

**Saw Mill River Audubon
Amended Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
September 13, 2001**

Recorded by: Judy Epstein **Prepared by:** Chris Nykwist

June 12th minutes accepted.

President's Report:

- ❖ Membership in the high 900's in June 2001.
- ❖ Acknowledge mail (Bruce Gilchrist on Pam's recent death.)
- ❖ A Board retreat was proposed re: our vision and goals for the next couple of years. Dates of November 10th or November 17th were suggested, depending on a facilitator's availability. Stan Wecker is to call Donna Nye and will ask the Congregational Church for space, or another church. A retreat committee was formed: Stan Wecker, Jeff Pinerio, Richard Saravay, Anne Swaim, Lynn Tchoblangolous.
- ❖ Meeting nights need to be changed. Possible meeting nights may be Monday nights at the Library. October 22, November 26, skip December then January 28, 2002, February 25, March 18, April 29, May, TBA.
- ❖ A suggestion by Lynn to get an agenda packet and other materials for meetings sent out one week prior to board meetings.
- ❖ NY Council Fall meeting will be meeting October 13-14th in Pawling. Richard will go as official representative and any one else who wants to/is encouraged to attend.

Treasurer's Report:

- ❖ In Henry's absence, a report on estimated income and expenses for the period from September 11 to December 31, 2001 was presented by Richard from a report prepared by Henry, attached hereto.
- ❖ Richard noted the expense total included a single, unusually large expense for the Pruyn House driveway. Total expenses this year for the driveway will be \$36,000.

Finance Committee:

- ❖ As of June 30, 2001, \$979,728.00, a loss of 5%.
- ❖ As of July 31st, \$953,155.00
- ❖ As of August 31st, \$915,998.00, a loss of 3.9%
- ❖ \$35,000.00 was donated two weeks after Pruyn Celebration from Selz Foundation to be used in honor of Frank Pagliaro. The use will need to be decided and may be for a specific project. It is restricted money but until needed for use, will be part of the portfolio.

Nominating Committee:

- ❖ Deborah Andreas was suggested by Martin Smolin for Recording Secretary. Richard will call her.

Arboretum and Butterfly Garden:

- ❖ Remaining rock cannot be removed until Con Edison relocates their utility pole. Jeff was not able to talk to Con Edison because of the World Trade Center disaster. As rock is broken up it is removed from the roadside and placed in the

proposed parking area to the left of the driveway. Gravel will be put on top of it. Driveway still needs to be widened.

- ❖ Robert McCrillis will meet next Tuesday, 9/18, to for a Butterfly Garden workday, deadhead etc.

Community Relations:

- ❖ Annual Fund so far is \$9,756.00 from January 1st, 2001 phonathon, mailings, etc.
- ❖ General promotions going on. We now have a three-month newsletter. Lynn is sending postcards as reminders of coming events.
- ❖ Next copy we will come up with a new name, November 1st, for newsletter.
- ❖ Richard asked about accepting ads in the Bulletin as a source of new funds. Lynn noted it would require a different mailing permit. Lynn will look into it.
- ❖ Lynn and Anne are going to produce videos for local public access television - NCCTV. They will include backyard activities for children during the four seasons.
- ❖ People are responding to publicity in newspapers and nature walks are attracting new people who are not members.
- ❖ We need volunteer activities for new and current members. **Committees are to recommend opportunities for volunteers, needed by November 1st for next Bulletin.**
- ❖ Lynn noted our 50th Anniversary will be in 2003. She wants to begin planning now. A Committee is to be identified shortly.
- ❖ Need the phone lines fixed for line two/fax that is audible. Need a professional to work on it.
- ❖ Birdseed sale is our top fundraiser. Lynn is to place a news article.
- ❖ Lynn needs to send a budget to Richard.

Seed Sale:

- ❖ Jim said he is down to one supplier, will try to add others. Only four people ordered on line, so far, the rest by phone. The Seed Sale committee will call those on list of previous orders who have not ordered yet.

Community Events:

- ❖ **New Castle Community Day:** This Saturday, September 15th in New Castle. Purpose to recognize volunteers, 11 to 4pm. SMRAS volunteers needed and selected via sign-up sheet at meeting.
- ❖ **Museum Day** October 20th, 1 to 4pm. Hands on with Anne, in library, for families and children.

Naturalist's Report:

- ❖ Good summer with day camp.
- ❖ Web site updated for fall.
- ❖ Redesign of education brochure.
- ❖ Good sign ups for school.

Pruyn House:

- ❖ Needs new refrigerator or old one needs fixing. Svend is looking into new ones. He will purchase it, approved by unanimous vote up to \$750.

Sanctuaries:

- ❖ Martin Smolin resigned as chairman of the Sanctuaries Committee. He will remain on committee and stay involved with Brinton Brook Wildlife Area.
- ❖ Judy wants a sub-committee to discuss trail walkers; Judy Epstein, Rosalie Nathan and Anne.
- ❖ Con Ed is not responding at Brinton Brook. Martin noted the Importance of having 5 million dollars insurance.
- ❖ A large erosion gully was noted at Brinton Brook below golf course.
- ❖ Carl Oecshner of the Historical Society, and Martin will examine ruins at Brinton Brook to identify historical interest.
- ❖ Aaron Fusco, age 15, worked in Graff as a volunteer for one hour this summer.
- ❖ Dodder, a parasite which attaches itself to other plants (orange), was evident this summer below Brinton Brook Sanctuary.
- ❖ The Silverman Property is still available. The asking price has been lowered by half. We will explore the possibility of land purchase funds from both County Parks and the Nature Conservancy. (Asking price later reported to be lowered by a quarter.)
- ❖ Pipeline has stepped back and are postponing their application.

Croton Point Center:

- ❖ Nothing going on right now. Croton Point committee had a meeting in July. Hopefully down the road our chapter can be involved with the State and the County.

Annual Awards Dinner:

- ❖ Board event plus honored guests, to honor special people. The 2nd annual dinner is to be planned for a date in January.

Hosts for Meetings and Events:

- ❖ October board meeting, Judy Epstein
- ❖ October 19th program, library
- ❖ November meeting, Joan Coffey

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting October 22nd @ the Chappaqua Library – 7:30 pm.

Judy Epstein