

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
April 7, 1994

President McCall called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM at the Bill Walker home.

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

Minutes of the March 10, 1994 meeting were approved without correction.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine read his report. For the twelve months ending March 31, 1994, expense exceeded revenue by \$4,232.11. Operating Fund balance was \$4,881.78. Total Fund balance was \$609,304.25. Bill gave a preview of his Annual Year End Report that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Total Net Assets on March 31, 1994 were \$609,304.25, down \$8,479.29 from a year ago on March 31, 1993. Upon Financial Committee recommendation, Bill presented a motion for SMRAS to close out the Dreyfus Basic Money Market Fund with the proceeds to be distributed to other funds. Seconded and carried.

Membership Report - Anne Swaim reported that Lois Skelly recorded 854 memberships as of April 1, 1994.

President's Report - Nina announced a public hearing on May 4th in White Plains regarding the Community Block grant for the Pinecliff Sanctuary disabled walk. Information was circulated concerning a forum to discuss New York City watershed regulations. The forum will be held at the New Castle Town Hall in Chappaqua, on April 13th.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported that school activity continues to take up the bulk of her time. April and May are completely booked. The birding workshop is approaching. Twelve people have signed up so far. Volunteers are needed for a sanctuary work day scheduled at Pruyn on Sunday, April 17th. Anne discussed a letter she received about improving the trails at the Tarrytown Reservoir area. Suggestions could be relayed to the Conservation Committee by Anne.

By Laws - Berna Lincoln made a motion to amend the SMRAS By-Laws by deleting the last sentence of Article VII - Budget Committee. The deleted sentence reads, "The budget so adopted shall be published in the issue of the Society's Bulletin prior to the annual meeting". Seconded and carried. Discussion followed regarding the policy to be adopted for presentation to the membership of an annual financial report. The pros and cons about printing it in the Bulletin, how much to disclose and in what form, were discussed. Finally, the Board agreed to ask the Finance Committee to study the matter and recommend a policy. Stan Lincoln reminded the Board that details of By-Law changes (including last April's nominating committee change and tonight's change) must be published in the next Bulletin.

Scholarships - Donna Nye reported that two girls and one boy have applied for the Larry Light awards. She would like to award three adult scholarships (one of which is given by the Chappaqua Garden Club). Approval is needed to give the additional \$445 award for the third candidate. Sophie Keyes made a motion for SMRAS to fund two adult scholarships requiring an additional \$445 expenditure above the amount previously approved. Seconded and carried.

Personnel Committee - John McCall reported that his committee met to evaluate personnel. Although the minutes are confidential, John assured the Board that all evaluations were very good. The committee was especially pleased with Anne Swaim's work.

Bulletin - Sophie Keyes announced that the summer Newsletter, June/July/August, will be out soon. Sophie talked about first class postage increases next year. It was suggested that she might investigate non-profit and pre-sorted rates.

Finance Committee - John McCall reported for Rita Wecker. Board members will receive a copy of the edited proposal for Control of Funds. SMRAS portfolio value is down slightly because of the recent market drop.

Development Committee - John McCall announced that the annual fund raising letter was mailed. The Phonothon will be April 13th and 14th at Pace University Briarcliff Campus. SMRAS volunteers are needed for the 13th. Pace Environmental Club volunteers will man the phones on the 14th. Nina McCall reported that, at the suggestion of the County, an addendum was added to the grant for Pinecliff. The walk will be made accessible to the blind and pamphlets will be printed in braille. This change adds \$1,300 to the grant.

Public Relations - Mary Bowman reported that the April press releases went out. She thanked Stan Wecker for his help in January and February. Her committee disbanded during her absence so new volunteers are needed. It was suggested that she fax information to the SMRAS office and Lois Skelly could help with the work. Nina thanked Mary for getting the releases out to the publications.

Hospitality - Over 75 people are expected to attend the Annual Meeting on April 8th. The MacNairs will provide refreshments.

Sanctuaries Report - Nina and other committee members met on March 17th. The Mayor of Croton-on-Hudson, Robert Elliott, was a guest at the meeting and spoke about the Kaufman land donation. Negotiations will continue about this land.

Lillian Stoner Award - Stan Lincoln reported that these funds are made available to clubs in the Federation. These awards are given to help people attend the Federation meetings. High school or college candidates are solicited. There is a July deadline. The next meeting will be in Kingston in September.

Spring Council Meeting - Jim Anderson and Anne Swaim attended the Audubon Council of New York meeting on March 25th and 26th at Five

Rivers Environmental Center, Delmar, New York. Thirty-two chapters in NY State work to urge legislators to support environmental protection. Chapters will be billed \$50 a year to support the work. Jim talked about a problem in our area. Con Edison is planning to contract with Hydro-Quebec for 780 megawatts for 20 years, starting in 1999. People can write to Eugene McGrath, Chairman of Con Ed, to ask him to stop the negotiations. This matter will be brought up at our Annual Meeting. Information and post cards will be available.

Annual Meeting - Nina reported that over 350 ballots have been counted by Pam and Bruce Gilchrist.

Field Trips - Berna Lincoln will do trip planning next year. Midge Arnold said the canoe trip on Sunday, May 1st, to Patterson Swamp was popular. Anne Swaim reminded everyone about plans for the Big Day (Birdathon) on May 14th.

Other - Bill Walker reported that a fireproof file for the SMRAS office is ready for delivery. He needs to know where to put it.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 5th. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

*Joyce MacNeil*  
Recording Secretary