

SMRAS Board Meeting
August 4, 1988

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Stan Lincoln at Dr. Pruyn's home. The following Directors were present: Midge Arnold, Alice Avouris, Ruth Bucher, Peter Burckmyer, Frank Gillette, Ellen Heidelberger, Sophie Keyes, Stan Lincoln, Donna Nye, Drew Panko, Pam Rubin, Barbara Spengler, Rita and Stan Wecker, and Betty Wiltse.

Peter Burckmyer moved that the minutes of the June 2nd Board Meeting be accepted as read. Seconded and carried.

The Treasurer's report will be read at the September Board Meeting.

Stan Lincoln announced that Rita Wecker will be Finance Chairman and Pam Rubin will be Chairman of the Liaison Committee. Ruth Bucher submitted our certification document to National and SMRAS is again certified.

Donna Nye moved that Rita Wecker fill the vacancy on the Board until the next Annual Meeting. Seconded and carried.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion of the use to be made of the Pruyn home.

We have received an official letter from the attorneys for the Pruyn estate stating that we are to receive \$200,000. However, there is not sufficient money in the estate to cover all bequests and the estate taxes and each bequest will be reduced. We will be notified later as to the amount we will receive. Hoch Reid has been consulted and says there is no problem with the will. It is estimated that 10-20% of the amount of each bequest will be deducted to cover taxes. We are also owners of a trust fund set up ten years ago in the amount of \$100,000 from which Dr. Pruyn received 7% interest income. This is a Kemper Fund now valued at \$140,806.82. Rita Wecker has called a meeting of her committee to plan investment. The Fund is currently earning over 10%.

The Finance Committee members are Dick Blair, Ellen Heidelberger, Jim Lober, Stan Lincoln with Rita Wecker as Chairman.

Frank Gillette reported that the house had been inspected by a professional engineer at a cost of \$295. The roof is 40 years old and must be replaced. It is leaking in several places. The shingles are asbestos which requires special handling. The cost will be \$7,900 to \$8,000 which will include the cost of new gutters and leaders. Also the sliding glass door must be replaced. It is not a standard size which will add to the expense. Outside trim needs work and the chimney needs to have broken bricks replaced and some tuck pointing. It will probably cost \$400 to \$600.

The trail crew should get the trails in condition. David McIntyre will be in charge. Midge Arnold will work on an inventory of plants on the property and Peter Burckmyer will be in charge of pruning shrubbery around the house.

There is the problem of Asis's role about the property. He is considered an independent contractor, not an employee. He receives \$100 for one day's work a week. It is no longer necessary for him to do inside work. He has had some problems with the machinery for outside work. He lacks a tall step-ladder and leaf removal equipment. Stan Lincoln suggested that the Trustee Committee will want to make decisions about Asis's duties on a day-to-day basis.

Midge Arnold will work up a map of the trees and plants on the property. Ginny Weinland and Mickie Spano will help her and will consider making a full inventory of what is in the Gedney Sanctuary.

Frank Gillette said we are going to get a deed to the property even though the lawyers say we don't need one.

We will have to pay taxes on the property this year because we received it too late in the year to apply for exemption. The taxes are about \$6,300. If we should decide to rent the property, there will be no exemption from taxes.

We should make a decision as to how the house is to be used. At present Rod Christie is renting it for at least six months at \$400 per month. He will pay for the electricity, propane and telephone. SMRAS will pay for heat and hot water. If we should get an employee before the six months is up, they will share the house.

The consensus of the Board was not to use the property for a Nature Center. It might be a working office and center for activities. With a Naturalist resident we could reserve some portion for office and library. The building could be modified so that the rooms could be separated. If the property is occupied by a Naturalist, it would be necessary to find out the amount he/she would have to add to income for tax purposes.

The Liaison Committee has been approached by a couple who are interested.

It will be necessary for us to estimate our income and expenses before anything can be decided. The place must be in use before May, 1989, to qualify for tax exemption. The Education Committee and the Budget Committee will have meetings to find out just where we stand.

Drew Panko moved that the Trustee Committee be empowered to get repair work done on the roof, chimney, sliding glass door, painting of exterior trim and also sweep the chimney. Seconded and carried.

Storm windows for the livingroom and possible replacement of the furnace will be considered later.

The \$2,000 remaining in the Scholarship Fund could be used until we receive money from the estate.

Drew Panko moved that we use the home as outlined in III-B of the proposed alternatives for use of house. "Use as a SMRAS Naturalist residence with limited office, library etc. activities." Seconded and carried.

Alice Avouris, Sophie Keyes and Ruth Bucher volunteered to be a committee to catalogue the books we own.

The question of how much we want to encourage public use came up. The entrance should be made safer before the public is invited.

Stan Lincoln moved that the By-Laws Amendment (attached hereto) as received in the mail be approved. It would allow for the size of the Board to be increased. Seconded and carried.

A Notice about preventing deer tick bites will appear in the "Bulletin". Also the Sanctuary Director, David McIntyre, will see about obtaining deer tick warning signs to be placed in the sanctuaries.

Stan Lincoln said that the health insurance for Kaye Anderson has been continued until the end of September.

Stan Wecker moved that we continue Kaye's health insurance until the end of the year. Seconded and carried.

Kaye should be so advised.

Peter Burchmyer, Donna Nye and Stan Lincoln will meet to decide on the requirements for a Naturalist to fit our needs.

Pam Rubin is organizing the material for New Castle Day in September.

The September Board Meeting will be held September 8th at the home of Ellen Heidelberger.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Elizabeth Wiltse
Recording Secretary