

SMRAS Board Meeting  
September 7, 1989

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Stan Lincoln at the home of Ellen Heidelberger. The following Directors were present: Midge Arnold, Alice Avouris, Ruth Bucher, Peter Burckmyer, Frank Gillette, Ellen Heidelberger, Sophie Keyes, Stan Lincoln, Nina McCall, David McIntyre, Donna Nye, William Romaine, Pam Rubin, Rita and Stan Wecker, and Betty Wiltse. Anne Swaim and David Miller were also present.

The minutes of the June Board Meeting were accepted as corrected. On the 2nd page - should read, "a quorum for the annual meeting". and "The Historian could be eliminated as an officer".

The Treasurer's report: Excess Revenue over Expense April 1 - August 31, 1989 - \$136,551.63. The Balance - \$166,551.63. The Endowment Fund - \$191,424.75. Light Memorial Scholarship Fund - \$13497.00. Saw Mill Audubon Scholarship Fund - \$3,104.00. Kaye Anderson Memorial Fund - \$422.00.

The Treasurer announced that the last \$50,000 of the bequest has been received.

Membership - 761 as of July 31, 1989.

Frank Gillette reported that we will not received the tax exemption on the Pruyn property this year. It will be next April before the exemption will take effect. The exemption must be applied for by the first day of June the prior year. Since we did not receive the property until after June 1, 1988, we were unable to apply for exemption until this year. The correction in the budget is granted with the formal approval of the Board.

Peter Burckmyer presented a draft of Assis's responsibilities as groundskeeper. He will be responsible for maintenance of sanctuaries other than the Pruyn Sanctuary as directed by the Sanctuary Committee through the Education Director. (draft attached hereto)

Frank Gillette said that the snow removal will be shared with the tenant. Assis will be available only on Saturdays. The telephone line has been put on a pole rather than underground.

Anne Swaim reported that she had sent out offers of programs to 100 schools and has received 10 inquiries so far. Also Gedney Sanctuary is looking great and the library is shaping up well. She finds that there is a possibility for programs at Senior Centers. She also suggested letting part of the orchard be a meadow with paths through it. Details will be taken up later.

Rita Wecker reported that we now have \$444,000. invested. The aim is to generate enough money for our operating budget and growth of capital.

Frank Gillette moved that we transfer the \$200,000 bequest from the General Fund to the Endowment Fund. Seconded and carried.

Anne Swaim reported that she has electric bills over \$100. The Budget Committee set an amount of \$800. to be paid by SMRAS for oil but nothing for electricity. Donna Nye, Anne Swaim and Frank Gillette will meet and decide what to do.

The seed sale is to be held October 21 & 22 at the same location as last year.

Stan Lincoln introduced David Miller, the Regional Vice-President covering the north-east region. He is stationed in Albany. David Miller explained some of the objectives of the State Wide Council which will provide direction on priorities in legislation and aid to chapters in various ways. He urged all to come to the next Council Meeting. The Adirondacks are threatened by development and Long Island Sound must be cleaned up. He said a Birdathon is a great way to raise money for environmental projects.

David McIntyre moved that SMRAS join the Sterling Forest Coalition. Seconded and carried.

We have sent a letter stating that we support the Westchester Environmental Bond Act.

We should all write to the Governor about the Jay Coalition and urge the State and County to act on acquiring the Jay property.

Jod has completed the bridge at Choate and finished the Board Walk at Gedney. Trails have been marked by Anne. There are new signs at the sanctuaries trails and also tick warning signs. To be placed later

The dedication of the Pruyn Sanctuary will be held next Spring.

Stan Lincoln said we need to fill the positions of Nominating Committee and Hospitality Chairman. He also complimented Anne and Sophie on this issue of the "Bulletin".

The October Board Meeting will be held at the home of Betty Wiltse.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 p.m.

Elizabeth Wiltse  
Recording Secretary