

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
September 9, 1993

President McCall called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM at the home of Sophie Keyes.

The following directors were present: Anderson, Arnold, Baker, Bowman, Keyes, Berna Lincoln, MacNair, John and Nina McCall Miller, Nye, Romaine, Smolin, Walker, Stan Wecker. Naturalist: Anne Swaim was also present.

The minutes of the June 1st Board meeting were read and accepted with minor changes.

Bill Romaine read the Treasurer's report. For the five months ending August 31 1993, expense exceeded revenue by \$6,910.12. Total fund balance on August 31st was \$620,649.33. Bill read a motion (attached) for the Board to adopt corporate resolutions authorizing the current President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Chairman of the Board to enter into transactions affecting the Bank of New York checking account and safety deposit box and Citicorp Brokerage account and the various Funds and Portfolios. The motion was seconded and carried. A. Ernest Larsen, CPA. audited the books over the summer and found the Treasurer's reports to be in good order. Bill said he received Ellen Heidelberger's excellent Treasurer's records and papers and was most appreciative of the detailed instructions she gave him. Ellen Heidelberger resigned as Treasurer effective August 22, 1993 and Bill Romaine has agreed to take over.

Nina McCall reported SMRAS membership at 763 as of August 31, 1993.

Nina McCall made a motion to appoint Bill Romaine as Treasurer to replace Ellen Heidelberger. The motion was seconded and carried.

Nina mentioned the death of Jonathon Coggeshall during the summer. She thanked Sophie Keyes and Anne Swaim for good job done on the Newsletter.

Nina discussed sending representatives to the annual meeting of NY Federation of Bird Clubs. SMRAS is allowed five reps... Stan Lincoln is a permanent rep. Berna Lincoln make a motion to appoint five representatives to attend the meeting and to vote for the changes in the by-laws of the Federation. This was seconded and carried.

Stan and Berna Lincoln, Anne Swaim, Nina McCall and Mary Bowman will attend.

Nina discussed Board positions to be filled. For the Nominating Committee; Jim Anderson nominated Tom MacNair and Stan Wecker. This was seconded and carried. Jon Goplerud has sent a letter of resignation, effective September 1st. His resignation was accepted. He can still serve on the committee but cannot co-chair. Replacements are needed for Jon and also for Membership Chairman. Some suggested names were Barbara Appel and Janet Townsend.

Nina was concerned about the cost of liability insurance that has risen \$800 since last year. Bill Romaine will look into this. He will check with Greenwich Audubon and Teatown.

Nina discussed a telephone call she received regarding an organization known as "Wise Use Group". Apparently National Audubon opposes this group and has hired people to make calls and ask for donations. Nina will make more inquiries about this issue.

Anne Swaim reported a busy summer schedule that included teacher workshops at Pace, a field ecology program for the Chappaqua Summer Scholarship Program and work at the Mt. Kisco Summer Day Camp. Anne has worked with the new office worker, Lois Skelly, and has set up a database program for chapter membership lists and school addresses. Sanctuary litter, especially in the parking lot at Brinton continues to be a problem. Boundary signs at Pruyn and Brinton have been reposted. Anne reported that a task force of naturalists and biologists has been formed to share information that can be computerized and available for use when land is threatened. Anne discussed with the board the problems of pond restoration at Pruyn and Brinton.

The hot dry summer has virtually dried up the ponds. More research is needed for a solution. Anne and Martin Smolin also brought up the decaying state of the boardwalk at Pruyn. After much discussion the Board decided that more research is needed to estimate

replacement options and costs. The budget allows \$7000 for sanctuary expense. Since April \$1800 has been spent on sanctuary repair. The Development Committee and Budget Committee will look into this and report their findings.

Mary Bowman reported that the press releases were out for the opening meeting on September 17th at Chappaqua Library. A publicity meeting is planned with other members of the committee for the October press releases.

John McCall reported that Lois Skelly was hired to do

clerical work in the SMRAS office and seems to be doing very well. She was invited to attend the next Board meeting.

John McCall presented Rita Wecker's Financial Report. The report shows an increase of 4.1% since last May. The Finance Committee plans to invest more heavily in

equities. They plan a meeting soon that will include Mrs. Oettinger who will offer suggestions for improving SMRAS portfolio.

Jim Anderson reported that the seed sale flyers were sent out. He discussed an urgent need to improve the mailing list. It is hoped that the computerized lists will help. The seed sale is scheduled for October 16th and 17th. Jim has contracted with the old provider for seed since his price was better. Bill Arnold is setting up schedules for volunteer workers.

Bill Walker reported that for insurance purposes an inventory of the Pruyn property was done. He made a list of budget items for the operating budget. He toured the sanctuaries with Anne and discussed handicapped access and its very specific requirements. Perhaps Pinecliff would be a possible choice. Bill and Jim Anderson laid a flagstone walk at Pruyn on probably the hottest day of the year! Nina and the Board thanked them for their labors.

Stan Wecker reported that his programs are in place. Diane Neski will provide refreshments at the September 17th meeting. He needs volunteers to provide refreshments at future meetings. Stan noted a correction on the field trip program. On October 17th there will not be canoe trip at Constitution Marsh because it is duck migration time. But there will be visit to the center there.

Jim Miller reported that Mrs. Corry will be served the pleadings. His law firm is taking this case and will handle all the legal proceedings. Concerning Choate property insurance, the wording was not agreed upon. It will be necessary to go to New Castle again. The paper work is not final yet on the 7 plus acres. Concerning Arrowcrest, it is rumored that the 40 foot buffer might be a gift instead of an easement. Jim mentioned the impending two week hunting season for Canada geese and the Board after some discussion, decided to stay out of it.

Martin Smolin reported he had a June meeting of committee members for the sanctuary trail walkers. Nat Mills a long time SMRAS member had some suggestions to save the ponds. Other sanctuary business was recorded above.

Midge Arnold reported that there are still some trees to be identified at Pruyn before the final map can be done.

It is planned to place a map holder somewhere near the arboretum.

Nina reported that Mike Lolya has the Cape May trip, September 24th through 26th, organized.

Sophie Keyes reminded the Board that the Newsletter will be on a bi-monthly schedule for the rest of the year after the October 1st mailing.

Nina passed around various literature and correspondence from National Audubon.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 7th at the McCall house.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Joyce MacLan
Recording Secretary

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