

SMRAS Board Meeting

April 5, 1979

The meeting was called to order by Rita Wecker at 8:20 p.m. at the home of Helen Williams. The following members were present: Anderson, Bischoff, Brown, Coggeshall, Jacoby, Jamieson, McGrath, Metzler, Mrstik, Reid, Smith, the Weckers and Wiltse.

The minutes of the March 1, 1979, Board Meeting were read. Thelma Smith moved that they be accepted as read. Seconded and approved.

The Treasurer's report: The Balance of SMRAS - \$20,732.11. The Sanctuary Endowment Fund - \$31,211.70. The Laura M. Brinton Memorial Fund - \$346.26.

Hoch Reid moved that we increase Kaye's compensation by 7% as of April 1, 1979, in accordance with the recommendation of the ad hoc committee to study the Naturalist's salary and benefits. Seconded and approved.

The majority of the Board decided that the increase be a salary payment and not include health insurance. Dick Mrstik will give a report to Kaye on the cost of health insurance coverage.

Lloyd Jamieson presented a design proposal for the letterhead on our new stationery. The cost of the design to SMRAS will be a membership in Audubon for the man who planned it. A committee consisting of Helen Williams, Lloyd Jamieson and Dick Mrstik was appointed to decide on the design and will report at the May Board Meeting. Rita expressed the thanks of the Board to Lloyd.

Hoch Reid moved that we amend the By-Laws ARTICLE V: AUDITING COMMITTEE, as submitted. 15 were in favor - none opposed.

Ten members of the Board think we should make a statement concerning the problems in nuclear energy. Carol Coggeshall will draft a statement for publication.

Stan Wecker suggested that we should continue our past policy against wide-spread spraying of trees and should update our report on sprayed and unsprayed areas. We should get an article in the local newspapers.

Rita Wecker reported that we are required by the State to file for tax exemption for our sanctuaries. We will do so for all our sanctuaries except Brinton and Graff which National will take care of.

Dottie Metzler reported that the Long Range Planning Committee met on March 29 and has lots of ideas. Suggestions from members will be welcome.

The plans for the Family Field Festival include one walk and a picnic. Everyone bring kites.

Carol Coggeshall reported that Nature Conservancy has applied to have Thurber included in the State wetlands map. There is also some thought being given to returning it to the Village of Ossining. The deed should be checked. The Board agreed the idea should be pursued.

~~Cost~~ Kaye reported that a county tax called a tipping fee to support operation of solid waste disposal is to be levied against all tax exempt properties. We should point out that ~~our sanctuaries do not create garbage.~~ Colleen McBride reported that we now have 9 applications for scholarships.

The Program Committee will welcome suggestions.

Stan Wecker moved that we explore new concepts as far as the BULLETIN is concerned and that the content of the BULLETIN not be determined by a set number of pages. Seconded and approved.

Dick Mrstik will write up a summary of Board action for the BULLETIN.

Carol Coggeshall wrote a letter of condolence to Ken Curtis on the death of his wife, Ruth. Rita Wecker wrote to the Jakstas family on the death of Regina Jakstas.

Membership - 759. Thelma Smith said fewer members are renewing and some are renewing at lower rates.

Kaye reported that the Long Range Planning Committee report recommends that we get rid of Thurber. David Weld will meet with her to look at it.

Rita Wecker moved that we give special recognition to Betty Brown for all her past service to SMRAS. Seconded and approved.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Phyllis Jacoby.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Wiltse
Recording Secretary

At present the By-Laws contain the following:

ARTICLE V: AUDITING COMMITTEE

There shall be a special Committee on Audit elected annually by the Board, consisting of two members of the Society who are not directors. If the Board decides that the Society's accounts be audited by certified public accountants, the function of the Special Committee on Audit will be to report at the annual members' meeting on the scope and character of the audit. In the absence of provision for audit by certified public accountants, the function of the Special Committee on Audit will be to report to the annual members' meeting upon the scope, character and accuracy of the Treasurer's financial report.

These provisions impose an unreasonable time schedule upon the Auditing Committee. To report at the annual meeting, they must carry out their study at some prior time, but the Treasurer's Report is not available in complete form until just before the meeting.

It would be more sensible to allow the Audit Committee a reasonable period after the report has been submitted to the membership to study it carefully and deliver a considered report.

Also, presentation of the report of the Audit Committee at the Annual Meeting reaches only the relatively small number of members usually present. Publication of the report in the Bulletin would present it to the whole membership.

For these reasons it is proposed to delete the two underlined references to time in the present text and add a final sentence which reads: "In either case the report of the Auditing Committee will be published in the September issue of the Bulletin, or if there is no such issue of the Bulletin, it will be read at the September meeting."

F. N. Gillette
March 8, 1979