

**Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Board Meeting Draft Minutes
June 12, 2001**

Taken by: Lynn Tchoblangolous **Prepared by:** Chris Nykwest

May minutes passed with the following amendments:

- The second point under New Business should say: "Need a chair of the Audit committee" and spelling of "intervenor" corrected.

June meeting: R. Nathan, R. Wecker, S. Wecker, J. Coffey, R. Saravay, M. Smolin, J. Anderson, R. McCrillis, S. Hartmann, H. Seduski, J. Pinerio, Education Director Anne Swaim, Community Relations Director Lynn Tchoblangolous.

Membership is reported at 960.

President's Report; Richard Saravay

- **Package from NYS:** new member brochure, NAS's *Protect the Arctic* brochure, & report of conference resolutions from Elmira. Copies in office.
- **Nominating Committee:** Need a new Recording Secretary. Need to identify potential board members. Stan suggested and will call Dr. Burton Leiser. Need new chair of Nominating Committee — will address at September meeting. Discussion of Nominating Committee, need for new board members, losing Mark?
- **Executive Committee:** In case something comes up in the summer.

Treasurer's Report; Henry Seduski

- Transfer from endowment to be made for final Pruyn expenses and rock removal.
- Contributions to date of over \$7,000 were received from the mailing and Phonathon.
- All seems in line, *report attached*.

Audit Committee; Richard Saravay, Henry Seduski

- Henry has a suggestion for chair from Price Waterhouse. He'll contact him.
- Discussion of what they do: oversee checking account, stubs, & statements.

Finance Committee; Rita Wecker

- Value of portfolio crept up. Close to one million again.

Pruyn Celebration; Bob McCrillis

- Report on day's events. Need board to come, help as needed, bring cookies. Bring ice chests and trays. Dorothea Smith coming this Thursday at 1:30pm to do article. Alice Avouris arranged for musicians to play. Richard will bring a bell. Photos should be planned.
- General discussion, do not pick the flowers; ribbon cutting, etc.

Community Relations: Lynn T.

- Report on Phonathon. Thanks, mailing better.

**Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Board Meeting Draft Minutes, page two
June 12, 2001**

Education Report: Anne Swaim

- Schools wrapping up. Todd school, second graders five times to Pinecliff.
- Arboretum map, general standard look to all.
- Maps replenished at sanctuaries.

Millennium Pipeline: Anne Swaim

- Two public hearings, both well attended, especially Cortlandt, about 200 people attended. Went on walk through Arboretum with pipeline folks.
- Momentum building but late. Swaim: impact on Brinton Brook Sanctuary not that significant but along power lines it is solid rock so it might have an impact from the blasting. Will look worse than it is on our property as it's on Con Ed land. Impact: Teatown: staggering. Croton: major. Both wetlands. Also major impact of private backyards.
- Smolin: Talked to someone who said they would put in a field for habitat.
- Anne noted that we need to be politically sensitive and not cut side deals. All the effort may be too little too late.
- Discussion
- Saravay: board action? Written documents by end of June. A. Swaim drafting, will run by Ad Hoc committee. Wecker moved to motion, passed.
- Committee: R. Saravay, M. Smolin, S. Wecker. Anne will email document.
- Thanks to A. Swaim for all her work.

Arboretum: Svend Hartmann

- Anne is working on the map.
- Committee down to four members, B. Arnold, A. Swaim, S. Hartmann. Need more members to help. Herb Bloom?
- Garden Committee/Arboretum Committee merge? Accomplished a great deal. Signs up. Learned a great deal. Found trees did not even know were there. Even an American elm, huge.
- Mark some trees in the sanctuary, too?

Sanctuaries: Martin Smolin

- Sent all to Con Ed but have not heard from them re: trail access to power lines. Two and one quarter years since negotiations begun for adjustment of property.
- Got wonderful commitment from Hudson National Golf Course re: maintaining and expanding wildlife corridor and blue bird boxes. A. Swaim can conduct classes on their property, idea to encourage them to plant wildflowers via her suggestions.
- Will further people's connection to Brinton.
- Mrs. Silverman called. Got letter from Open Space Institute asking her to consider easement. She was upset about it. Will think about donating other half.

**Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Board Meeting Draft Minutes, page three
June 12, 2001**

- Martin spoke to Croton Historical Society President to see if he'd walk with him in Brinton to see ruins—said he would. They may have historical value.
- Danny working at Pruyn to install map, cutting trees, demolished display cases etc.

Croton Point Center: Jeff Pinerio

- J. Pinerio, S. Wecker, A. Swaim, M. Smolin and C. Coggeshall met with Jack Robbins re: nature center. All positive but no one has any money. County has timetable. Very interested in doing something, but not sure what this does for us. NYS Audubon was there but also no money. Project is two to three years.
- Centers inevitable. Compete with us. We are also a center, very similar but we do not have a facility. Where does board want it go?
- S. Wecker: County has five year plan. Replace current nature center. Has a relationship with NYS Audubon. Similar to Prospect Park.
- Discussion
- National trying to get rid of chapters. All coming to a head. Where are we going? Need to address as a board. Need a retreat re: a strategic plan.
- Committee needs to meet to discuss center-related issues/possibilities: A. Swaim, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, S. Wecker, M. Smolin, L. Tchoblangolous.

Executive Committee:

- Appointed: R. Saravay, S. Hartmann, J. Pinerio, S. Wecker, H. Seduski.

Scholarships: A. Swaim, S. Wecker

- Two to award. Stan reported on candidates.
- Motion to award, passed.

Board Schedule:

- New Day? Tuesdays, September 11th, 7-7:30pm
- First Tuesday, include calendar
- Where?

Additional notes: Chris Nykwest

- Two new email addresses from board members: Joan Coffey (felinejoan@aol.com), and Jo Lunetta (jlunetta@westchesterlibraries.org)
- New direct line for Richard Saravay at work: 212-624-9549
- Updated phone number for Joan Coffey at home: 232-5839
- Pruyn Day rescheduled to July 7. Same schedule applies.