

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
May 5, 1994

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM at Pruyn House.

Directors Present - Anderson, Arnold, Baker, Bowman, Keyes, Lunetta, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Nina and Donn McCall,

Miller, Nye, Romaine, Smolin Walket, Rita and Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim.

Minutes of the April 7, 1994 meeting were approved with

correction. Minutes of the April 8, 1994 annual meeting were approved with a change in the last sentence in paragraph two. The sentence should read, "Nina McCall reported that the Auditor found the Treasurer's records ending March 31, 1993, to be in good order."

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine read his report. For the one month ending April 30, 1994, expense exceeded revenue by \$2,600.96. Operating Fund balance was \$10,280.82. Total Fund balance was \$607,569.29. Bill made a motion for the Board to approve the selection of A. Ernest Larsen to audit the books of SMRAS for the fiscal year ended 3/31/94, and the reports associated therewith. Seconded and carried. Last year's fee was \$350. After some discussion, the Board agreed that an auditing

that bank. Seconded and carried. Signature changes for the mutual funds will be done at the June meeting

Membership Report - Jim Anderson reported 823 current memberships. The total was down somewhat because of expiring memberships and National data problems. However, there were five new memberships.

President's Report - Jim Anderson announced the

replacement of "pass arounds" with the "look, see" folder, on the table. Jim briefly described items of interest in the folder. New Board members Tom MacNair and Don Lunetta not present. Membership were welcomed. Neil Arena was dead as a result of a heart problem. Many postcards were distributed at the annual meeting. Con Edison now reports that the project will be delayed. Jim attended the LWV Watershed Forum on 4/13. The new New York City water regulations were not issued yet. Jim thanked Bill Walker for arranging the donation of a fireproof file that is now at Pruyn. John McCall attended the HUD awards hearing held on May 4th. His report is covered under "Sanctuaries". Jim announced a June 9th date (delay of one week) for the next Board

Also Nina, Bill Arnold + Jim Anderson

meeting and picnic at the Arnold House. Jim asked volunteer hosts for future Board meetings to sign up soon so that, if necessary, alternative meeting space can be arranged at the Chappaqua Library. Jim discussed the problem of providing detailed fiscal and annual reports in the same month. The Board might consider revising the fiscal year of the month for the annual meeting. This problem was referred to the Finance Committee to investigate and recommend a solution. Jim expressed his concern about the safety of mail delivery to the box on the road at Pruyn. He suggested renting a P. O. Box. The annual fee is only \$49. This problem was also referred to the Finance Committee for investigation.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported that school programs continue around the County. Sixteen people attended the all day birding workshop. April highlights included two Earth Day presentations, one at Landon Arboretum and one at Pace University. Anne has received six inquiries as a result of Martin Smolin's article in this month's Audubon Magazine about the Pruyn Sanctuary and the use of Trimax.

Finance Committee - Rita Wecker reported that all Board members were sent a copy of a document called Control of Funds, which is in two parts. The first is Purpose the second is Procedures for Control of Funds. This document was sent in advance of the Board meeting so members could study it. No questions or changes have been received. A set of procedures for controlling SMRAS's funds was first approved at a Board meeting on November 1, 1990. While these rules have served the Society well, the Finance Committee recommends an update at this time and adoption of the new rules. Rita made a motion on behalf of the Finance Committee, that the Procedures for Control of Funds contained in the document called Control of Funds which was mailed to the Board of Directors on April 15, 1994 be approved by the Board. This was seconded and unanimously approved.

Phonothon Results - John McCall reported donations of \$4,872.50 in cash, matching gifts and pledges as a result of a two-day Phonothon held at Pace University-Briarcliff on April 13th and 14th, and the appeal for funds letter sent to members. John thanked all those involved with the project. Stan Wecker made a motion for the Board to thank John and Nina McCall for all their efforts on this project. Seconded and carried.

