

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 6, 1992

President McCall called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM at the home of Rita and Stan Wecker. The following directors were present: Anderson, Arnold, Heidelberger, Keyes, Berna Lincoln, Lolya, John McCall, Nina McCall, McIntyre, Miller, Neski, Nye, Romaine, Rita Wecker and Stan Wecker. Anne Swaim was also present.

The minutes of the January 9, 1992 meeting were accepted as read.

Ellen Heidelberger reported that for the ten months ended January 31, 1992, revenue exceeded expense by \$5,848.76. Fund balances on that date amounted to \$498,668.09.

President McCall said that Alice Avouris had told her that chapter membership stood at 848 as of January 2.

President McCall reported that Mrs. Corry had offered \$2,000 to settle the encroachments at Graff Sanctuary. Berna Lincoln moved that President McCall be empowered to tell Mrs. Corry that we are firm on requiring \$5,000 for the land in question, and that if she does not meet this price, we will reclaim the property ourselves. Seconded and carried.

President McCall reported that skaters have been using the ponds at Brinton Brook and Pinecliff Sanctuaries. Donna Nye moved that signs be posted in each place reading: "Stay off the pond. No swimming. No skating." Seconded and carried. Midge Arnold and Michael Lolya were opposed.

President McCall reviewed the attached letter which was sent to Anne Swaim. This letter sets guidelines for the use of the Pruyn house as determined by an ad hoc committee, the names of whose members appear in the letter.

Donna Nye moved that we pay Anne Swaim's registration fee for the National Audubon Convention which is scheduled for June 13 - 19 in Washington, D.C.. Seconded and carried.

President McCall took notice of the hearing in Croton on the proposed Arrow Crest development set for February 25. This development abuts Brinton Brook Sanctuary.

Mike Lolya suggested that a Mr. Buzzanco might be available to do maintenance work in the sanctuaries.

Anne Swaim reported that she has contracts to give lessons at Croton Nursery, West Orchard School and in the Bedford School District. Anne has lined up 27 trail walkers and prepared written instructions for them. Anne has begun a map of Haas Sanctuary that will be accurate. Anne said that she has asked the ~~New York State Department~~ <sup>U.S. Soil Conservation</sup> ~~Environmental Conservation~~ <sup>service</sup> to inspect the dam at Brinton Brook Sanctuary.

Donna Nye reported that she has received more than a dozen inquiries about our scholarships.

Stan Wecker has made tentative reservations at the Chappaqua Library for our fall lectures. The cost is \$40 each time as compared to \$10 at the Bell School.

Rita Wecker reviewed the attached report of the Finance Committee on the growth of our portfolio in 1991 and recent investment decisions. The Committee decided to invest \$2,000 a month through October in the Vanguard Index-Trust 500 portfolio, and also made plans to invest the Mildred Hembdt bequest when it is received.

Sophie Keyes reminded us of the May 18 - 19 Kay Anderson memorial hike in the Catskills.

Jim Anderson said that the electric service upgrade at the Pruyn house has been delayed by the possible need for approval from Con Edison. The tile repair has been delayed by a supply of tile of the wrong sort. Jim said that bird seed originally priced at about \$600 is still on hand.

Jim Miller reported that he had walked the Prickly Pear site on January 26th with members of the Croton Planning Board. They were attentive to our concern that the 16th tee of the proposed golf course would be very close to a boundary of Brinton Brook Sanctuary.

Stan Wecker moved that we extend a vote of thanks to Stan Lincoln for his write-up of the first 40 years of SMRAS. Seconded and carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5th at a place to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 pm.

Recording Secretary

*William Romaine*



# SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

A CHAPTER OF NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

January 27, 1992

Anne Swaim, Staff Naturalist  
Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
275 Millwood Road  
Chappaqua, NY 10514

Dear Anne,

In response to your letter of the 11th, I set up an ad hoc to committee on the use of Pruyn House consisting of Peter Burckmyer, Stan Lincoln, John McCall, David McIntyre, Donn attend but was Nye and Stan Wecker. David was unable briefed on the result s of the meeting.

At a meeting on January 14th we reached agreement on the following points:

1. Most of the members of the ad hoc committee were on the Board at the time the house was acquired and were actively involved in both the search for a new naturalist and the planning process which preceded it. There is was unanimous agreement that the intent from the start to reserve the two downstairs rooms as a headquarters for the Society, with the remainder of the house to be set aside as a residence for the naturalist.
2. That we proceed mediatey to seek outside money to of the fund installing door for direct access to that area from the outside and another door at the head stairs to the living quarters.
3. That a reasonable transition period be set for if accomplishing this, to be no longer than August, 1992; outside money has not been found by then, that society fund such changes out of endowment.

4. That no part of the house or property is to be rented. This does not preclude the resident from

sharing the living quarters with someone and sharing living costs.

5. Added income from sharing living quarters was never a consideration in setting the naturalist's salary; hence sharing expenses is a personal decision on the part of the occupant.

In response to other questions raised, there is no immediate plan to convert the breezeway or the garage to other use. This is a possible step in the future but depends on the financial health of the society, raising money to do it and future board decisions.



Public use of the library is not under consideration at this time but use by the Board and members has always been assumed and dependent on access.

At a subsequent exchange of memos and phone discussion the use of Pruyn House grounds was agreed on as follows:

1. When another entrance has been established, the society members will have full access to its office space during daytime hours.
2. To ensure the privacy of the naturalist, the area behind the house should be designated as a private area for the naturalist's personal use and off bounds to the society members, board and public. This area could be defined by "Private" signs. However, access the orchard should remain open as part of the Pruyn Sanctuary.
3. Millwood Road access should be retained as public access at the same time we discourage its use due to the poor visibility on exit.
4. Maintenance of foundation plantings in front of the house is the responsibility of the naturalist and must be maintained in such condition as to be an asset.

As you recognized in your letter, the use of Pruyn House was not fully determined at the time of your hiring. You state that it would be based "on the naturalist's need." While your needs are important to the Society the needs of the Society are of equal importance.

Looking into the future of the society, the possibility of hiring an office worker would seem to be a worthwhile goal but, as above, dependent on increased financial base. This is another reason for retaining our use of both downstairs rooms.

The policy as agreed upon by the Ad Hoc committee will be submitted to the Board at its February 6th meeting.

In the meantime, it is advisable to discuss with me or members of the Personnel committee, any changes or plans you might wish to make for the use of Pruyn House and grounds to forestall any misunderstanding between you and the society--something we would sincerely like to avoid.

It is the desire of the Board to continue to have friendly, cordial relations with you as we have so much enjoyed in the past.

Sincerely,



Nina McCall  
President