

**Saw Mill River Audubon
Board of Directors Meeting
February 11, 2002**

Richard Saravay, president, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Board members in attendance were: J. Anderson, J. Coffey, J. Epstein, J. Lunetta, A. Moram, R. Nathan, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, H. Seduski, M. Smolin, S. Wecker. Also attending were Anne Swaim, Naturalist and Education Director and L. Tchoblangolous, Community Relations and Development Director

Minutes of 11-26-01 and 1-14-02 were accepted.

President's Report

Guests: Richard introduced guests attending the meeting who are exploring the possibility of joining the SMRA board. Ilse Jorgensen, lives in Hawthorne, and is a host for America Online's online birding discussion group. Virginia Benedict runs environmental and education meetings for Westchester County.

Mail:

- Letter of resignation from Chris Nykwest who worked for SMRAS for 6 years. She has left to take a full-time teaching position in biology at JFK High School in Somers.
- Letter from Svend Hartmann. Due to illness in his family, he can not continue as VP beyond April and wishes to be relieved of his duties. He will continue his end of the bird sale.

Westchester Council Roundtable: On Saturday, March 23rd, the Lower Hudson Audubon Chapter Roundtable will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester. Saw Mill River Audubon is the host for this meeting. Stan Wecker, Jo Lunetta, Alice Maram, Ilse Jorgensen, Lynn Tchoblangolous, Richard Saravay, and Judy Epstein volunteered to attend.

The **State Council meeting** will be from March 8th to 10th. Richard will attend.

Retreat Follow up: A list of objectives drawn up at the retreat are being reviewed by Stan, Richard and Jeff for board follow-up:

1. Plans for restructuring the bird seed sale. There will be a mtg. at Jim Anderson's house on Sunday, March 17th at 2 p.m. Anyone interested in helping should attend.
2. Development & Fundraising. Henri Seduski will head the "giving" program and write something up.
3. Establishing a committee for communications, public relations and development. (Done)
4. Establishing a long range conservation plan for Brinton. Committee will be: M. Smolin, M. Magel, R. Nathan, and J. Epstein.

2002 schedule of hosts for upcoming board meetings will be:

March 11th: Sophie Keyes

April 8th: Jeff Pinerio

May13th: Rosalie Nathan

Nominations Committee

A slate of Board Member candidates will be mailed , with proxy ballots, by March 1, 2002

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was given by Henry Seduski (enclosed)

Finance Committee

The report was given by Jeff Pinerio for Rita Wecker (enclosed). The ongoing problem is the declining economy and deficit spending. The committee met on Feb. 1st and made some investment changes. Decisions will be reported on March 4th.

Personnel Committee

Since Chris Nykwest has resigned, there is an opening in the office. An advertisement is in *The Journal News*. Ten responses have come in. A post card will go out to the membership. The deadline for responses will be March 1st. Stan made a motion that we offer up to \$15/hr., based on qualifications. Judy Epstein seconded. The motion was passed, 10 for and 1 against.

Community Relations and Development Present membership is 997

Naturalist's Report

Upcoming education programs are at Buchanan-Verplanck Elem School, Westorchard Elem School, a program at Wild Birds on "For the love of Birds", Todd School 2nd graders, 3 public birding workshops Tuesday evenings in April with a field trip at the end. Anne is also working with the Pleasantville Conservation Advisory Committee to establish a meadow at Nannyhagen Park.

Anne asked for \$50.00 for a membership to the Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College. The sense of the Board was to join.

Danny has submitted an estimate to fix the fence at Brinton (damage to fence is scattered) for \$400 for materials and \$550 for labor. This will come out of the sanctuaries budget. The approval for this expense was unanimous.

Sanctuaries Committee

PRUYN: Jeff reported that all the material is in and ready in the woods. He is waiting for a formal note from the state. Will probably start in a week or two. He already has town approval.

BRINTON: Martin reported that there is a large unfenced area at Brinton. Do we want to invest in a fence, if so, would probably need a grant. He will get an estimate of the amt. of materials needed and the price.

* Discussion on animal to be used for the signs to be posted by adjoining property owners who wish to be considered part of the "Brinton Brook Wildlife Protection Area." The sense of the Board was the wild turkey. Martin will order 250 of them in one color, green. These signs will be used by people who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with us and will be placed on the internal boundaries between them and us.

* A trail walker, Rudy Fasciano, has offered free labor to clean up damage and debris at Brinton. He has already cut down trees that had fallen across some of the trails.

The meeting was held and hosted at Henri Seduski's house.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Next meeting will be on Monday, March 11th at Sophie Keyes' house.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Epstein