

**Saw Mill River Audubon
Minutes, Board Of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2002**

Robert McCrillis, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Board members in attendance were: I. Jorgenson, S. Wecker, M. Smolin, J. Romeu, H. Seduski, J. Anderson, J. Epstein, J. Pinerio, R. Nathan. Also attending was A. Swaim, Naturalist and Education Director. Meeting held at Rosalie Nathan's house.

The minutes of the April 8, 2002 meeting were approved unanimously after S. Wecker made a change in the finance committee report and corrected the spelling of L. Waletzky's name.

President's report

Richard asked for a motion on the sense of the Board to support the resolution about the Indian Point Power Plant. Jeff seconded the motion. None opposed.

Treasurer's report

Henry presented a report for year through May 13, 2002. Fund raising from the Annual Phonathon is close to \$8000. Our large expense in April was property taxes of \$2,266. We have spent another \$4000 from Selz fund. That fund is virtually used up, as intended, on the Pruyn improvement projects. Jeff will probably use an extra \$1000 and then be done with the projects at Pruyn. An amount of \$25,160 was transferred from endowment to operating expenses as expected for day-to-day operations of the Society.

Finance Committee

Stan Wecker passed out a report from Rita Wecker who was not able to attend this meeting.

Community Relations and Development

Membership is presently at 888.

Phonathon - Jeff reported that 14% of people contacted by phone contributed. Another 90 people received a second mailing and many of these have contributed. Jeff reported good Board participation during the Phonathon.

50th Anniversary Celebration - We have a good lead on a boat cruise for the fall of 2003. The Diplomat", a 1930s yacht, would cost \$95 per person based on 150 people including all boat costs and sit down brunch menu, with drinks, docking in Tarrytown. Maximum space available is 200. If docking in West Point, cost would be approx \$10 more. We are exploring possibility of docking in Peekskill.

Naturalist's Report: Anne reported that April and May were busy with school outreach programs. Most of our programs are funded through Northern Westchester-Putnam BOCES. Anne went to every grade at Furnace Woods School. Third graders at Todd School in Briarcliff will be coming to Pinecliff the last two weeks in May. Anne also reported that Ellen Heidelberger is working on the files and the database. Anne reminded the board that Ellen works 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays.

Environmental Advocacy: Judy urged prompt approval by Board of specific text for resolution about Indian Point. Stan Wecker will rewrite it and it will be presented at next Board meeting.

Bird Seed Sale: Jim Anderson reported on a meeting of the Bird Seed Sale Committee held on March 24th. Our main challenge is losing our place to store seed at the Hartmann's. We could have a summer sale for "old seed." It would be best to store it at Pruyn. Jim would like to buy ten large metal lockers to put along one wall in garage. (4ft x 2ft x 6ft) They cost \$462 each; we could get 4 or 5 right away. Or we could put steel containers outside near the shed. After discussion, it was decided not to purchase storage containers at this time and to have a one day seed sale on June 1st.

Education Committee: Anne reported on youth scholarships for this year. Two youth scholarships were given from the Larry Light Fund, one for \$400 to a 9th grader at Westlake, and one for \$600 to a 7th grader from Blue Mountain. Stan moved that we take \$1000 from the Larry Light Fund for these scholarships. Henry seconded. As for the two adult scholarships, \$500 each will be offered to two teachers toward the tuition cost of the “Urban Ecology” course at Pace University this summer.

Program Committee: We need to have a planning meeting this month before the next Board meeting. The program committee will consist of: Stan Wecker, Judy Epstein, Bob McCrillis, Sophie Keyes, Jeff Pinerio, Midge Arnold, and Rosalie Nathan. Anne noted that a Field Trip Chair is also needed. Upcoming programs include Friday, May 17 at Chappaqua with Anne Swaim speaking on "Backyard Wildlife" and June 14th, with Brooke Beebe speaking on “Native Plants” followed by a Saturday, June 15th, 2 p.m. field trip to the Native Plant Garden at Westchester Community College.

Sanctuaries:

Pruyn: Jeff reported that 18 volunteers and 3 paid people worked on the Pruyne boardwalk project and that the workday was a great success. Jeff and his two sons and Dean DiMauro and Dan Ferguson (our two paid workers) continued the work the following day. The boardwalk will be opened at a Fall Pruyne Celebration currently scheduled for Saturday, September 28.

Jeff proposed that the two bridges at Pruyne be named after our workers. The new bridge could be called Dean's Bridge and the rebuilt old bridge could be called Dan's Bridge. Jeff moved that the bridges be named. Martin Smolin objected. The motion was seconded and passed.

Jeff said we need new maps and posts with points of reference for Pruyne and for other sanctuaries to help visitors find their way. The teaching station is completed at Pruyne but the next step is installing benches. One problem is that TriMax can't be used for benches. Jeff has found another source for recycled plastic lumber that offers constructed benches. A “universal plastic park bench” is \$350 each. Jeff was able to get a pricing offer for 15 grey benches for \$275 each. Total cost would be \$4000 plus shipping. Each could be sold for \$1000. We also will need a professional sign for Pruyne before September. The capital fund is currently depleted and Jeff expressed concern about money needed for these final large projects at Pruyne. Martin suggested that maybe the Town of New Castle would put up a sign for us. Jeff noted that he was only alerting the board to the big picture of future large expenses at this time and will return to the board at a later date with a specific proposal for them.

Bob McCrillis is working in the Pruyne Butterfly Garden with volunteers on Tuesday mornings this spring and summer. He noted that there is no one currently in charge of the arboretum.

Brinton:

Martin noted the lack of a functioning sanctuary committee and chairperson. He has been asked to obtain estimates for a fence in Brinton in the border area north of Amberlands where there is no fence. He sought three estimates for a fence from the end of the Amberlands fence to the Weinstein fence.

1. Dan Ferguson and his father said that they can't do a job of this scale.
2. Sal Monte never submitted a bid, although had said that he would.
3. Carjen bid \$12,500 for 500 ft of fence, another \$500 for concrete footings, and an additional \$1800 for a top rail.

It was discussed whether we need a fence. No further action taken at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The next board meeting will be at Bill & Midge Arnold's home on Monday, June 17th. The picnic will begin at 6 p.m. and the board meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judith Epstein, Recording Secretary.

