

SMRAS Board Meeting
February 2, 1978

The meeting was called to order by Dick Mrstik at 8:35 p.m. at the home of Stan and Rita Wecker. The following members were present: Anderson, Brown, Coggeshall, Gillette, Hartmann, Jacoby, McGrath, Metzler, McMartin, Mrstik, Panko, R. Wecker and S. Wecker, and Young.

The minutes of the January 5, 1978, Board Meeting were read. Carol Coggeshall moved they be accepted as corrected. Seconded and approved.

Treasurer's report: The balance of SMRAS was \$18,639.23. The Sanctuary Endowment Fund \$23,837.30. The Laura M. Brinton Memorial Fund \$747.63.

Phyllis also requested that any out-of-pocket expenses for 1977 be given to her by March 1st for reimbursement. Our insurance is in order now with the new company. A third quarter financial report was distributed for preliminary perusal. Our fiscal year ends March 31st and the financial committee will be meeting to make up the next year's budget. It was suggested that the budget be presented in the bulletin as a pie chart and that it be noted that the naturalist's salary operates on a calendar year. National Audubon operates on a November to November budget year, so a decrease in the local chapter's share of dues may affect us for half of a year. The budget for programs should include approximately \$25/month for refreshments.

A 25th Anniversary Cttee. should be formed and the celebration part of next year's programs. The event planned should make money, or at least break even, and would be a good opportunity to enjoy each other's company, and/or a good time to recognize the contributions of various people. The event should be attractive and open to all people. Some societies have a special bulletin masthead for their anniversary year. Others have pot luck suppers combined with member's participation night.

Dick Mrstik wrote a letter to Dr. Stahr as requested by the Board concerning membership dues and questioned expenses, particularly mailings.

He also wrote to Bob Binnewies at National stating that people enjoyed the January issue of AUDUBON featuring sanctuaries, but reminding him that SMRAS still has not signed the management agreement for Graff because it still has not been surveyed. Carol would like to hold National to the stipulations outlined over two years ago especially the survey as the entrance is still questionable with only 200 yd. road frontage. It seems that they have chosen to overlook the fact that there is no survey and that we have not yet signed the management agreement. It was suggested that a follow-up letter should be very strong, perhaps even addressed to Binnewies boss.

Dick Knabel informed Dick Mrstik that things were going well with the Hardscrabble Lake property until Christmas, at which time two of the donors changed their minds.

Kaye Anderson, Frank Gillette, Drew Panko and Dick Mrstik will attend a meeting this Saturday at the Trailside Museum with Regional Representative Dick Rhindress. It will also include Orange, Rockland, Putnam and Westchester Counties.

Letters will be written to local garden clubs suggesting they might make donations to the scholarship program. N. Y. Botanical Garden and Federated Women's Clubs would have lists of local clubs.

Catherine Weiler made the following recommendations from the Nominations Cttee.: 1) the cttee. be larger than three people and should include Kaye Anderson and someone from hospitality; 2) that it be functioning all year, and 3) that the chairperson be notified of Board meetings. Actual board members can not be committee members. Frank Gillette moved that as of the coming year, that the nominations committee be appointed at the beginning of the year and that a member of that committee be invited to attend the Board meetings. Betty Brown seconded the motion and it was approved.

The Nominating cttee, also suggested that either the Historian's job be better defined or it should be eliminated. It was suggested that we needed a warehouse, not a Historian. By the next meeting, Frank Gillette will propose that the by-laws be amended to either define or abolish the role of Historian.

There was some discussion as to how to encourage membership involvement. It was suggested that there be a sign-in for all people (not just guests) to find out who attends the meetings; that members should be encouraged to be on committees; that 10-15 minute discussions at the end of meetings would encourage active involvement; and that the general membership should be reminded of their responsibilities. We did have an increase in membership of 20 this month due to holiday gifts.

Stan reported that the January program featuring Alex Schumatoff was canceled due to the snow and has been rescheduled for May, formerly member's participation night. The benefit meeting is in March.

There have been requests for environmentally-aware people living in Chappaqua to serve on the Glazer Arboretum Cttee. and the New Castle Planning Board. We should try to suggest appropriate names.

Stan Wecker discussed the Can to Carter idea.

Only one car participated in the last field trip due to snow. Dick Mrstik is the leader for the Feb. 19th trip.

Carol Coggeshall discussed the solid waste status at Grasslands. She attended a workshop on sludge disposal, which may soon be a big problem as it will not be dumped in the ocean after 1981. She also suggested that phone numbers and zip codes be included in each Bulletin. The Center for the Hudson River Valley wants SMRAS to help endorse a lobbying effort in the State legislature to propose the Hudson as a wild, scenic and recreational river.

Colleen McGrath reported no response for scholarship applications yet.

Stan Wecker reported that the Education cttee. has prepared an evaluation form and it is being printed.

Edith Hartmann reported that we will continue to have cider at the meetings.

Kaye Anderson attended the A.I.M. Conference and a meeting with Nature Conservancy at Sharon, Ct., on education programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05. The next meeting will be March 2nd at Betty Brown's and the April 6th meeting will be at Ellan Young's.

Dottie Metzler
Acting Recording Secretary