

Saw Mill River Audubon - Board Meeting Corrected Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. at Jim Anderson's house. Directors present: Richard Saravay, Ilse Jorgensen, Jim Anderson, Rita Wecker, Stan Wecker, Jeanne Romeu, Judy Epstein, Martin Smolin, Alice Maram, Mark Magel, Jo Lunetta, and Henry Seduski. Anne Swaim was also present.

Minutes & Mail. The minutes of the September 2002 meeting were reviewed and approved. Richard Saravay reviewed correspondence. Thank you letters were received from one youth and one adult scholarship recipient.

President's Report. Richard Saravay reported on the Fall New York State Audubon Council meeting. He noted that a new resolutions book has been prepared and that these resolutions are proposed by NY Audubon chapters, approved at the council meeting and then used to direct state-level Audubon lobbying and other activities. A new guideline and timeline for submitting council resolutions has been prepared. It was suggested that SMRA might prepare a council resolution regarding Indian Point before the December 1st deadline. Someone will need to follow up on this. Saravay also noted that there is a valuable chapter roundtable at each council meeting where chapters present ideas and concerns.

Another issue that SMRA might put forward is the Millennium Pipeline. It was requested that a map of the proposed route be brought to the November meeting so that its relation to Brinton Brook Sanctuary might be seen by newer board members. Anne Swaim agreed to bring the map to the next board meeting.

[Addendum to minutes since 10/21/02 meeting: SMRA membership is currently 888.]

Board of Directors Handbook. Jo Lunetta clarified that she agreed to review the insurance and personnel portions of the handbook. Stan Wecker said that he agreed to review the by-laws portion and that Sophie will have updates on the history portion from the work that Stan Lincoln has done for the 50th Anniversary publication. Further assignments for other portions of the handbook were not yet determined.

Committee Chair Assignments. Ilse Jorgensen was confirmed as head of the sanctuaries committee. Richard will check with Michael Diederich to see if he is still willing to chair the Environmental Action Committee. Last year's Nominating Committee, Stan Wecker (Chair), Midge Arnold and Joan Coffey, agreed to serve for another year and were unanimously elected by the Board for another term. The position of Corresponding Secretary will be omitted during the by-laws revision. (During discussion, it was agreed that Judy Epstein will send a card to Joan Coffey to follow-up on her hip surgery.)

Hosts and Dates of Upcoming Board Meetings

November 4th - Chappaqua Library (Jo will host.)
December 2nd - Chappaqua Library (Martin will host.)
January 6th - Chappaqua Library (Ilse will host.)
February 3rd - Chappaqua Library (Bob McCrillis will host.)
March 3rd - Chappaqua Library (Judy Epstein will host.)
April 7th - Library or Weckers' house? (Weckers will host.)
May 5th - Chappaqua Library (Jeanne Romeu will host.)

Hosts of Upcoming Public Program Meetings

October 24th program – Judy Epstein will host.
November 7th program – Jeff Pinerio is signed up to host.
December 8th program (Holiday Tea) – Stan said is hosted by entire board.
January 25th program – Roundtable on Indian Point co-sponsored by Chappaqua Library and the New Castle League of Women Voters. Will be hosted by library.
February 28th program – Richard Saravay will host

Treasurer's Report. Henry Seduski distributed copies of the nine month summary of expense and revenue (attached). He noted that we have received over \$1000 in donations in memory of Martha Gerosa of Harrison. "Donations to SMRA in lieu of flowers" was listed in her obituary. Her connection with SMRA is not clear but we are grateful for the donations. Henry also noted that the 2002 Seed Sale is well on track with expenses having been met with revenue from the two sale day. Jim confirmed that sales after the October pick-up dates will all be profit. Henry said that expenses are lower than budgeted primarily because of less personnel costs with the absence of an office assistant during the transition to Ellen and Lynn's maternity leave. He has received a draft of the 2001 Audit Report and is providing final details regarding 2001 in-kind contributions with information to be received from Lynn. It was noted that we should list the auditing firm as an in-kind contributor in our next annual report since they prepare the audit at below cost.

Finance Committee. Rita Wecker gave a brief report noting that the end of quarter report will be presented at the November board meeting. The endowment fund was at \$800,098 on June 30th but, with the stock market decline, at \$697,147 on September 30th. It is hoped that our position will improve with the improving markets of recent weeks.

