

Saw Mill River Audubon Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
September 9, 2002

Richard Saravay, president, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Board members in attendance were: J. Lunetta, S. Wecker, J. Romeu, R. McCrillis, I. Jorgensen, J. Epstein, M. Diederich, M. Smolin, H. Seduski, J. Pinerio, and J. Anderson. Absent: Mark Magel and Alice Maram. Anne Swaim, Naturalist and Education Director, L. Tchobanoglous, Community Relations Director, and S. Keyes, board historian, were also in attendance. The meeting was held at the home of Richard Saravay

J. Lunetta made a motion to accept the minutes of June 17, 2002. The motion was seconded and passed with the following changes: The last two sentences of the treasurer's report should read "...the Workman's Compensation Board saying that we are subject to certain monetary penalties. This is being worked on by Jo and Henry and we do not anticipate having to pay the penalties at this time." (See further details in Treasurer's Report below.)

President's Report: The Fall State Council will be held from Sept. 27-29 at Kutchner's in the Catskills. The director's handbook needs to be updated. Richard proposed that different members work on different sections and said that we will work on this at the next meeting.

Committee chair openings: Nominating. S. Wecker will chair and expects M. Arnold as non-board member. **Environmental Action** is not filled yet. I. Jorgensen will chair the **Sanctuary Committee**. Is a chair needed for the **Audit Committee**?

2002 Board Meetings Dates, Locations, and Hosts: Oct. 7: Sophie Keyes. The following board meetings will be held at the Chappaqua Library but hosts have not yet volunteered: Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, Mar. 3, April 7, and May 5. The June picnic date is not yet decided.

Community Relations and Development: Lynn Tchobanoglous reported membership, via the office, at 872 members. The bulk of members are magazine subscribers from National. We need more active local members involved. The board is needed to generate members and to involve them. Martin suggested that we continue free memberships for some local politicians. It was decided instead to add them without charge to our newsletter list. **Pruyn Celebration:** The celebration for September 28, 2002 has been cancelled. The celebration lacked a chairman so no preparations were done over the summer. **50th Anniversary:** Lynn reported that progress is being made on the anniversary publication. She also noted that we currently have no chair for the Anniversary Committee. Lynn reported, with regret, that she expects to cut back on her hours available for Audubon. She does expect to continue to do the newsletter in the immediate future. The Personnel Committee will discuss this matter at their meeting later this month and report back to the board at the October board meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Henry Seduski reported that the Workman's Compensation coverage was in place in early 2002 but now it appears that we had double-coverage while we switched carriers. Jo Lunetta has been looking into this matter as well and it should be resolved shortly. (See attached budget report.) We have received more than we expected for the Annual Fund Drive and are still receiving donations. We have already received \$4000 on seed sale revenues. We have spent \$35,345 to date from the \$35,000 in the Selz Fund but an additional \$1000 was approved by the Board at a previous meeting. A total of \$850 was generated as gifts to Audubon from a birthday party for Jeff Pinerio.

Finance Committee: Jeff Pinerio reported for Rita Wecker. The committee met last week and, with the current stock market conditions, the portfolio is down to \$808,098. A new Budget Chair is needed. Jeff asked Henry Seduski to chair the Budget Committee for the 2003 budget process and Henry agreed. We will be getting \$75,000 or so from the Hembdt estate and will have to decide what to do with it. (Finance committee report attached.)

Naturalist's Report: (Anne Swaim) New Castle Community Day is Saturday Sept 21. Stan and Jim will set up our information table as Anne will be leading a bird walk in the morning for Van Cortlandt Manor. Board members are asked to help staff this information table. On Sept 15th there will be a joint field trip to Pruyn Sanctuary with Bedford Audubon. Anne reported that she will also be meeting with the Personnel Committee later this month to discuss a proposed change in her position with Audubon.

Environmental Advocacy: (Judy Epstein). The Indian Point Resolution (thanks to Stan Wecker rewriting it and sending it to the Riverkeeper) was passed. Although NRC has re-rated Indian Point #2 from the lowest (red) to the next up (orange), it still stands as a safety threat because of the inadequate storage of fuel rods, an inadequate evacuation plan, and a possible target for terrorists. We received two letters from members who opposed our stand on Indian Point. It was suggested that these be printed in the upcoming newsletter.

Bird Seed Sale: Jim Anderson reported sales of 9 tons of seed already. On Tuesday September 17 and Thursday September 19, Jim will make reminder calls from the office to past customers who have not yet ordered. Judy Epstein will help. Discussion took place on the unmet need for town approval before erecting the seed storage shed at Pruyn. We need to have these approvals and the shed in place before Jim can place this year's seed order. The building permit application will be taken to Town Hall the morning following the board meeting.

Program Committee: Stan Wecker reported that the Chappaqua Library is closed until the end of September because asbestos was found and repair work is going on. The Friday September 20 program on raptors will be held at St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church next to the Library.

Sanctuaries: Martin Smolin reported that there are no new Memoranda of Understanding for Brinton Brook. He said that Mrs. Silverman called to say that she is having trouble selling her property. Richard Saravay noted that the Saw Mill River Coalition is an interesting organization and we might like to work with them.

Trail Walkers: Judy Epstein reported that there are presently 15 trail walkers. There is now a choice in reporting between sending in a postcard or reporting from the Audubon web site. Some new signs and trail blazes are needed in our sanctuaries. Should this be a job for the trail walkers? A discussion was held about the need for better road signs so that people can find our sanctuaries. Town approval is needed for road signs. No decision was made.

By-Laws: Stan Wecker reported that the new allowance for chapter-only members and new required language about chapter/national relations means that we will need to revise our current by-laws. He will come back to the board with new language at the October board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Judith Epstein, Recording Secretary