

Saw Mill River Audubon - Board Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2003, 7:30 p.m. – Held at Chappaqua Library

Directors present: Jim Anderson, Judy Epstein, Ilse Jorgensen, Robert McCrillis, Jeff Pinerio, Richard Saravay, Martin Smolin, and Stan & Rita Wecker. Sophie Keyes, Society Historian, and Anne Swaim, Education Director, were also present. Absent: Alice Maram, Joan Coffey, Karen Wells, Jeanne Romeu and Henry Seduski.

Guests (all potential board nominees): Mattie Varvaro, chair, Pruyn Garden; Tom McEnerney, co-chair Pruyn Arboretum and garden volunteer; John Blake, former chair New Castle Environmental Review Board.

Minutes: December minutes were approved with note that January meeting date should be 2003.

President's Report It was noted that a restaurant is being proposed on Rockefeller property in Pocantico Hills. No action was deemed necessary at this time. Information was received from National Audubon's New York state office about pending conservation issues. This will be forwarded to Karen Wells. We received a letter from the state office congratulating us on our recertification as a chapter of National Audubon.

As discussed at the last meeting, the **Planning Committee** will include the chairs of the Sanctuaries, Education and Environmental Action Committees as well as the president and treasurer. Stan Wecker and Mattie Varvaro will also be members and Mattie volunteered to chair this committee. The Membership Committee presently consists of Stan Wecker and Tom McEnerney.

New Board Candidates. The new board candidates were presented and Richard Saravay asked if the board had any questions for the candidates. Martin Smolin asked the candidates what kind of car they drove and what fuel consumption they received. After some discussion, Jo Lunetta moved that the candidates be placed on the board and Ilse Jorgensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The new members are filling unexpired terms and will be placed on the ballot for chapter membership election at the April annual meeting.

Finance Committee. Rita Wecker reported that the end of quarter report for December 31, 2002 will be given at the next board meeting. As previously noted, 2002 was not a good year for our investment portfolio but there is hope for the future.

Treasurer. The treasurer was not able to be present for this meeting but reported \$4100 in the bank account at the end of the month. New pay rates for both Ellen Heidelberger and Anne Swaim will go into effect on January 15th, the first pay date of the new budget year.

50th Anniversary Committee. Stan Wecker explained that expenditures for the 50th Anniversary events and publications were deliberately omitted from the 2003 operating budget. A separate budget was distributed for the 50th Anniversary expenditures. The anniversary year will be celebrated from April 26, 2003 to April 25, 2004. Programs have been scheduled through June 2003.

Discussion followed on the details of the anniversary budget. Sophie Keyes explained the proposal for a "Jubilee Journal" anniversary publication to cover the past 50 years of the Society and look ahead to the future. Louise Landry, the graphics designer who works with Teatown, will be our consultant for this project. The Journal will include a proclamation from Governor George Pataki and various local officials. It was decided not to pursue the idea of paid advertising in this publication. A fund raising envelope will be included in the first mailing of the Journal so it will double as the promotional piece for the 2004 Phoneathon. The Journal is scheduled to go to press sometime in March and be mailed by the beginning of April. Stan Wecker motioned that we approve the \$8,878 for the Jubilee Journal, seconded by Bob McCrillis and passed unanimously.

Sanctuaries: Ilse Jorgensen reported there will be another sanctuary committee meeting in February and that members of the Pruyn Arboretum Committee will be invited to attend. She plans to be in touch with Danny Ferguson about some entrance work to be done at Haas and Choate. Martin Smolin reported that discussions are continuing with Mrs. Silverman regarding her property adjacent to the Kauffman property and Brinton Brook Sanctuary. Scenic Hudson may still become involved in this transaction.

Naturalist Report. Anne Swaim met with Judy Epstein, Stan Wecker and Bob McCrillis to review education programming scheduling for the January through June period especially in regard to new half-time position. April and May are completely booked at this time but January and February are traditionally more lightly scheduled. Anne will keep Ellen informed on a weekly basis about her schedule for teaching and office hours and expects to meet weekly with Ellen on one of the days that Ellen is in the office to answer any pending office or computer questions. **Membership** was reported at 891.

Budget Committee Discussion was held about the composition of the Budget Committee and whether it should include chairs from the committees that have large expenditures such as the sanctuary committee. It was decided not to change the budget committee at this time.

ByLaws Change Stan Wecker proposed a further by-laws change to abolish the position of Corresponding Secretary. Alice Maram, who has held this position most recently, has told Stan that the position is no longer needed because correspondence is handled by the chapter office. Stan moved, Judy Epstein seconded, and the motion, passed.

Mission Statement Revision. Stan Wecker distributed proposed revisions to the mission statement for Saw Mill River Audubon. There was extensive discussion about the proposed revisions. It was noted that the mission statement had been originally crafted at a board retreat in 2000. Stan moved for adoption of the changes, Tom McEnerney seconded the motion and the motion passed, ten in favor and two opposed. The revised mission statement for Saw Mill River Audubon will read:

The mission of Saw Mill River Audubon is to maintain environmental quality for all living things by protecting natural ecosystems through education, advocacy and habitat conservation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March, 3, 2003, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Chappaqua Library.

Minutes: Judy Epstein.

Final formatting: Anne Swaim