

SMRAS Board Meeting
October 1, 1981

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 pm by Doug Maynard at the home of Carol Coggeshall. Present were Kaye Anderson, Midge Arnold, Alice Avouris, Harold Bischoff, Lee Boyd, Roger Christian, Carol Coggeshall, Noa Fuscoe, Ellen Heidelberger, Lester Holmes, Doug Maynard, Drew Panko, Hoch Ried, Barbara Spengler, and Stan Wecker. Doug Maynard read the minutes of the Sept. 3, 1981 board meeting. Drew Panko moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected; the motion was seconded and approved.

Ellen Heidelberger presented the Treasurer's report. \$6,000 has been transferred to the Endowment Fund. Adjusted opening balance, Current Fund: \$19,378.76. Excess expenditures over revenue, Apr. 1-Sept. 30, 1981: \$1,674.23. Closing balance, Sept. 30, 1981: \$17,704.53. Endowment Fund balance, 9/30/81: \$42,588.61. Light Memorial Scholarship Fund balance, 9/30/81: \$1,499.84. Drew Panko moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted; the motion was seconded and approved.

Thelma Smith will be asked to succeed Dottie Metzler as chairman of the Nominating Committee. Betty Brown will be asked to lead the Christmas Tea Committee again this year.

SMRAS membership in the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC) shall be renewed this year.

National Audubon has designated November "Citizen Mobilization Month", to express concern over current administration attacks on conservation activities. Suggestions for SMRAS activities include letter writing during the benefit meeting and a table of petitions.

Postal authorities informed Rita Wecker that it would be legal to affix a sticker with SMRAS's address over the printed address on the postage paid membership forms, as long as "National" gives permission and we have a copy of the postage permit. Mail should be sent to Saw Mill River Chapter, c/o Alice Avouris, at Alice's address, and will be held at the Yorktown post office. Postage costs of 25¢ per new member will be paid by SMRAS.

Alice Avouris also reported that current (August) membership is 776. National Audubon is mounting a new membership drive from Oct. 1, 1981 to Mar. 30, 1982. Regional and national awards will be made to chapters with (1) highest number of new members, in excess of 5% of present membership; (2) highest percent of new members; and (3) highest renewal rate.

Harold Bischoff mentioned that three positions were open on the Board of Environmental Conservation in New Castle, and suggested that we try to get people interested.

Plans for the Light Scholarship Fund will not be finalized for a year or two. Stan suggested that the existing monies might be used to supplement the nature section of the library now and be replaced later, while Harold suggested matching the existing amount and investing it in the money market. Doug Maynard thought that disposition of money currently in the fund should await discussions with the Lights and formulation of a concrete proposal by the Education Committee.

Stan Wecker proposed that we acknowledge the excellent job done by Jill Burkmeyer with hospitality at the monthly program meetings, both with a thank-you note and with recognition at the meeting. The donation for the benefit meeting has been published in the Bulletin as \$3.50 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Tickets need to be printed and a letter drafted for inclusion in the special mailing.

Midge Arnold suggested that SMRAS expand Member Participation Night to include nature-related arts and crafts. An announcement should be placed in the December Bulletin.

Roger Christian, Lee Boyd, and Harold Bischoff are to look for a replacement display board for the meeting.

The Northeast Regional Conference, Sept. 18-19, 1981 on Cape Cod, was attended by Stan Wecker, Kaye Anderson, 3 high school students and 2 young adults. The conference appeared poorly organized and was designed seemingly to survey youth programs of the chapters and to determine how National Audubon could be of help. Most work being done with young people is being done on the elementary level; more follow-up work is needed. Also needed is an improvement in National Audubon's poor image among teenagers. SMRAS should consider sponsorship of a school-related group.

Roger Christian indicated a need for information of coming events far in advance, and felt that the seed sale publicity should have started earlier. He also suggested printing up posters with a blank space for inserts describing monthly programs and of getting photographic work.

Lester Holmes described progress in the seed sale.

Kaye Anderson said that the plastic doors installed on the bulletin board at Gedney Brook Sanctuary were still intact. Maps of the expanded Gedney Sanctuary will be available soon.

Drew Panko handed in a check for SMRAS's portion of the proceeds of the Bird-a-Thon and mentioned that several of the recent field trips had been very successful. He also said that new people were appearing for some of the walks.

Membership in the Clearwater is up for renewal. Alice Avouris moved that we renew the membership (\$15). Seconded and approved.

Carol Coggeshall announced pelagic whale trip from Plymouth, 10/11-10/12/81; Coastwater NY oiled bird workshop; the possibility of co-sponsoring a spring trip to Gateway National Park with Scarsdale and FCWC; difficulties with NYCOSH over National Audubon participation in the grant to publicize the Right-to-Know Law.

A motion was made by Hoch Ried to authorize payment of hotel and banquet costs of Carol Coggeshall, to attend the Environmental Planning Lobby's annual conference "New Economics, New Environment" and Round-table in Saratoga Springs in December, 1981. The motion was seconded by Alice Avouris and approved.

Materials for inclusion in the Bulletin should continue to be handed in to Noa Fuscoe by the board meeting, so that the Bulletin can go to the printer by the 15th of the month. Noa also indicated that she would like to enlarge the group of contributors and possibly add illustrations, information on local matters, sanctuary maps, board activities, etc.

Doug Maynard brought up the topic of a possible change in emphasis of the chapter. National Audubon is emphasizing three areas this year: energy, population research and program development, and citizen mobilization in time of environmental crisis. General feeling of the board members present was that we should carry on with programs now in existence, perhaps modifying degree of emphasis in the future. Current projects include the November mobilization of National Audubon and possibly sponsorship of youth programs such as that described by Midge Arnold.

The next meeting will be at the home of Hoch Ried on 11/5/81. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 pm.

Barbara A. Spengler