

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
February 3, 1994

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

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

Minutes of the January 6, 1994 Board meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following correction: The house appraiser who evaluated Pruyn House is Mr. Edgar Schiffer.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine read his report. For the ten months ending January 31, 1994, expense exceeded revenue by \$2,920.81. Operating Fund balance was \$33,042.56. Total Fund balance was \$625,954.13.

Membership Report - Anne Swaim announced that as of January 31, 1994, SMRAS had 896 memberships. Membership lists are now computerized and up to date. Total membership figures now match those of National. Diane Neski reported that she is still looking into ways to increase membership. Metro North public service announcements are too expensive. Notices at Peoples Westchester Bank might be a possibility. Local radio station announcements might be possible too.

President's Report - Sophie Keyes had an unfortunate accident and broke her leg. Did that stop her from attending the Board meeting? No way...she was there with her leg propped up on a cushion! Nina reported that Mary Bowman is recovering from her surgery. She was able to send out the press releases. Nina received Mike Lolya's resignation from the Board by telephone in January (exact date uncertain). He would like to continue on the committee.

Concerning Bird Alert - we are paid up to date and will participate. Nina received a letter from Dave Miller regarding BIRDathon. SMRAS did not contribute in '93, but the Board thought we should. Stan Wecker made a motion to send a check for \$300 in support of the Northeast Regional office and to include this item in next year's budget. Seconded and carried.

Anne Swaim talked about the Ritterman Pond problem in New Castle. This is a red maple swamp area due east of Pruyn at Lawrence Farms and Old Roaring Brook Rd. Daisy Development has applied for a permit to build a pond or lake to support fish. There was a public hearing and several groups have opposed. The town is concerned too. Groups are asking for comments and opinions from SMRAS. Anne drafted a letter pointing out that the maps used are old and need remapping by DEC. Hydrological mapping was not done and this is a violation of the law. Two other permits are needed. Anne wrote that SMRAS is opposed to the project because it is

environmentally dangerous to wetland, the downstream people are worried about the water flow and three key requirements for applying for permit are missing. A motion to send the letter was seconded and carried.

Nina reported that SMRAS has applied for a Pepsico Hometown Grant. Nina also reported that twelve people have so far signed up for the England trip.

Naturalists Report - Anne Swaim continues to be busy with school schedules. She reached a record 8000 students this year. She circulated a schedule of completed and proposed work goals for February 1st through September 1st.

Nominating Committee - Tom MacNair circulated a proposed slate of officers and directors for election at the Annual Meeting in April. Jim Anderson is nominated for President and Nina McCall for Chairman of the Board. Two new people are nominated for the Board, Neal Arena and Donald Lunetta. Tom MacNair is also nominated for the Board.

Stan Wecker discussed the problem of having a quorum at the Annual Meeting and recommended mailing a proxy vote to members, using a National proxy as a model. He made a motion that a ballot listing the full slate of Officers and Directors submitted by the Nominating Committee for approval at our annual business meeting on April 8, 1994 be mailed to each of the entries on our membership list. The ballot will be accompanied by an appropriate proxy statement and pre-addressed return envelope. The entire package is to be mailed, first class, in sufficient time to arrive no later than one month prior to the annual business meeting. He further moved that our Treasurer be directed to utilize the Society's Operating Fund to cover any over-budget expenses arising from the above action. Seconded and carried. Discussion followed about stamping the return envelopes. John McCall made a motion to send the envelopes first class and with the return envelope pre-stamped with first class postage in order to have optimum chance of success. This was seconded and carried with two objections.

Scholarships - Donna Nye reported an effort to reach minority kids. She will attend a youth meeting in Peekskill.

Sanctuaries - Martin Smolin arranged for an article for Audubon Magazine for possible publication in May about the Pruyn boardwalk project. There was much discussion regarding a motion Martin presented about an exchange of property at Brinton Brook. Caution was recommended by the Board. Martin withdrew his original motion and made an amended motion stating that SMRAS agrees to discuss

further with the Hudson National Golf Course an exchange for land and services. Pending approval from the National Audubon Sanctuary Department. The Sanctuary Committee is authorized to meet with Tom Plant to bring back more

detailed information to the Board. Seconded and carried. Martin received a call from the mayor of the Village of Croton-on-Hudson regarding a gift of approximately 19 acres by Dr. Kaufman to the Village. This property is next to Brinton Brook and the Village wants to know if SMRAS is interested in using the property as part of the sanctuary. Croton would retain ownership. SMRAS is interested in this but more discussion and information is needed. Bill Walker spoke with Michael Barron of Chemical Bank regarding Crystal Springs property. The Bank owns the property but wants to sell it as soon as possible.

Finance Report - Rita Wecker mailed a new set of financial guidelines to Board members but received no comments. Rita made a motion on behalf of the Finance Committee, that the Board of Directors approve the Document entitled "Policy and Guidelines for Management of Funds" which was mailed in advance to Board members on January 11, 1994. Seconded and carried. Rita reported an Endowment Fund Portfolio balance of \$637,810, as of January 31, 1994. Her committee met on January 19th and reviewed SMRAS present holdings. Changes in the portfolio were agreed upon by the committee with a target completion date of March 31, 1994. Treasurer, Bill Romaine, will initiate these transactions. The following corporate resolutions were presented by Bill in the form of three motions:

(1) To close two accounts, Vanguard Index Trust 500 Portfolio and Vanguard Fixed Income Securities Fund Long-Term Corporate Portfolio, and the proceeds to be credited and transferred to Vanguard Money Market Reserves Prime Portfolio.

(2) To close Kemper Income and Capital Preservation Fund and the proceeds to be credited and transferred to Kemper Money Market Fund.

(3) To sell 7% U.S. Treasury Notes due 4/15/99 and the proceeds remitted to SMRAS.

All three motions were seconded and carried. To start the changeover to the new portfolio three new funds will be opened as monies become available from sales. Stan Lincoln cautioned that having so much money tied up in single signature accounts until March 31st violates fund responsibility. This responsibility was turned over to Rita Wecker for the duration.

House Appraisal - Bill Walker received a cost appraisal for Pruyn House of \$255,540 for replacement and restructuring of the house for insurance purposes.

Pinecliff Sanctuary - John McCall walked the property with Lucille ^(of course) _(Romaine & Barron) Munz. The community block will include \$5900 for blacktop. Opposition to the project from neighbors has calmed down. Stan Wecker made a motion for the Board to recognize and applaud the tremendous amount of work done by John McCall and Bill Arnold for the handicapped trail at Pinecliff Sanctuary. Seconded and carried.

Education Report - Stan Wecker thought the committee should meet to help Anne in her efforts to get into more school districts. Anne talked about a newsletter called "Audubon Adventures" that costs \$35 for six issues. It was agreed that SMRAS should order 10 subscriptions at a cost of \$350. These will be used in classrooms that Anne will visit. The Development Committee might look into

having local businesses sponsor classrooms.

Corry Progress - Jim Miller reported that he met with Mrs. Corry's lawyer. Jim would like an open option to settle it the best possible way. The goal is to establish SMRAS' right to the property. The majority of the Board favors sale of the property at \$2500 but there may be other options. Jim will keep the Board informed.

Hospitality - Diane Neski reported that Berna Lincoln will do refreshments at the Owl Program on February 11th.

Other - Sophie Keyes reminded the Board that the next Bulletin deadline is March 2nd. Midge Arnold will do a travel column. Sophie will put bird sightings together if Thelma Smith can't do it.

Committee Meetings - Finance on February 17th and Budget on February 24th.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 3rd at the McCall home. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

Suzanne MacLean
Recording Secretary