

SMRAS Board Meeting
October 2, 1986

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Peter Burckmyer at the home of Betty Wiltse. The following Directors were present: Richard Blair, Peter Burckmyer, Roger Garrison, Frank Gillette, Ellen Heidelberger, David McIntire, Sophie Keyes, Donna Nye, Pam Rubin, Barbara Spengler, Stan Wecker, and Betty Wiltse.

The minutes of the September Board Meeting were read and accepted as corrected. In the last paragraph on page 1, it should read "GBM gave us \$2,000 to use on sanctuary improvements at Gedney."

Treasurer's report: Excess of Expense over Revenue April 1, 1986 - August 31, 1986 - \$938.34. The Balance - \$17,827.48. The Endowment Fund - \$67,281.18. Light Memorial Scholarship Fund - \$11,046. Saw Mill Audubon Scholarship Fund - \$5,130. Naturalist Medical Benefits Fund - \$302.10.

Peter Burckmyer announced that after studying the letter from National regarding its new procedure in the amount of money returned to chapters from membership dues, he would not write to them. It seems that the aim is to support new and growing chapters.

David McIntire moved that the Board approve Stan Lincoln, Benna Weismann and Drew Panko as delegates to the Federation of N.Y. State Bird Clubs to be held at Camp Hill, Pa., in the Greater Harrisburg Area and give them a proxy to report for Sawmill. Seconded and carried.

Frank Gillette questioned the amount returned on renewal memberships. Alice and Peter will do an analysis of the last return increase and report to the Board on whether we received an increased amount of money compared to past years.

Alice suggested contacting new members and welcoming them to the general meeting. The suggestion was made that we contact organizations such as New Neighbors and Welcome Wagon and tell them about Sawmill. Sophie Keyes suggested we get new members on committees.

Membership - 832 as of September 30, 1986. Five new members joined as a result of sending membership applications with the seed sale flyers.

Richard Blair moved that the Membership Committee be expanded to three or four members and that those people meet periodically and draw up a plan to attract new members and also to devise a plan for old members as renewal time approaches. Seconded and carried.

Peter Burckmyer will write a letter of appreciation to the appropriate persons at GBM for the Grant.

Sophie Keyes would like to get more environmental material in the Bulletin.

Donna Nye would like the Education Committee to plan an evening meeting to meet with new members to find out what their interests are. The Education Committee was polled by telephone for recommendations on continuing affiliation with the Youth Group and the decision was not to continue support.

Roger Garrison expressed disappointment that the Education Committee did not meet and used a phone poll. He said it is disheartening to the Youth Group that not many adults take part in their affairs. They don't understand adults and adults don't understand young people. They have plans for three Saw Mill activities and two Tea Town activities. They are just beginning to orient themselves to Audubon activities.

The question of getting schools other than Ossining High School involved was brought up. We should contact middle schools and teachers in other high schools.

Projects suggested for the Youth Group were (1) a tree census at Tea Town. (2) Handicap Day in the Spring for handicapped kids. Kaye Anderson has projects for them. (3) They will help one afternoon with the Bird Seed Sale. (4) Holding a class in an elementary school for nature activities using some of Kay's techniques.

Pam Rubin moved that we accept the recommendation of the Education Committee to disassociate from the Youth Group. 2 yeases.. 9 noes and 1 abstain.

Frank Gillette said that the activities of the Youth Group are covered by our insurance. He also said that we should continue our support. That in the 85-86 year we never really decided what we wanted that group to do. There are 12 people in the group and we have to listen to them.

Stan Wecker moved that the Education Committee be charged with defining our concept of an Audubon Youth Group and its relationship to the Society with respect to activities and financial support. The Committee will report back to the Board no later than the January meeting. In the interim the Committee will arrange a meeting with Roger's students to explore mutual feelings and the continuance of our relationship. Seconded and carried.

Roger Garrison will arrange a meeting at which he, Peter and Tod will discuss relationships between the Youth Group and Audubon.

David McIntire said he has gotten material on the Environmental Quiz that Hudson Valley ran. Donna Nye suggested Chris Letts at the Light House be master of ceremonies. Refreshments and age group will be left to the discretion of the Committee. Each school should receive a certificate and each school library a subscription to Audubon magazine.

Peter Burckmyer announced that Richard Blair will replace Judy Rosenthal as Publicity Chairman for a time.

We also need a committee to take an interest in Environmental issues. There has been no one since Carol Coggeshall resigned.

The Board unanimously supported endorsement of the Bond Act.

The November meeting of the Board will be held at the home of Pam Rubin. December at Sophie Keyes, January at David McIntire's and February at Stan Wecker's.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Elizabeth Wiltse
Recording Secretary