

**Saw Mill River Audubon  
Minutes, Board of Director's Meeting  
March 11, 2002**

Richard Saravay, president, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Board members in attendance were: J. Anderson, J. Epstein, J. Lunetta, M. Magel, R. Nathan, J. Pinerio, R. Saravay, R. Wecker, S. Wecker, M. Smolin. Also attending were: S. Keyes and M. Arnold, former board members, as well as A. Swaim, Naturalist and Education Director and L. Tchoblangolous, Community Relations & Development Director.

Minutes of Feb. 11, 2002 were accepted as adjusted by J. Anderson, seconded by S. Wecker

**President's Report.**

- **Guests in attendance:** Jeanne Romeu and Ilse Jorgensen. **Hostess:** Sophie Keyes

- **Mail was skipped**

- **Westchester Council-Roundtable.** It will take place on March 23, 02 at the Community Bible Church of Northern Westchester in Kitchawan/Yorktown. As of today 5 chapters will be attending. The fee will be \$30 per chapter for meeting costs and \$5/person for lunch costs.

- **New York Audubon Update.** New York Audubon Spring Conference was held at Saratoga Springs and Richard Saravay attended. Various information items were shared including:

- Our chapter has to file an annual report to National Audubon due Aug.15, 2002. It needs to include an annual plan.
- Many ideas were shared by other chapters at the March 2002 NY Audubon Council meeting are: Adult education program in schools, partnership with South American chapters, build membership through contact with realtors, give awards to recognize local community members.
- SMRA may want to consider drafting a resolution on an issue for the next Council meeting.

**Nominations Committee** Stan Wecker reported that Rita Lichter had dropped out. Nominees so far are Ilse Jorgensen, Jeanne Romeu, and Michael Diederich. We now have 15 people on our Board but should have between 18 and 24. People can always be appointed between elections. Robert McCrillis has agreed to put his name down for Vice President due to the fact that Sven Hartman will be stepping out of that position.

**Treasurer's Report** A copy of the treasurer's report will be attached to the minutes of this meeting as it was unavailable at the meeting. (See attached.)

**Finance Committee** Rita Wecker reported that the committee met on March 5th. The investment balance by March 4th was \$890,209. Five decisions were made. (Please see attached report.)

**Resolution:** Resolve that an account be opened with Fidelity Investments and that up to four signatures be listed as follows: Henry Seduski, as treasurer; Richard Saravay, as president; Robert McCrillis as vice president (nominee expected to be elected); and Jeff Pinerio, as chairman of the board. The resolution was proposed by J. Anderson and seconded by Stan Wecker.

**Personnel Committee** Jo Lunetta reported that 20 applications were received for the part-time office position. Stan, Henry, and Jo chose 5 to consider. Four of the 5 were very interested. 1 has pulled out, 2 interviews are coming up, and one has not answered. Anne, and Lynn will join in the interviews.

**Community Relations and Development.** (Lynn T. reported.) Membership is presently 1038. A check was received from the Lucy Waletsky Foundation for a \$1000. A fund raising letter will go out in 2 weeks to the full membership. The phonathon will take place June 30th and May 1st. Jeff urged all members of the Board to participate. We will be selling 12 benches for \$1000 a piece for the educational platform at Pruyn. Each will have a plaque. There will also be a couple of teacher's benches.

**50th Anniversary Committee.** The committee is meeting and planning activities to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saw Mill River. Work in progress includes: Prices for a booklet; Submit dates and a budget; Plan a gala dinner in the Spring of 2003; Get a proclamation; Get a new logo for 50th anniversary; Put an insert into the next five newsletters; Jo Lunetta will prepare a video; Awards will be given out and two memorial gifts.

**Seed sale.** Jim reported that there are still some seeds left. The bird seed sale meeting will be on April 24th. We have to find a new place to store seeds. We could put them in large metal containers at Pruyn.

**Naturalist's Report.** Anne met with officials from Nannyhagen Park. They wish to put in a native meadow. Anne did a program with "Wild Birds Unlimited" store in Bedford Hills. Anne is presently wearing the hat of Field Trip Chair. The Westmoreland trip is Saturday March 16, at 6 p.m. The annual spring peeper walk is April 6, 6:00 p.m. Pinecliff. Birding workshops will be Tues. April 9, 16, and 23, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Community Bible Church. So far 14 people have signed up.

**Program Committee** Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, Hudson River Sturgeon, 7:30 at Chappaqua Library. Thursday, April 18th, "Water for a Growing City", 7:30 at Croton Library. Judy and Sophie will take care of the refreshments. Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>: Stan has scheduled an additional public program for this year featuring the Lady Bird Johnson native plant garden at Westchester Community College. This will be followed by a walk on Saturday June 15th at the college. Member of the program committee are: Jeff, Stan, Judy and Anne.

#### **Sanctuaries Committee**

**BRINTON:** Martin had 250 signs made to put up on neighboring properties to our sanctuaries whose owners have signed a memorandum of understanding with SMRA. Some agreements have been signed and others are underway. 10 signs will be put up in the Lytle Arboretum and 10 on the golf course. People in the Croton area are showing interest in the signs. Martin went to Brinton with Dennis to check wood duck boxes. The golf course presently has 24 blue bird houses. These were made by school children at Todd Elementary in Briarcliff Manor and donated to SMRA. Martin is talking with Greg Stanley about cleanup of erosion damage. Greg has promised to clean up the trail. A large gouge needs repair. There is more encroachment in Brinton in another corner which is being monitored. Danny and his father will not bid on Brinton fence. Other bids are being sought. Mrs. Silverman still wants to sell us her property. No word from the county as far as funding. She says she has had two other bids

**PRUYN:** Midge was concerned whether anyone was taking responsibility for the arboretum. Jeff says Svend reported on current conditions in his final report.

#### **New Business**

**Possible Grant Opportunity.** Stan Wecker reported that SMRA member and NAS board member Lucy Waletsky met with Stan, Anne, and Judy about a possible EPA/National Audubon education grant opportunity. Lucy also works with Westchester County on pesticide management. This grant involves "Audubon at Home" – a National Audubon program to reduce pesticides and encourage wildlife plantings. Seattle is already involved with this sort of education grant and SMRA might be the Northeast US model. Stan asked for and received a general agreement from the board about working with Lucy on this project. Richard suggested a letter of thanks to Lucy for her interest.

**Newsletter Business.** Sophie said that, since we have made a change of name in our newsletter, we need to inform the Post Office and business center of our new name, "On the Wing". We now have 5 issues a year.

**Indian Point.** Discussion on Indian Point prepared by Judy was tabled for the next meeting. She passed out some information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. **Next meeting:** Monday, April 8, 2002 at Jeff Pinerio's house. (Directions attached.)