

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
June 1, 1993

Vice-President Martin Smolin called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM at the Arnold home. The Vice President chaired the meeting because of President McCall's absence.

The following directors were present: Anderson, Arnold, Baker, Goplerud, Heidelberger, Keyes, Berna Lincoln, Stan Lincoln, Lolya, MacNair, Miller, Neski, Romaine, Smolin, Rita Wecker and Stan Wecker. Also present were Anne Swaim and Carol Coggeshall.

The minutes of the May 6th Board meeting were accepted as read.

Ellen Heidelberger reported that for the two months ended May 31, 1993, expense exceeded revenue by \$4,030.41. Total fund balance on that date was \$617,538.38. Ellen reported that the Kay Anderson fund was \$87.00 and would soon be phased out. Ellen said the accountant picked up the books to do the audit.

Bill Romaine reported a membership of 801 as of April 9, 1993.

Martin Smolin reminded the Board that committee reports and activities must be ready to list in the Schedule of Events by the end of August. Martin told the Board about the Hembdt Trail dedication at Pinecliff Sanctuary on May 14th. The two Hembdt sisters attended and were very touched by the event. Nina and John McCall held a tea for them after the dedication.

During the summer and in the absence of President McCall an Executive Committee was appointed by Martin Smolin to act in lieu of the Board until the September Board meeting. The Committee consists of Vice-President Martin Smolin, Chairman of the Board Stan Lincoln, Recording Secretary Joyce MacNair, and Treasurer Ellen Heidelberger.

Anne Swaim reported that the highlight of the month of May was the school programming and it was a delight. She did twelve days of programs and reached 840 youth. Anne said she sends confirmation letters to the schools in advance of walks that include warnings about ticks. In spite of the tick problem the walks remain very popular. Two such walks are planned in the summer at Brinton Brook and this is the first time in four years. The weekly bird walks

during migration were popular too. Anne has been approached by Barry Samuels of County Parks about possible linking of trails between Chernick Sanctuary and newly acquired parkland along the Pocantico River. Anne will run a Mount Kisco Summer Camp program at Leonard Park from June 28 - August 20. She will attend the National Audubon Society's Northeast Regional Conference to be at the Silver Bay Conference Center, Lake George, on July 11th. She will give two or three presentations about sanctuaries and walks. Anne showed the new stationery that was delivered to the office (with apologies from the printer for the tardiness). Half of the envelopes have printed return addresses and half are blank.

Berna Lincoln passed around a sheet for people to volunteer their homes for next season's Board meetings.

Rita Wecker reported a portfolio fund balance of

\$618,972.00 as of May 28, 1993. The balance is down a little because of expenses not because of poor investments. Rita said that a friend of Nina McCall, Elizabeth Ottinger, has volunteered to look over the investment portfolio. She will be invited to attend the next committee meeting sometime over the summer.

Stan Wecker reported that programs for next season will be finalized this month. He welcomes any volunteers on his "committee of one". There will be no benefit program because of the annual fund drive. He will try to do one program in each of four river communities.

Jim Miller reported that the Birdathon, now called "Birding Big Day", was a success and a lot of fun. Birders spotted a combined total of 163 species. One team went to the Bashakill lowlands and highlands and other teams went to Rockefeller Park and Jamaica Bay. We signed up with National for the Birdathon, which is classified as a fundraiser, but since no money was collected and it is not compulsory to send the money, none will be sent. Sending a donation to the Northeast Regional office, as we did last year, will be put off until their fund drive. We will not sign up for a "Birdathon" next year since we have our own in-house birding day.

Jim Anderson reported that work on Pruyn House garage has been completed by Tim Kaiser of Homeworks. Flagstones have been purchased at half price and now should be laid. Jim would like to get this done in May and asked for volunteers to phone him.

Mike Lolya reported that the Field Trip Committee met and planned the attached list of trips. Some volunteers are still needed to lead trips. Some new places have been added to the list.

Jim Miller gave an update on Environmental Action Committee activities. Concerning the Arrowcrest project, Audubon is still concerned about the 40 foot buffer zones. There will be further hearings on this and we will strongly recommend enforcement of the buffer zones. Anne Swaim said she had booklets from the Westchester Land Trust about easements. She thought a letter should be sent to the Village Board and Planning Board before their next meeting on June 8th. We need to recommend ways to control activity on the land, perhaps by having either the Town or Audubon hold the easement papers. The committee will meet to further discuss this matter. Louisa Baker was invited to join the committee.

Jon Goplerud reported about Croton Point Park activities. County Parks has a three point plan to cap the dump, rehabilitate old structures and generally improve the

park. They are sensitive to Audubon wishes about vegetation and plantings. Audubon will continue to monitor the plans. There are no plans to make any major changes in the Park. They plan a museum and trails. Tentative opening date for the Park will be in 1995.

There was no public relations report since Mary Bowman was not present.

Sophie Keyes reminded the Board that July 1st was the deadline for field trips and committee reports for publication in the September issue of the Newsletter. Sophie will prepare and distribute a schedule of deadlines and issues.

Carol Coggeshall told the Board about a watershed plan the County is coordinating. The plan involves Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown and Putnam and aims to keep the public drinking water safe. Martin Smolin invited Carol to join the Environmental Committee again.

Carol Coggeshall also informed the Board of the death of Leonard Kaiser who was an active Auduboner. Sophie Keyes will put a brief obituary in the Newsletter.

Mike Lolya reported that a birding hot line telephone was now operating out of the Bedford Audubon Society office. The number is 666-6614. This information will be included in the Newsletter.

Stan Wecker is working on lining up dates for regular meetings for next season. Definite dates at the Library are difficult because of conflicts with the Drama Group. He may have to make tentative dates and confirm them later.

Martin Smolin announced that the Sanctuary Committee will meet this week.

Jim Miller announced no new information on the Corry problem. The pleadings are ready to go.

Midge Arnold said that Thelma Smith was willing to do "Sightings" again if the Board wanted that. Sophie will contact her.

Martin Smolin thanked Bill and Midge Arnold for their hospitality and for the pre-meeting picnic that was enjoyed by everyone.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 9th at the home of Sophie Keyes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Sage M. Gordon
Recording Secretary