershed Consent Degree which mandated a filtration plant.

**Pruyn House Committee** action was reported by Svend Hartmann who had distributed a proposal for Pruyn House repairs by mail in advance of the meeting. A significant change to this proposal was the substitution of wall-to-wall carpeting in place of new tile in the hall, dining and living rooms. This would cost approximately \$4000 less (estimated to be \$2000 or less). There was some discussion about the desire to fix or replace the sliding door on the office bathroom. J. Pinerio suggested repairs might be possible. The total cost for the proposal would be \$8797.50. A quorum of the Capital Fund Committee being present, a decision was made by this committee to recommend this expenditure. Motion was made for this expenditure, seconded and passed.

## **SMRAS Board – DRAFT Minutes for March 1, 2001**

**Treasurer's Report** Jim Anderson distributed a "Cash Flow" report for the first two months of 2001, as suggested by Alice Maram.

**Finance Committee** Rita Wecker said that there was no specific report for this meeting but noted that there would be expected losses to the SMRAS portfolio in February due to market conditions. On March 10, Rita emailed the following statistics for the month ending February 28, 2001. The value of the investment portfolio was \$996,103. This is down \$75,000 or 7.0% from the January 31 value.

**Naturalist's Report** Anne Swaim distributed her monthly report and highlighted various education programs she has been or will be presenting. She distributed copies of a letter to the editor sent to "The Patent Trader," regarding the coyote issue. A similar article will run in the Town of New Castle town newsletter.

**Environmental Quiz** Stan Wecker reported that seven middle school teams have been secured for the Environmental Quiz to be held on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 p.m. at the Chappaqua Library. There is a need for help with the refreshment serving although Stan will purchase and set up the refreshments. Judy Epstein offered to help with this.

**Sanctuary Committee** Martin Smolin noted the following sanctuary news:

- a wood duck box is expected to be put up in Brinton Brook in early March with the assistance of Sanctuary Worker Danny Ferguson
- Danny has also suggested the re-routing of two sanctuary trails, the lower, wet part of the Pond Loop at Brinton Brook and the trail at Graff that currently crosses a steep hillside. Martin will call Rosalie Nathan, Brinton Brook coordinator to set a time for Danny and Rosalie to review the Brinton trail.
- Danny has also suggested the need to repair the bulletin board foundations at Pruyn sanctuary and will seal and attach the trail map at Pruyn once warmer temperatures allow for this work.

Martin also reviewed a meeting that he attended at Croton Point County Park on February 21<sup>st</sup> where the master plan for the park was discussed. Most of the emphasis at this meeting was on the historical site review but there is also a proposal to put a boardwalk through a wet area to the shoreline. He is working with parks personnel to offer suggestions on this from SMRAS experience with boardwalk construction. There was also discussion on the construction of a new nature center. The SMRAS board then had some discussion about possible chapter/center involvement.

Martin will also be meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> with Open Space Institute representatives and Croton Mayor Bob Elliot regarding the Silverman property adjoining Brinton Brook. Of interest was the new information that this property may have a requirement to build an access road to town standards increasing any development costs and potentially reducing any purchase price of the property as open space.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**The next meeting will be Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m., at the Chappaqua Library.**

Minutes prepared by Anne Swaim