

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
January 6, 1994

President McCall called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM at Sophie Keyes' home. In order to make the meeting as short as possible (because of inclement weather) only the most important business was discussed.

Directors Present - Anderson, Arnold, Keyes, Joyce MacNair, Nina and John McCall, Romaine, Smolin, Walker and Rita and Stan Wecker. Naturalist Anne Swaim and Nominating Chairman Tom MacNair were also present.

Minutes of the December 2, 1993 Board meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: The Town of New Castle will be requested to provide blacktop for the Pinecliff Sanctuary handicapped project. Bill Walker will present a capital budget to the Budget

Committee, not the Board. Martin Smolin will do the Pruyn story for Audubon Magazine, not the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine read his report. For the nine months ending December 31, 1993, expense exceeded revenue by \$4,357.23. Current Fund balance was \$31,606.14. Total Fund balance was \$624,098.42. Bill circulated his nine month Budget Comparison Statement. Bill made a motion that SMRAS exclude its current officers from the coverage of the Workmans' Compensation Law. Seconded and carried.

President's Report - Nina reported that Jim Miller's baby was born (a girl named Julia Ann). Jim hopes to resume SMRAS activity soon. Mary Bowman is scheduled for surgery soon and will be absent for a time.

On December 9th Bill Walker met with Mr. Edgar Schiffer at Pruyn to do a house appraisal for insurance purposes. The evaluation has not been received yet, so Sophie Keyes will contact Mr. Schiffer.

The Corry papers are ready and must be served within 90 days. 30 days have elapsed so far.

The problem of stolen stones from the rock wall at Choate Sanctuary was reviewed. Anne Swaim has agreed to spray paint the stones so they can be identified if taken.

Sanctuaries - Martin Smolin met with his committee on December 9th. They agreed to a budget for 200 feet of Trimax to complete the Pruyn boardwalk system. \$2,000 is estimated for material and one day of Dean's time at \$156.

This won't be budgeted until April and the work probably won't be done until the fall. Bill Romaine said he needed authorization to pay Dean DiMauro because the expenditure is over the budget allowance. We are over budget on materials but not on services. The Board agreed that he must be paid. Stan Wecker made a motion to authorize Bill Romaine an additional \$700 to pay Dean DiMauro until the end of the fiscal year. This was seconded and carried. Martin announced a work day at Pruyn on January 15th to do assorted clean up jobs.

Notices were sent to property owners near the Pinecliff Sanctuary to inform them about the proposed handicapped accessible trail. A meeting was arranged and about 40 or 50 irate people showed up. John McCall discussed the project with them and tried to dispel their fears. They were concerned about the parking lot, the materials to be used and the impact on their neighborhood. John explained that SMRAS was charged with administering properties without discriminating against the elderly or handicapped. John thought tensions were relieved somewhat. Probably further meetings will be necessary. There was some discussion by the Board about making the walk a "J" instead of the planned loop. Representatives of the County and the Town have been notified and are supportive of the project. Martin explained that a professional survey of the property must be done. The cost of the survey will be reimbursed by the grant if the project is approved. Martin Smolin made a motion that the Board of Directors of SMRAS authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,800 to pay for a professional survey of Pinecliff Sanctuary to include the trail from the entrance around the swamp and the northern and western boundary lines. Stan Wecker amended the motion to read "not more than \$2,000" in place of "up to \$1,800". The motion, as amended, was accepted by Martin Smolin and the amended motion was seconded and carried by the Board.

Finance Committee - Rita Wecker reported an Endowment Fund Portfolio balance of \$625,612 and an Operating Fund balance of \$12,955, as of the close of business January 5, 1994. Rita explained that there was a change of format on the Financial Statement. Her committee met on December 14th and agreed that SMRAS cash assets will be divided into two basic categories - Endowment Fund and Operating Fund. This change is reflected on the January 6th Financial Statement. This change will also affect the wording on Bill Romaine's Treasurer's Report. "Current Fund" will now be known as "Operating Fund". The

Endowment Fund will consist of all investment-type funds. The Operating Fund, or single-signature account, will be used for day-to-day operating expenses. It consists of the Vanguard Money Market Reserves Prime Portfolio and the Bank of New York Checking Account. The Finance Committee

will not track the Operating Fund.

Rita said her committee agreed on a final draft of an updated set of guidelines for the Finance Committee to carry out its responsibilities. A copy of the new guidelines, called "Policy and Guidelines for Management of Funds", will be mailed to each Board member before the next meeting. Comments and suggestions will be welcome. It is hoped that the Board of Directors will approve the document at the February 3rd meeting.

January Committee Meetings - Jim Anderson announced a Budget Committee meeting on January 27th. Rita Wecker announced a tentative Financial Committee meeting on January 19th.

Other - Stan Wecker discussed a problem related to the budget concerning Anne Swaim. Anne had contracted with Mt. Kisco last summer to run a summer camp. In order to run the camp it was necessary to purchase various supplies that were not budgeted. Stan made a motion that Anne Swaim be authorized to submit receipts and bills the total of which not to exceed \$300 for educational materials during the remainder of the 1993-94 budget year. This was seconded and carried.

Stan Wecker reminded members that Sunday, January 23rd, is Members' Participation Day. The meeting will be held at the Mt. Pleasant Public Library in Pleasantville at 1:30.

Nominations - Tom MacNair circulated a proposed list of nominations. Stan Wecker said a written notice will be mailed to all SMRAS members that will reach them at least 30 days before the April 8, 1994 Annual Meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 3rd at the Wecker home.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05.

Joyce MacNair
Recording Secretary JM