

**Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Minutes, Board of Directors  
Meeting November 26, 2001  
Chappaqua Library**

- ❖ Richard Saravay, President, called the **meeting to order** at 7:45pm. Board members in attendance were: J. Anderson, J. Coffey, J. Epstein, S. Hartmann, J. Lunetta, Mark Magel, R. McCrillis, R. Nathan, J. Pinerio, H. Seduski, M. Smolin, Rita and Stan Wecker. Also attending were A. Swaim, Naturalist and Education Director.
- ❖ October 22, 2001 minutes were **accepted**.
- ❖ **President's Report:** A follow up committee for the November Board Retreat was formed consisting of the Executive Committee and Stan Wecker. Since the Board meetings will no longer be at the Chappaqua Library, a new schedule was formed. The meetings will be on the second Monday of each month. Stan and Rita Wecker will host the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The dates for the following meetings are: February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13 and the picnic in June.
- ❖ **Nominations Committee:** Judy Epstein was nominated for Recording Secretary and voted on by the Board with unanimous approval. Her term runs until the April meeting when she has to run again.
- ❖ **Community Relations and Development:** The present membership number is 1037. Having membership tables at programs and bird seed sale generated new members. \$10,000 has been raised so far this year thru the Annual Fund Drive. Jim Anderson reported that \$11,000 was cleared on the Bird Seed Sale this year but feels that next year we can raise \$13,000. The winning name for the Bulletin contest was "On the Wing". A location for the Annual Awards Brunch in mid-January is still being researched by Stan Wecker. Two possibilities are "Christal Bay" and "The Kittle House".
- ❖ **Naturalist's Report:** Anne Swaim reported that the Winter Trees and Shrubs hike was attended by 13 people. Half were members and half were not. It was a big success. Anne and Lynn are taking the thousand 35 mm slides in the office and digitalizing them. They are working to get a grant to organize and use the slides with sound and video. Anne will walk the boundaries of Pruyn and invites any Board member who wishes to come along to join her on Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> (a detailed map was distributed of Pruyn Sanctuary and it's adjoining neighbors.)
- ❖ **Program Committee:** Stan Wecker announced that Jean Craighead George, the prolific children's writer of books will speak and draw on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm at the annual Holiday Tea at the Chappaqua Library. Her drawings will be raffled off as a fundraiser. Each Board member is asked to bring a goodie.
- ❖ **Sanctuaries Committee: Pruyn:** Jeff Pinerio announced that all the Trimax work for the boardwalks at Pruyn will fit into the budget. He was able to get the 24-foot boards for \$25,000 and the labor will be approximately \$7,000. This will all come out of the \$35,000 given by the Selz Foundation. Jeff is planning to start work right away. Because this area is a state mandated wetland, the bridge, platform and additional boardwalk needs to be checked by the state before they can be built. Enclosed is a detailed map of the Boardwalk expansion. **Brinton Brook:** A Memorandum of Understanding is being reintroduced with Lytle Arboretum in Croton. A committee will be formed to ask the neighbors to agree on certain things such as: not to let dogs run loose, to put up bird houses, etc. Martin Smolin made a motion to approve the Memorandum of

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- Understanding with minor modifications. Mark Magel seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously. The erosion from Hudson National Golf Course has caused a lot of damage. Anne and Richard have walked it together. SMRA already has a letter of agreement and yet they refuse to answer our letter. We will have to get a lawyer. Richard will call Gregg Stanley and discuss this with him. Mrs. Silverman has moved away. She still wants SMRA to have the property and is willing to sell it for \$168,750 or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of \$225,000 Martin noted. There is money in the County budget for this and the Commissioner of County Parks is interested in acquiring this property and will discuss it with the County Executive with our advantage in mind.
- ❖ **Trail Walkers:** Judy Epstein reported that the trail walker's hike with Anne Swaim on Saturday, November 3 was a great success. It is hoped that this can become a yearly event. The trail-walking list is being revamped. It would be desirable to enlist some new people and an article to that effect is in the present newsletter.
  - ❖ **Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was given by Henry Seduski. Handouts will be available at the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - ❖ **Personnel Committee:** A report was given by Jo Lunetta.
  - ❖ **Finance Committee:** Rita Wecker reported that we have not done well; we have lost money this year. There has been a significant drop in the portfolio, which as of October 31, 2001 was \$897,958. Charts, graphs and specific investments are available from Rita. Jeff Pinerio announced that the Capital Fund Committee will take some funds from the capital funds and put them into the operating budget for the coming year.
  - ❖ **Budget Committee:** Jim Anderson presented the operating budget for 2002. (Report available from Jim) The budget was reduced by \$1,000 from the Personnel Department. A motion was made by Martin Smolin to pass the budget and seconded by Bob McCrillis. It carried unanimously.
  - ❖ This meeting was hosted by Joan Coffey. Meeting **adjourned**. **Next meeting** will be on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and Rita and Stan Wecker will host at their home, 7:30pm.
  - ❖ Respectfully submitted by Judy Epstein. Board notes typed and packet prepared by Chris Nykwest.

**Directions to the Wecker Home:** From downtown Chappaqua, go up King Street Hill and make the *fifth right* onto Poillion Street. (Opposite the Grand Union driveway). The Wecker home is on the *second block, second house on the right*, number 76. Please telephone if you are unable to attend. 238-4509 Thanks!