

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Board of Directors Meeting
April 2, 1992

President McCall called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM at the Pruyn House. The following directors were present: Anderson, Andrews, Avouris, Heidelberger, Keyes, Berna Lincoln, Stan Lincoln, Lolya, John McCall, Nina McCall, McIntyre, Miller, Romaine, Smolin, Rita Wecker and Stan Wecker. Anne Swaim was also present.

President McCall introduced Mary Bowman who might join the Board and work on publicity.

The minutes of the March 5, 1992 meeting were accepted with a corrected February membership figure, and with the clarification that the Nominating Committee has proposed one change in the Society's officers.

Ellen Heidelberger reported that for the year ended March 31, 1992, revenue exceeded expense by \$6,169.06. Fund balances on that date amounted to \$508,652.34. The balance in the Environmental Education Fund has been transferred to the Endowment Fund and the balance in the House Maintenance Reserve Fund of \$1,740.90 was transferred to the Current Fund. Ellen moved that the Current Fund's excess of revenue over expense of \$6,171.06 for the year ended March 31 be moved into the Endowment Fund. Seconded and carried. Ellen reported that the annual fund drive has raised \$2,950 as of April 2.

Alice Avouris reported that SMRAS had 870 memberships as of February 27.

Martin Smolin moved that we rescind our March decision to sell some 4/10 of an acre to Mrs. Corry for \$2,500 plus costs, and that he be empowered to organize a committee to remove the encroaching structures at Graff Sanctuary. Seconded and defeated. David McIntyre wrote the attached resolution which we adopted to explain our March decision.

Anne Swaim asked that we send letters and make phone calls in support of the proposed Town of New Castle Tree Ordinance. Berna Lincoln moved that SMRAS endorse the proposed Ordinance. Seconded and carried. Mike Lolya moved that a letter be sent to all of our members in New Castle urging that they support this Ordinance. Seconded and carried.

Anne Swaim reported that the birding class is under way. Anne has heard reports of revised plans for the Prickly Pear development adjacent to Brinton Brook Sanctuary.

Mike Lolya said that sponsors are needed for the Birdathon. Mike asked for permission to use our membership list for a mailing to advertise the sale of a computerized birding program, with the understanding that a portion of the receipts would be donated to SMRAS. Seconded and carried.

Jack Andrews said that the electric service to the Pruyn House will be upgraded by the installation of two meters.

Stan Lincoln mentioned that there are certain provisions in the deeds to the Pruyn Sanctuary requiring study. The walking of certain paths to maintain a right of passage may be in order.

David McIntyre reviewed the topics discussed at the March 10 meeting of the Sanctuary Committee. In addition, he reported that Jim Miller, Martin Smolin and Anne Swaim marked a trail to Briggs Lane at Graff Sanctuary on March 21.

John McCall reported on the March 12 phonathon at the Houlihan-Lawrence real estate office in Chappaqua and the April 1 mop-up.

Martin Smolin reviewed the State's James Bay decision and other conservation issues.

Jim Miller said that the Town of Cortlandt has acquired part of Oscawana Park from the County and has plans for a parking lot, pier and boat launch. These improvements may not be built immediately because of limited funds, but Jim suggested a letter be sent expressing our concerns.

Rita Wecker reported that our portfolio had a value of \$509,434 on April 1.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 7th at the McCalls' house.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Recording Secretary

William Romaine

Resolution

The Board of Directors of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society (SMRAS) hereby memorializes what it considers to be the most important considerations (although not all the considerations) underlying its decision to formally resolve its long-standing dispute with Mrs. Connie Corry regarding her encroachments on a portion of Graff Sanctuary in the manner agreed to by the Board on March 5, 1992:

(1) The fact that the parcel in question is not marketable to anyone other than to an adjacent property owner;

(2) The fact that the Board of Directors of SMRAS has offered the parcel in question for sale to Mrs. Corry for a price in excess of \$2,500 or to assist Mrs. Corry in removing the structures in question, which offers have steadfastly been rejected;

(3) The fact that the alternative remedy of self-help was not deemed viable in light of the importance to SMRAS of maintaining positive community relations; and

(4) The value to SMRAS of finally resolving this controversy which has plagued SMRAS and its predecessor in title, the National Audubon Society, for approximately twenty years.

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