

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
June 9, 1994

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:20 PM at the Arnold home.

Directors Present - Anderson, Arena, Arnold, Keyes, Lunetta, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Nina and John McCall, Romaine, Smolin, Walker, Rita and Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim. Guests present were Carol Coggeshall, Janet Townsend and Betty Wiltse.

Minutes of the May 5, 1994 were reviewed and approved with the following corrections: The HUD hearing on May 4th was not only attended by John McCall but also Nina McCall, Bill Arnold and Jim Anderson. Martin Smolin and Nina McCall and Jim Anderson met with Tom Plant at the Hudson National Golf site to look over the land swap that is under consideration. The Board gave a vote of thanks to Nina and John McCall and Bill Arnold for work on the Pinecliff disabled project.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine read his report. Cumulative excess of expense over revenue for the two months ending May 31, 1994 was \$5,093.49. Operating Fund balance was \$7,788.29. Total Fund balance was \$606,831.76. Bill presented a Vanguard M.M. Reserve Prime Portfolio Resolution to change signatures on that account and to write checks against the account. The four signatures are James W. Anderson, Martin Smolin, William D. Romaine and Nina T. McCall. Seconded and carried. Bill presented a second Resolution for the Scudder Short Term Bond account requiring two of four authorized signatures to effect action on the account. The four signatures are James W. Anderson, Martin Smolin, William D. Romaine and Nina T. McCall. Seconded and carried. There was some discussion about the safe deposit box and key. The box contains deeds and sales agreements. Jim Anderson has one key. New signature cards for the box were deferred until the September Board meeting. Bill said that the Auditor, Mr. Larsen, has the SMRAS ledgers but he has not heard from him yet. A discussion regarding an auditing committee followed. An auditing committee has not been formed in recent years, although the by-laws call for one. Stan Wecker and the By-Law Committee will study the matter and report the findings.

Membership Report - Jim Anderson reported that Lois Skelly shows SMRAS memberships at 815.

President's Report - Jim Anderson briefly reviewed the contents of the "look see" folder. Jim gave a rundown of the HUD awards. On May 13th Jim and Anne Swaim met with county legislator Richard Wishnie and toured the Pinecliff Sanctuary. Two actions are coming up - June 22nd will be attended by Bill Arnold and July 12th by Jim Anderson. Regarding the Pruyn handicapped walk, competitive bids won't be pursued but volunteer labor will be needed. There was some

discussion about the necessity of using stainless steel nails on the Trimax material. And some people thought drilling holes before hammering the nails was a good idea. The Sanctuary Committee will study this and make recommendations. Jim circulated a sign-up sheet for hosting Board meetings and/or providing refreshments. Board meetings can also be held at the Chappaqua Library and cost \$20.00, but need to be scheduled in advance. A sign-up sheet to provide refreshments for regular meetings was also circulated. Jim reported that proposed work to be done by Scout Will Doyle at Chernick Sanctuary may be a dead issue because of a June deadline approval. There was some discussion about Chernick and its inaccessibility. Anne Swaim noted that because it is a special habitat, the Board might consider some improvements. Nina McCall felt that the Trimax material considered for Chernick might better be used at Pruyn. Martin Smolin and his committee will further look into this matter.

**Naturalist's Report** -A request by Anne Swaim for seminar tuition to attend courses at Bard College was read by Jim Anderson. John McCall made a motion for the Board to approve Anne's request. Seconded and carried. Anne reported that May was another banner school month. She reported that SMRAS now has access to the National Audubon Computer Network and can connect with other chapters. Planning and preparation for the seven week Mt. Kisco summer camp program are progressing.

**Sanctuaries Report** -Martin Smolin reported the latest information on the proposed land swap at Brinton with Hudson National Golf. Hudson proposes giving SMRAS 9.3 acres in exchange for 6.6 acres of mature forest. Martin showed the Board a large map of the area. Martin said he received a written proposal from Hudson National but found it unacceptable. The Board had many questions and apprehensions about the whole deal. The Board thought it would be a good idea for Jim Miller and Louisa Baker to look into the legal aspects of the swap. The Board advised Martin to give no commitments at this time since further study is needed. Martin reported that Don Lunetta will chair the Environmental Action Committee and Barbara Appel will join the committee. Martin reported that the "No Parking" sign at Graff Sanctuary was removed. Dean DiMauro has begun chipping and a wide area is opening up at the entrance.

Jim Anderson reported receipt of a letter from Janet Townsend concerning possible environmental damage to the Saw Mill River area in Pleasantville due to road repairs by DOT. Janet is concerned about the birds and flowers in the area. DOT is working on flood control along the parkway. Anne Swaim says that DOT has excused itself from an Environmental Impact Study because the work is classified as "improvement". This can be challenged. Letters of protest can be sent to DOT and the Town of New Castle. Anne suggested that SMRAS send a letter to DOT and the Town of New Castle encouraging a full Environmental Impact Study. A letter to Pleasantville asking about the impact of the improvement would be helpful. Jim Anderson agreed to write the letters.

Finance Committee - Rita Wecker reported that her committee could not meet this month but will get together later in the summer.

There will be a sub-committee meeting in July to do performance reports. The Endowment Fund balance on 5/31/94 was \$602,100 (current net asset value).

Budget Committee - Bill Walker reported that his committee is planning to present six or seven specific budgets in the fall. A new philosophy is planned. There will be more control of committees and more formalized reports. The committee will work closely with the Treasurer.

Field Trips - Anne Swaim reported that three out of five morning bird walks were rained out. Big Bird Day is 5/14 and Doodle Town and Iona Island is 5/21.

The Trip to England and Scotland - Participants gave glowing reports about the trip and showed pictures.

Status of the Corry Suit - Nina McCall will go to New York City to give a deposition in Jim Miller's office to depose Mrs. Corry from SMRAS property.

Bulletin - Sophie Keyes reported that July 1st was the deadline for the September issue. This is an important issue that includes schedules for the 1994-95 year. It will be printed Aug. 1st and will be received by the membership by the end of August. Sophie thanked everyone who contributed and helped with the bulletin.

Other Business - Nina McCall reported approximate Phonothon proceeds at \$5,712.50. Nina also announced that it was Anne Swaim's fifth anniversary as SMRAS Naturalist. Everyone congratulated Anne.

Martin Smolin reported receipt of a note from Jim Miller regarding Choate. The town attorney has approved the issuance of a certificate of insurance, to run from July 1st. The document will be delivered in a few weeks.

The next board meeting is scheduled for September 1st. The meeting place to be announced. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM.

STH

  
Recording Secretary