

SMRAS Board Meeting
June 2, 1988

The meeting was called to order by Stan Lincoln at 8:30 p.m. at the home of Midge Arnold. The following Directors were present: Midge Arnold, Alice Avouris, Richard Blair, Ruth Bucher, Peter Burchmyer, Frank Gillette, Ellen Heidelberger, Sophie Keyes, Stan Lincoln, Nina McCall, David McIntire, Pam Rubin, Stan Wecker and Betty Wiltse. Kaye Anderson and a number of guests were also present.

Peter Burchmyer moved that the minutes of the May Board Meeting be approved as read. Seconded and carried.

The Treasurer's report: Excess of Expense over Revenue April 1, 1988--May 31, 1988 \$3,309.99. The Balance - \$18,383.26. The Endowment Fund - \$71,162.27. Light Memorial Scholarship Fund - \$12,057.00. Saw Mill Audubon Scholarship Fund - \$2,761.00.

Stan Lincoln welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Midge for providing a meeting place. He also thanked Donna Nye for running the May meeting and Peter for handling the mail in his absence.

Stan Wecker moved that the Board acknowledge and express appreciation for all the contributions Kaye Anderson has made to SMRAS over the past years and for all her work. Seconded and carried.

Stan Lincoln announced that Dr. Pruyn had died on May 30, and that a memorial service for him will be held Saturday, June 11, 1988, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Marks Episcopal Church in Mt. Kisco.

There is a vacancy on the Board because of the resignation of Roger Garrison. The Nominating Committee was asked to recommend a replacement.

Stan Wecker said \$2,000 from the Saw Mill Audubon Scholarship Fund had been contributed toward a research grant for work on a thesis on mocking birds. The plan is to spend the money left in the Fund for other scholarships until it reaches a zero balance.

Membership - 796 as of May 6, 1988.

Stan Lincoln reported that he had a short phone conversation with the lawyer who is handling Dr. Pruyn's will. The 16 acres of land and the home are now legally the property of SMRAS. There will be a meeting with the executors later to learn the provisions of the Will. Insurance matters, etc. will be taken care of.

Stan also read the section of Mrs. Pruyn's will in which the property was left to SMRAS to be used for a wildlife sanctuary. A copy of the pertinent section is attached hereto.

Nina McCall reported that a call was received asking for assistance in the problem of a development near Gedney. A 22 acre parcel of land is to have 9 houses built on it. Can we prevent development because of the old Crystal Springs? There is to be a meeting of concerned citizens on Tuesday, June 7, 1988, at the New Castle Town Hall. Nina said we will take action in a more formal involvement later.

David McIntire reported that the entrance to Brinton Brook needs repairs and that there is other vandalism. Frank Gillette suggested we contact Mr. Weinstein to

if he would contribute to some of the cost of repairs. Stan Lincoln will follow up on this.

Stan Wecker has contacted Steve Kress for the Benefit Program. He has a puffin program, one on the Galapagos and one on Flame birds--largely on the tropics. Maybe Tea Town can have a program the day before and we could split the cost of transportation.

Peter Burckmyer said the Auditing Committee will do the books in July.

Donna Nye talked to Steve Coleman about having a phone at Tea Town, but the Board decided that the whole thing would be too complicated and Alice Avouris volunteered to have the phone put in at her home using the same number now listed for SMRAS.

David McIntire moved that we take the insurance agent's advice and increase our insurance coverage with the present company. Seconded and carried.

Stan Lincoln said there are several items to put on the agenda:

1. Put a hold on fund drive activities.
2. Appointment of a Transitional Committee to make immediate decisions about Dr. Pruyn's property.
3. Plans to use the home of Dr. Pruyn (immediately)
4. Reexamine our budget for the year.
5. Plan to have a memorial dedication program at Gedney Sanctuary at an early date.
6. Must act on tax matters for the property now belonging to SMRAS.