Sanctuaries Report - Martin Smolin reported that Pruyn clean up on April 17th was successful. Old boards were removed and nails taken out. On April 27th volunteers planted a wildflower garden at the entrance to the office at Pruyn. On April 29th Martin met with Tom Plant at the

Hudson National Golf Course site. They looked at the land ^{up to the} ~~down to the~~ to be swapped. Part of the trail at Brinton will be lost and will have to be redone. Hudson National will dredge the pond that feeds Brinton Brook. The practice green will be moved 100 feet back from SMRAS property. Tom Plant will prepare a written proposal. This project may start in the summer but Martin thinks it won't be until next year. On April 30th Jim Miller arranged a walk at Graf and met the neighbors. A new "No Parking" sign was put up by the village which discourages people from using the sanctuary. Jim talked to people in the village and pointed out that it was a public street. The Board thought it maybe the sign should prohibit night parking. Jim looked over the Corry encroachment and thinks a work day will be needed to clean up the area. Jim Anderson reported that he and Anne Swaim have been in contact with Will Doyle regarding a Boy Scout Eagle Badge project at Chernick Sanctuary. Improved access is needed at the sanctuary. Under consideration is a 55 foot long bridge about 3 feet wide, to cross the Pocantico River. Left over Trimax boards could be used. The Board discussed the problems involved with this project. Permits would have to be applied for. The bridge would need maintenance. Some Board members felt that the left over Trimax should be used to extend the walk at Pruyn. A motion by Jim Miller to allow the Eagle Scout project to go forward failed to pass. The Board felt the project was too complicated and impractical for the scouts to carry out. Jim Anderson will meet with the scouts again and suggest an alternate plan. Martin Smolin made a motion that the Board will permit the use of the Trimax material if Will Doyle needs it for an approved alternative project. Seconded and carried. Nina and John McCall presented an updated report on the Pinecliff Sanctuary disabled walk. SMRAS was granted only \$20,000 through HUD. At the next meeting an additional \$5,000 will be applied for. This project can be spread over a five or six year period. The grant is effective August 1, 1995, and additional monies can be applied for in 1996. The Board was disappointed at the amount of funding but felt it was a good beginning. Volunteer labor can be used to defray costs. Don Lunetta, who lives next to the sanctuary, commented that his neighbors would be pleased at the smaller size of the project. Martin Smolin made a motion for the Board to give a vote of thanks to Nina and John McCall and Bill Arnold for their work on the Pinecliff disabled walk project. Seconded and carried.

Field Trips - Anne Swaim reported that Berna Lincoln has roughed out the whole 1994-1995 field trip program. Schedules will be sent out soon. There was no report on the Mianus River Gorge trip. Midge Arnold reported that the Patterson Swamp canoe trip on May 1st was a success and a lot of fun. Paddlers in six canoes braved early

morning rain but enjoyed afternoon sunshine. Warblers and a Great Horned Owl, and many wildflowers were spotted.

Audubon Open House - Nina McCall reported that she and John and the Arnolds toured the environmentally safe building that was formally the Schermerhorn Building. Everything in the building is recycled. Of particular interest was a demonstration unit showing how air was exchanged six times a day.

Birding Big Day (A.K.A. Birdathon) - Mike Lolya is now organizing the Birding Big Day instead of Jim Miller. Teams will be set up for 24, 12 and 6 hours and will meet at Pruyn House on May 14th at 6:00 PM for a picnic supper.

Corry Suit - Jim Miller reports nothing new. A June date will be set for the deposition.

Bulletin - Sophie Keyes reported that tonight was the deadline for the summer Bulletin. She checked mailing prices with the Post Office and has decided to continue with first class postage because of its reliability. She said she received a letter from Dave McIntyre inviting all birders to come to San Diego. July 1st is the deadline for the September Bulletin that will include the Schedule.

Pruyn Orchard - Midge Arnold thanked the volunteers who planted the garden at Pruyn. More wildflowers will be planted in the meadow. The wet spot near the house might be replanted and perhaps a bird bath set up.

Other - Sophie Keyes reported that the Monday Walkers and a guest, Sarah Stein, were very impressed with the boardwalk at Pruyn. Nina McCall announced that National Audubon had openings at the adult camp in Maine from 2nd.

The next Board meeting and picnic is scheduled for June 9th at the Arnolds. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Nina McCall
Recording Secretary