

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

October 7, 1993

President McCall called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM at her home.

Nina introduced Lois Skelly, who is the new clerical employee and Tom MacNair, who will serve on the nominating committee as Chairman.

Directors Present - Anderson, Arnold, Berna and Stan Lincoln, MacNair, John and Nina McCall, Neski, Nye, Romaine, Smolin, Rita and Stan Wecker. Naturalist Anne Swaim and Lois Skelly and Tom MacNair were also present.

Minutes of the September 9th Board meeting were read and accepted with minor changes.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine read the Treasurer's Report. For the six months ending September 30, 1993, expense exceeded revenue by \$4,674.46. Current Fund balance was \$25,307.54 and Endowment Fund balance was \$569,359.79. Sanctuaries and House (\$18.00) was taken out of the Current Fund and shown as a separate item. Total Fund Balance was \$623,069.77.

Bill presented a 93'-94' Half Budget Comparison dated 9/30/93. The seed sale and other fund raisers during the year will help raise receipts. Administrative and naturalist expenses are higher than budgeted. Bill agreed to prepare quarterly budget comparisons from now on. Board members also discussed a need to tie the budget to investments.

Bill did some research concerning liability insurance. He received a packet of information and questionnaires from the "Green Umbrella Plan" based in Virginia. The questionnaire was returned but no further information has yet been received.

Membership Report - Lois Skelly reported 735 memberships as of September 30th. Progress is continuing on compiling names and address lists and entering them on the computer. Lois expects to be current and running by the end of the year.

President's Report - Nina McCall received a letter from Peter Berle concerning declining memberships and the need to attract new members. Also of concern is a two and a

half million dollar shortfall in National's budget. There was some discussion about this, but the reasons are complex and not easily solved. Nina is sending a letter to Mr. Berle pointing out the problems at the local chapter level. There is an enormous turnover in memberships. SMRAS only receives \$5.50 per membership. Our membership is very fractionized. People live in 16 different townships and it is hard to reach them all.

Nina discussed attendance at Board meetings. She hopes everyone will make an effort to attend all the meetings.

Nina reported that Jim Miller's firm is handling the Corry case and has agreed to provide pro bono services to SMRAS. Work is almost complete and Jim expects the papers to be served in about two weeks.

Board meeting minutes will be mailed to each Board member in the future. Berna Lincoln will make copies and mail them together with the meeting notice. This will cost about \$5.00 per meeting.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported that school programs are off to a good start. A program was given at the Rippowam Cisqua School for the first time. There is also a lot of interest in sanctuary walks.

The evening raptor workshop and day trip to Hook Mt. were successful. The workshop drew 25 people and the Hook Mt. trip drew 36. Many were from up-county.

Trails in the sanctuaries will be classified as easy, intermediate or difficult for purposes of maintenance and access. Stan Lincoln expressed concern for safety at the sanctuaries. Unsafe trails should be closed by sign and roped off. A draft copy of Sanctuary Maintenance Guidelines and Maps was passed around. The single plank boardwalk at Pruyne has been closed and the old planks have been pulled up.

Anne said there is a need for office volunteers. Some suggestions were United Way in White Plains, The Environmental Club at Pace University. - - -

Finance Committee Report - Rita Wecker reported a portfolio fund balance of \$642,459, as of October 5, 1993. The committee met on September 20th with Elizabeth Oettinger who is a financial officer at Mutual of New

York. The focus was on strategy to manage funds with long-term growth in mind. Mrs. Oettinger shared the Episcopal Diocese investment guidelines with the committee. She suggested putting more money into equity and reducing money market funds. SMRAS bond funds have

performed well.

Archives Policy - Stan Lincoln asked the Board to think about committing to the concept of archives. He distributed a paper, attached, explaining policy, procedure and archive content. He made a motion that these policies and procedures be approved by the Board. The motion tabled until next meeting. The Board discussed the problem of preserving committee minutes and reports. John McCall suggested that more thought needs be given to this matter. He asked members to send written suggestions for implementing these procedures to Stan Lincoln. This will be brought up again at the next meeting.

Sanctuary Report - Martin Smolin reported that his committee met on September 27th. They watched a Trimax Products video demonstrating their lumber substitute. Committee members thought this product could be used for the reconstruction of the boardwalk at Pruyn. The new walk would be three feet wide, making it wheelchair, but not handicapped, accessible. Their estimate of 500 feet of board at an estimated \$7500 to \$8000 was reduced by the Board to 300 feet at approximately \$4000. Martin made a motion for the directors of SMRAS to approve the construction of 300 feet of boardwalk through the wetland area of Pruyn Sanctuary using materials manufactured by Trimax. This construction should begin as soon as possible. The directors authorize the Sanctuary Committee's expenditure of up to approximately \$4000 utilizing \$2000 of budgeted money originally available for Pinecliff Sanctuary. Seconded and carried.

Dr. Kaufman has again indicated his wish to donate 19.2 acres adjacent to Brinton to SMRAS but has not yet contacted Jim Miller.

Development Committee - John McCall reported that his committee decided that the handicapped trail should be located at Pinecliff. This will require some work and funds. Bill Arnold will assume responsibility for developing the necessary funds.

This committee will work with the Sanctuary Committee and the Board to find ways to fund the replacement of the boardwalk at Pruyn.

Dredging of ponds at Pruyn and Brinton Brook were discussed but no action taken due to the high cost involved.

The committee agreed to present recommendations to the Board for approaching the membership about Planned Giving. Berna Lincoln will assume responsibility.

John and Nina will research a possible EPA grant for

environmental education that might support new programs for Anne Swaim.

John agreed to continue to be responsible for the Annual Fund Drive.

House Report - In the absence of Bill Walker, John McCall's committee minutes report that the needs of Pruyn House along with an appropriate budget will be developed with an eye toward possible grants.

Seed Sale - Jim Anderson reported he placed an order for 33 tons of seed that should bring in close to \$12,000. Advance orders were slow but usually pick up. The sale is set for October 16th and 17th in the parking lot of the New Castle Police Station.

Hospitality - Diane Neski distributed sign up sheets for volunteers for the December Christmas Tea.

Environmental Action - Jim Miller was not present but action on Arrowcrest was postponed until October 19th.

Nominating Committee - Stan Wecker made a motion to appoint Janet Townsend to the Board to fill the vacancy of Alice Avouras until the next election. Seconded and carried.

Public Relations - Mary Bowman was not present but Nina reported that she is doing a good job.

Field Trip Reports - Mike Lolya was not present but it was reported that 16 people went on the Jamaica Bay trip and 21 people went on the Cape May trip. Anne Swaim reported on the Hook Mt. trip.

Other - Stan Wecker distributed copies of the SMRAS By-Laws to the Board and asked for suggestions or changes. Committee chairmen should provide a statement clarifying just what that committee does. Minutes and reports should be sent to the archives annually for file.

Midge Arnold said she would take any Newsletter items to Sophie Keyes. Stan ~~Wecker~~^{Wesley} suggested that an invitation should be put in the Newsletter for active members to volunteer to host or co-host Board meetings.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 4th to be tentatively held at the Arnold home.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35.

Joyce MacLair
Recording Secretary

REVISED 11/5/93
JM