It was proposed by Stan Lincoln, and subsequently approved unanimously, that we appoint a Transitional Trustee Committee with the following responsibilities and authority:

- (1) Meet with the executors of Dr. Pruyn's estate (Thomas Casper, Attorney, and Dr. Douglas Clark) as needed to ensure a clear understanding of our legacy and a smooth transition of ownership of property and funds.
- (2) Provide for adequate security, insurance and maintenance for the Pruyn property and residence.
- (3) File necessary information with authorities to secure proper recording of the deed to the property and to secure removal of the property from the tax rolls of the Town of New Castle.
- (4) Advise and participate with the Budget Committee, The Education Committee and (possibly) an "Alternative Use Committee" (to be appointed) as these committees carry out their missions.
- (5) Secure legal, engineering, and/or tax advice as needed to best enhance and protect the Society's interests regarding the newly acquired property.

Following approval, Stan Lincoln appointed and the Board endorsed the following members to serve on the Transitional Trustee Committee: Frank Gillette as Chairman, Peter Burckmyer, David McIntire, Stan Lincoln (ex-officio) and Ellen Heidelberger as consultant to the Committee.

It was the consensus of the Board that the Fund Drive be put on hold for the time being.

Shie Keyes said we should have a tribute to Dr. Pruyn in the "Bulletin" and an explanation of his contribution to the Society. Agreed to by consensus.

Stan Lincoln will name a Committee for the Memorial to Dr. Pruyn to be held in the early Fall. This Committee will also be asked to consider an appropriate new name for The Gedney Brook Sanctuary.

Kaye Anderson reminded the Board that something must be done about the hazardous approach of the driveway to the highway.

Frank Gillette said that the inheritance will not prevent us from continuing as a publically supported institution rather than a private foundation.

The Committee of Three will find out the terms of Dr. Pruyn's Will before we can make budget and Naturalist decisions. The Committee will also communicate with Board Members as to what they learn at the meeting with the lawyers.

Nina McCall moved that the Summer Committee - Stan Lincoln, Peter Burckmyer, Pam Rubin, Ellen Heidelberger and Frank Gillette - act on our behalf. Seconded and carried.

It was suggested that choosing a leader for the Alfasacs be put off until Fall.

After discussion Stan Lincoln announced a plan to hold a Summer Board Meeting around the 1st of August to take any necessary further actions relating to the new property and inheritance. The key agenda item will be to thoroughly examine and then decide on the most appropriate use of the Pruyn home. Stan will ask several people to come prepared with pros and cons on specific alternatives. It was also agreed that an opportunity would be provided for all Board Members to tour the home and new property before the Summer Board Meeting.

The September meeting of the Board will be held at the home of Ellen Heidelberger.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Elizabeth Wiltse
Recording Secretary

SEVENTH: I give and devise to my husband, FELLOWES MORGAN PRUYN, to have and to hold for his life our home and land in the Town of Newcastle. At the death of my husband, or at my death if my husband shall predecease me, I give and devise such home and land to the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, or to any sucessor organization which may then be carrying on its activities. The Saw Mill River Audubon Society shall use my home and land as a wild life and plant sanctuary and it shall be kept in its natural state as far as is possible, except that the said Saw Mill River Audubon Society, its successors and assigns, may establish and maintain suitable facilities for the use and for purposes of educational study and experimentation in connection with the activities of said Society, its successors and assigns, as may not detract from the use of said property as a wild life and plant sanctuary. Any funds or other property received by the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, its successors and assigns, as compensation or as consideration for the sale, destruction, condemnation of or injury to said property, shall be held by the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, its successors or assigns, to be used for the establishment and maintenance of wild life sanctuaries. In the event that the Board of Directors of the Saw Mill River Audubon

Society determines that by reason of change of circumstances it is no longer wise and prudent for it to continue to use any property received by it under this Article SEVENTH of my will for the foregoing purposes, then the Saw Mill River Audubon Society may transfer the property to some other conservation organization or conservation agency of government, or the Society may sell the premises in whole or from time to time in part, free and clear of the foregoing express restrictions and conditions.

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