

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Board of Directors Meeting
January 9, 1992

President McCall called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM at the home of Diane Neski. The following directors were present: Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Avouris, Heidelberger, Keyes, Berna Lincoln, Stan Lincoln, Lolya, John McCall, Nina McCall, Miller, Neski, Romaine and Smolin. Anne Swaim was also present.

President McCall suggested we shorten our meetings by having an agenda set in advance or by limiting discussion to the more important items.

President McCall reported that former director Ruth Bucher died December 25th after a long illness. Ruth, an able librarian, had served on the Board for eight years and was corresponding secretary. We respected her quiet kindness.

The minutes of the December 5 Board Meeting were accepted as read.

Alice Avouris reported that Chapter membership was 876 as of November 27, 1991.

Ellen Heidelberger reported that revenue exceeded expense by \$6,277.74 for the nine months ended December 31, 1991. Fund balances on that date totaled \$497,290.65.

President McCall moved that Pam Rubin replace Ruth Bucher on the nominating committee. Seconded and carried. Nina told us that bikers have been using the trails at Brinton Brook and that the Meissners will probably make arrangements to leave their home to a relative. Nina then said that she had hand-delivered a letter to Connie Corry of Croton regarding the encroaching structures at Graff Sanctuary. Mrs. Corry offered \$1,000 to settle the matter. Since \$1,000 is inadequate, the matter was referred to the Sanctuary Committee for further review.

Martin Smolin read a letter which would inform the Gallellis of our intention to build a trail at Graff Sanctuary in order to give access to Briggs Lane. Martin Smolin moved that the letter be sent. Seconded and carried. Bill Romaine was opposed.

Martin Smolin gave an account of the January 7 hearing held by the Croton Planning Board on the proposed Prickly Pear Hill Country Club Draft Environmental Impact Statement. President McCall, John McCall, Jim Miller, Martin Smolin, and Anne Swaim attended this hearing on our behalf. Anne Swaim was complimented on the written comments she submitted, and on her oral presentation of our concerns.

Jack Andrews said that a contract for \$3,250 has been awarded to Otto Lips to upgrade the electric service at the Pruyne house. Jim Anderson next recommended that Peter Colucci be given the tile and plumbing repair work at the Pruyne house. After some discussion, Stan Lincoln moved that the House Committee be authorized to spend up to \$1,700 for this work. Seconded and carried.

Stan Lincoln is undertaking a written history of SMRAS in preparation for our 40th anniversary in 1993. Stan circulated some draft material and asked that anyone able to supply more information do so.

John McCall said that Rita Wecker told him that our portfolio was worth about \$519,000 at year-end. John said that he has received more pledges to the Capital Campaign. John added that a key to successful fund-raising is the development of contacts. People with ample funds to give are more willing when they know the recipients.

Michael Lolya reviewed the upcoming hikes, including the Kay Anderson Memorial hike to be led by Mickey Spano.

Diane Neski said that there will be an open space event at the Bear Mountain Inn on January 16 consisting of a workshop in the afternoon and a hearing from 7 to 9 in the evening. Diane would welcome assistance in organizing the Birdathon.

Jack Andrews suggested that we hold more of our lecture meetings in the Chappaqua Public Library auditorium. Since the response was favorable, the matter will be taken up with Stan Wecker.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6th at the Wecker. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm.

Recording Secretary

William Romaine