

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
May 6, 1993

President McCall called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM at Pruyr House.

The following directors were present: Arnold, Baker, Heidelberger, Keyes, Lolya, John McCall, Nina McCall, MacNair, Miller, Neski, Romaine, Smolin, Stan Wecker, and Walker. Naturalist Anne Swaim was also present.

The minutes of the April 1st Board meeting were accepted as read.

Bill Romaine reported a membership of 814 as of April 1, 1993. There was some discussion regarding the organization of membership records. Bill plans to continue using the 3" x 5" card method set up by Alice Avouris. The new clerk should be able to help with organizing the lists. New members will receive a welcome letter with an information packet.

Ellen Heidelberger reported that for the one month ended April 30, 1993, expense exceeded revenue by \$552.57. Total fund balance on that date was \$620,914.22. Ellen explained that there were large end of year expenses. As of May 4th, the fund drive raised \$4,298. Ellen is working on tax forms now and when they are completed she will call the auditor to inspect the books.

Mike Lolya discussed with the Board the creation of a Hudson Valley Audubon telephone number. The phone could be used for rare bird alerts, interaction among birding groups and various regional activity information. The phone would be for incoming calls only. Expenses would be shared by Saw Mill, Putnam and Bedford Societies. A phone line costs \$20 a month and an answering machine costs \$90. Mike moved that Saw Mill River Audubon Society donate approximately \$30 toward the purchase of an answering set and approximately \$80 per year maintenance toward the creation of a Hudson Valley Audubon phone hot line. Seconded and carried. It was also suggested that the phone be installed at Pruyr House. Anne Swaim was agreeable to that and so was the Board. Updating of information will be done remotely.

Mike Lolya reported that twelve people will be going to PEEC in Pa. May 7th - 9th. Midge Arnold will attend in his place.

Nina McCall welcomed Diane Neski back and congratulated her on the birth of her son. Nina congratulated Mike Smolin on his retirement. Nina thanked Bill Walker for installing the

carpet in the Pruyn House living room. Everyone was invited to inspect the office improvements in the basement of Pruyn House.

Nina reported on some committee assignments. Bill Walker will join the Pruyn House Committee. Tom MacNair and Janet Townsend will be on the Nominating Committee. Mike Smolin will be on the Sanctuary Committee. By-laws will be discussed at a future time when the Lincolns are present.

Anne Swaim reported that April was a very busy month. There was an all day birding class and a program at the Pleasantville Women's Club among other duties. Sanctuary winter damage has been cleared up. Seventeen old tires have been picked up and recycled at a cost of \$1 a tire. Work day was disappointing because only two trail walkers showed up. Brinton Brook's "SMRAS" sign has been put up. Some trail maps have been reprinted and Pruyn will have a map box and permanent painted map. Lasdon Earth Day photographs were passed around and Anne was congratulated on her display. SMRAS new stationery was not ready. There was some discussion about trying out a new printing company.

Jim Miller reported on the 4th Annual Birdathon on May 15th. It was decided not to use the Birdathon as a fund raiser this time. At the end of the day birders will convene at Pruyn House to record sightings and have supper. Anne will order the food and it will cost about \$5.00 each.

Martin Smolin reported on the Environmental Action Committee meeting on April 15th. A copy of the minutes is attached. Discussed were Arrowcrest, landscaping the dump, and a sludge plant in Putnam Valley. The Board agreed to support Putnam Highlands Audubon objections concerning the site of the sludge plant. Regarding the Prickly Pear project; it was approved by the Planning Board but was subsequently put up for sale. Anne Swaim recommended that SMRAS send a letter to the Planning Board, as soon as possible, to let them know where we stand on this subject. Martin said we have received good comments from the Planning Board about our reports and they value our suggestions.

Anne Swaim reported for Mary Bowman that all public relation releases were sent out on schedule.

John McCall reported a good response to the advertisement for a secretary. There are five applicants and three finalists will be interviewed.

Midge Arnold reported that the signs were put up at Pruyn, shrubs moved and trails mowed. She showed a drawing of the orchard with the trees and shrubs identified. Anne Swaim will do a map using this information.

Sophie Keyes reported that July 1st is the deadline for the yearly schedule of programs and field trips, which is the September issue of the Bulletin. "Monday walker" may have to be redone if Mickey Spano cannot do it.

Stan Wecker reported that Rita Wecker was in the hospital. She would appreciate cards but no visits. Stan contacted Jim Cunningham, of National, and discussed having him come to a Finance or Board meeting to talk about preparing reports. There was discussion about future meeting suggestions. Possibilities are Historic Hudson Valley Horticulturist from Tarrytown, Jim Eyring from Pace, Larry Crockett, etc.

Jim Miller gave a brief update on the Corry situation. The May 1st deadline for action by Mrs. Corry to comply with our requests has past. The Board wants to go ahead with filing an action in Westchester County Supreme Court.

SMRAS will be honored by the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County and will be presented a gift. Anne Swaim has suggested books for our library. The FCWC has published a new booklet and Anne will order two or three copies and charge SMRA. Anne will also notify the Dept. of Parks and Recreation to include our sanctuaries in their booklet for places to walk in Westchester.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 1st, at the Arnold house. It is a picnic at 6:00 PM (bring your significant other) and a Board meeting at 8:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Tony MacLari
Recording Secretary

BE IT MOVED THAT SMRAS
DONATE APPROX. \$30 TOWARD THE
PURCHASE OF AN ANSWERING MACHINE
AND APPROX \$80 PER YEAR MAINTANANCE
TOWARD THE CREATION OF A HUDSON
VALLEY AUDUBON PHONE HOT LINE

MIKE LALYA

5/6/93