50th Anniversary Committee. A report from the 50th Anniversary Committee was reviewed. There is no appointed chair for this committee but committee members have agreed to each coordinate specific responsibilities. Following discussion, the board asked the committee to reconsider its decision on whether to solicit ads for the anniversary publication. Henry and Richard both agreed to find out more about paid advertising and to pass this information to the committee. A coordinator for the ads was not determined.

Seed Sale Report. Jim Anderson reported that the 2002 seed sale was 26 tons. The new shed made it possible to pre-ship 6 tons of seed directly to Pruyn Sanctuary in advance of the pick-up dates; only 2 tons needed to be moved from New Castle Town Hall to the storage shed following the sale. The tent (purchased by SMRA through Sophie Keyes) was a big improvement at the sale. However, there were problems having only one trailer at the sale because of an initial lack of an aisle to access all seed types. The seed supplier, Truffa, supplied us with a helper and Andy Rothlein also helped, with the boys from Edenwald School, to unload a portion of the trailer on Saturday morning. It would be best to rent a small truck in the future to hold part of the seed during the weekend pick-up dates. Jim Anderson emphasized that a new chairman for the seed sale will need to be selected by Spring, 2003.

Naturalist Report. Anne Swaim reported that scheduling is well underway for the 2002-2003 school year. She gave a snapshot of our involvement at one school, Ardsley Middle School, where she visits all eight 6th grade science classes three times a year with topics integrated in the NYS science curriculum. She invited any interested board members to attend scheduled school programs.

Memoranda of Understanding. Martin Smolin reported that Temple Israel is still reviewing a possible MOU for the Brinton Brook Wildlife Area.

Audubon At Home Project. Stan Wecker noted that the sanctuary MOUs are a good model for citizen involvement that could be incorporated in the "Audubon At Home" project. Richard Saravay, Mark Magel, Jim Gregig, Stan Wecker and Anne Swaim will be working together on a proposal from SMRA to National Audubon to complete a Hudson Valley version of "Audubon at Home." This will be a regional resource book to encourage integrated pest management, native plantings and other habitat improvements.

Sanctuaries. Ilse Jorgensen reported that she has been visiting the various sanctuaries to learn more about them and assess their condition. Trail markers need repainting at Brinton Brook and Graff. The entrance sign at Choate is set very far from the main road and hidden by vegetation. Road signs are needed for all the sanctuaries but especially Graff, Brinton Brook, and Pruyn. A discussion was held about the confusing and hard-to-find entrance for Graff Sanctuary at the end of Briggs Lane. Judy Epstein asked whether a board vote

should be taken to support having public road signs for the sanctuaries. There was, instead, a general agreement that the sanctuary committee should pursue the idea of having sanctuary direction signs on the public roads near our sanctuaries and report back to the board on what is needed.

Meeting Agendas. Ilse requested that the board meeting agenda be set up in the future to allow various committees and topics to be rotated to the top of the agenda. It was agreed that the November meeting will begin with the Personnel Committee, followed by Sanctuary Committee, followed by the question of chapter only members (see below).

Personnel. Jo Lunetta read a resignation letter from Lynn Tchobanoglous effective October 15th. Lynn is still willing to assist with the newsletter and press releases up until, at least, January. Stan Wecker moved that SMRA engage Lynn at \$25/hour for up to 10 hours weekly to work on these tasks. Seconded by Henry Seduski and carried. The Personnel Committee will meet on October 29th to finalize questions about Anne Swaim's proposal to move to a half-time position. This will be presented at the November board meeting.

Corporate Name. Stan Wecker reported that the NY State Not-for-Profit Corporation law specifically states that corporations registered in NY State can only conduct business under their legal corporate name - in our case "Saw Mill River Audubon Society Inc." Since we are on record as wishing to call ourselves "Saw Mill River Audubon," the least complicated way of making this legal is to file a Certificate of Assumed Name with the NY Department of State. This is a simple, no justification required, two-page form which, when approved (in 3 to 7 business days), will allow us to use "Saw Mill River Audubon" as a legal alternative to our corporate name. There is a filing fee of \$25 with an additional \$25 for the State to notify the Westchester County Clerk of this action. Stan moved (seconded by Richard Saravay) that we pursue this course of action. Unanimously approved by the Board. Stan agreed to oversee the process.

Chapter-only Memberships. Stan Wecker presented a proposal for SMRA to offer chapter only memberships in keeping with the new guidelines from National Audubon that allows this option. It was decided to table this vote until the November meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, November 4th 7 p.m. at the Chappaqua Library hosted by Jo Lunetta.

Minutes taken by Anne Swaim for Judy Epstein.