

Saw Mill River Audubon Society Draft Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting: May 3, 2001

Minutes taken by Judy Epstein. Board notes prepared by Christine Nykwest and Lynn Tchoblangolous

The **meeting** was called to order at 7:30 pm. Directors R. Saravay, A. Maram, J. Lunetta, R. McCrillis, J. Epstein, R. Nathan, M. Smolin, S. Hartmann, and J. Pinerio were present. Community Relations Director L. Tchoblangolous was also present.

April 2001 minutes

- Martin gave corrections for the April minutes:
They are thinking of sending a letter. He secured realtor assessment.
- **Judy seconded, minutes accepted.**

Membership stands at 1012.

New Business

- Opening for Recording Secretary to replace Betsy Weisendanger.
- Need a chair of Finance Committee; Henry said he had some names to give to Richard.
- Martin reported that Doris Kinney called to say how wonderful the birding workshop was.
- Richard reported that at the meeting of Westchester Council it was suggested an annual meeting be held of all Audubon chapter committee chairs to get to know each other and share information.
- Svend reported work at Pruyn House finished. They did a good job and finished on time. Only thing to do is carpeting in the living room.
- A vacuum cleaner and 17-inch monitor are needed for the office. To be requested in newsletter under a "donations needed" section.

Treasurers Report

- Henry reported that \$2,500 already came in from fundraising. He is trying to change all signatures on the SMRAS checking account.
- Motion: Board to give approval that the Board gives its approval that:
"Be it so moved that the board give its approval for the appropriate forms to be completed so that the authorized signatures on Saw Mill River Audubon's Bank of New York checking account, Vanguard United States Treasury Money Market Fund and Vanguard Price Money Market Fund are changed to the following: Jeffrey W. Pinerio, Chairman, Richard Saravay, President, Svend Hartmann, Vice President, Henry Seduski, Treasurer." *Motion unanimously passed.*

Naturalist's Report

Given by Lynn in Anne's absence. Basic Birding Workshop a great success. Anne is at a meeting on **Millennium Pipeline** this evening. We now have intervener status. See classroom/field trip schedule.

- Jo Lunetta suggested calls be made before field trips to remind people who registered.

Community Relations Report

- Good press from *Patent Trader*, *NY Times*, *Journal News* and others that listed our programs. Anne spoke on radio about Coyotes. Program a huge success: more than 110 people attended.
- Reported on 2001 Annual Fund to date. Restricted gifts will be kept separately. Newsletter will have donation form. 200 more people were sent letters. (free memberships)
- Had a program meeting with Jeff, Anne, Midge and Stan. Programs will be on Friday nights next year. Discussion of programs for next year.
- Saturday, August 25th, Jamaica Bay program with other groups.
- Phonathon May 22 and 23 need people to help.

Finance Committee Meeting

- Because of low market, fund raising particularly important this year. **(see attached report)**

Sanctuary Committee

- Report given by Martin Smolin. Highlights follow, full report available from the office. Jordan Ellsworth resigned as **Pruyn/Crystal Spring** coordinator. Jeff Pinerio was encouraged to step into that position. **Pinecliff** remains without a coordinator. Judy suggested Jean Kadel or the Hintz's take the position. Trail walker reports are down. Judy will try to keep in better touch with them. Martin and Anne need to see reports to plan work. Martin will direct Danny Ferguson's work. Gift jackets were sent to the Trail walkers in appreciation. Trail walker picnic being planned for September. Multiple jobs being done in **Pruyn/Crystal Springs** by Alice (blazing), Danny (repairs), Anne (interpretive trail). For **Brinton** there was discussion on repairing the Yellow Trail, purchasing the Silverman property and a donated a supply of wood chips from the Town of Croton. For **Pinecliff** discussion was held on repairs and reblazing back trails. For **Graff** the steep trail will be rerouted to make climbing easier. Discussion was held about transferring **Chernick's title** to Westchester County Parks Department. A liaison has been formed among SMRAS, WCDP and NYS Audubon for the discussions of a possible **Audubon Center at Croton Point Park**. Suggestion was made to form a committee to oversee the process.
- Alice Maram rerouting and remaking trail sheet that goes to Crystal Spring in Pruyn Sanctuary. The repair of boardwalk at Pruyn will be postponed so will be closed for time being.

Croton Point Nature Center

- Jeff talked to County about an Audubon Nature Center at Croton Point. A suggestion was made to make this a separate, committee managed project. This could be a very significant project for our chapter.
- Jeff and Stan met with Rick Werwaiss, at Butternut, NY to discuss Croton Point Nature Center. Jeff made a motion to establish a committee to work on Croton Point Park Nature Center. Committee includes: Jeff, Martin, Anne, Richard, and Stan. Meeting is on May 23. *Motion passed.*

Millennium Pipeline

- Martin was told it was not going to be in Brinton Brook property. It will go right outside of it. It will be going through the Lytel Arboretum. Anne at meeting tonight regarding this issue.

Hudson National Golf Course

- Martin reported that they want to put up Bluebird houses. We will help them. They also want to plant flowers on the edge of the golf course and will ask for our help.

Pruyn Celebration

- Svend reported trees are being tagged; talk of gravel being put down for parking.
- Bob McCrillis outlined the event to celebrate the opening of the Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden and Arboretum: Saturday, June 23, ceremony at 12 noon, purpose to open new features to the public. Officials from neighboring towns, other Audubon chapters, etc. invited, light refreshments, maybe music. Tours at 10:30 am and 1 pm with Anne. Garden/Arboretum tours 1 to 3 pm.
- Suggested that Policemen (off duty) will be needed, probably two at about \$80 each.
- A need for a budget to cover expenses. Up to \$1000.00 is being asked for. *Motion passed.*

Phonathon/Annual Fund Update 6/4/01

Many thanks to those who volunteered for Phonathon 2001 May 22 and 23. *Night One: Robert McCrillis, Chris Nykwest, Jeff Pinerio, Richard Saravay, Henry Seduski, Anne Swaim, Lynn T.* *Night Two: Jim Anderson, Jeff Pinerio, Lynn T.*

Total Annual Fund Donations Received to Date: \$6991 + 950 matching = \$7,941

Next Board Meeting: Annual Picnic at Arnold's at 6 pm. Spouses are invited. Each board member please bring either a salad or dessert and bring your own meat to cook on provided grills. *Board meeting to begin approximately 7:30pm.*