

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
September 8, 1994

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:20 pm at the Keyes home.

Directors Present - Anderson, Arnold, Keyes, Kilroe (formerly Bowman), Berna and Stan Lincoln, Nina and John McCall, Miller, Nye, Romaine, Smolin, Walker, Rita and Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim.

Minutes of the June 9, 1994 meeting were reviewed and approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine read his report. Excess of expense over revenue for the month ending August 31, 1994 was \$5,167.68. Operating Fund balance was \$5,790.06. Total Fund balance was \$605,733.32. Bill reported that the audit has been completed. Mr. Larson finished in August and there were no changes to the financial statement. According to a motion made and passed in April, this month the Dreyfus fund will be closed out.

Membership Report - Lois Skelly reports that current membership is at 794.

President's Report - Jim Anderson briefly reviewed the contents of the "look see" folder. There was a unanimous vote in favor of the members of the nominating committee. They are Tom McNair, Chairman Janet Townsend and Carol Coggeshall. The response form DOT re Saw Mill River Parkway is that they are trying to be reasonable regarding the "environment." The Scope meeting will be held September 27 re Pinecliff Sanctuary grants and work start dates. Discussion on having volunteers to help with the work. Jim Anderson will attend and report back to the Board. A host is needed for one Board meeting and hospitality persons for all the program meetings. A sign up sheet was passed around.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported that between June 10 to September 7: she recorded another SMRAS show for Yorktown cable, attended two seminars, scheduled 22 school programs for the fall, has added 1/2 hour per week spent on Audubon Network via Compuserve which helps with ideas on membership, workshops etc. She has seen an increase in calls about injured wildlife with the departure of Barry Rothfuss' Westchester Wildlife Inc. There are no expectations that the SMRAS office will step in to handle rehabilitation but she intervened in three incidents during August. She suggested that we may intervene on a case-by-case basis in future. Anne gave an update on Crystal Springs Development property which adjoins Pruyn sanctuary. A planning board meeting will be held September 12. The owners, Briar Vista Development Co., propose to build three homes on the land. There is opposition to development of property by neighbors and the town. Jim Anderson will attend the meeting.

Membership and Hospitality Committees Report - Diane Neski is unable to continue her commitment as Chair. She telephoned Jim Anderson and resigned. He will ask her to submit a formal letter of resignation in compliance with the by-laws.

Bird Seed Sale - Jim Anderson reported that flyers have been sent out and that it is progressing smoothly.

Sanctuaries Report - Martin Smolin reported that the committee unanimously decided to reject the offer of a land swap between SMRAS and Hudson National for 6.6 acres of Brinton Brook Sanctuary in exchange for 9.3 acres of the former Prickly Pear property. Martin had a meeting with the Mayor of Croton re the property adjoining Brinton Brook. The Mayor indicated that the County was not interested in the former Kaufman property and that SMRAS may be able to have use of it. Under the supervision of Anne Swaim an Eagle Scout will widen, by 6 feet, the trail around the pond in Brinton Brook. A lease has been executed between the Town of New Castle and Choate Sanctuary for the 7 acres adjoining the sanctuary. An Eagle Scout has opened up the entrance to Chernick Sanctuary and built a trail of 10 feet. Graff Sanctuary has a new trail opening and only needs a sign. The suit against Mrs. Corry is proceeding. Depositions have been taken. During the summer Anne Swaim sent out press releases for trailwalkers and so far has received 47 responses. Martin extended an invitation to all the Board Members to visit each sanctuary so that they may become better acquainted with them.

Finance Committee Report - Rita Wecker reported that in compliance with a motion made at a previous board meeting she will now provide quarterly reports for the periods ending June 30, September 30, December 31 and March 31. Accordingly, for the period from April 1 to June 30 there was a decrease in the Endowment Fund of only \$625.00 or 1/10 of 1%. The fund opened with \$603,590.00. \$9,948.00 was removed and put into the operating fund. The fund ended with a balance of \$593,017.00.

Field Trips Report- The schedule is in place for the year. Local trips are more the focus of this year's schedule. Berna has instituted an evaluation form that will be sent to leaders a week before each trip. There was discussion of having bird checklists distributed on the field trips. Berna will take it under consideration.

Budget Committee - Jim Anderson raised the question of having more people serve on the Budget Committee. According to the by-laws the Treasurer, Chairman of the Board, President and Vice President are required to serve on the Committee. A discussion ensued as to whether the by-laws were to be interpreted strictly or not and whether the Budget Committee should be expanded to include the Finance Chair and the Development Chair. A motion was made and seconded that members on the Budget Committee were not limited to those listed in the by-law and that more members could be included at the President's discretion. The motion passed.

Bulletin Report- Sophie Keyes reported that the Bulletin had been mailed and that she had extras printed up which could be gotten from Anne Swaim. Some discussion ensued about giving up National Audubon's mailing labels since we have an updated mailing list.

Other Reports and Business:

Office and Operating Expenses - Bill Romaine mentioned that SMRAS is running over budget for educational supplies. There are no outstanding bills for educational supplies. There was discussion on budgeting for revenues and for expenses and that the budgeting should be kept separate.

New Castle Community Day - An SMRAS booth will be set up at Community Day on Saturday, September 10 from 10 to 4. Anne Swaim and Stan Wecker will cover the booth.

Federation of NYS Bird Clubs - Berna Lincoln reminded the Board that five delegates are needed for the annual meeting of the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs (of which SMRAS is a member) to be held on September 23, 1994. She and Stan Lincoln will attend but need 3 proxy votes. Jim Anderson, Mary Kilroe, and Stan Wecker supplied the proxy votes.

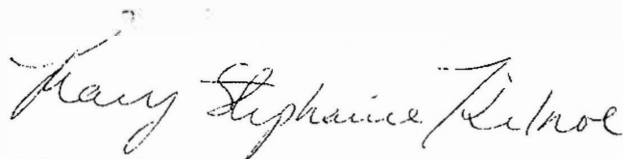
Audubon Council of NYS Meeting in Canandaigua - Anne Swaim will represent SMRAS at the September 30th to October 2nd meeting. A motion was made and seconded to reimburse Anne Swaim up to \$130 for motel/hotel expenses. The motion passed.

By-laws - There was discussion of the necessity of having an ad hoc or standing by-laws committee to deal with administration and compliance of the by-laws. A motion was made and seconded to create a standing by-laws committee. The motion passed. Stan Lincoln will chair, members include Berna Lincoln, Stan Wecker, and Jim Miller.

Clarification of employees' pay dates - Anne Swaim requested that on those days that the pay dates fall on weekends or holidays that the checks be issued one working day prior to the regular pay date. There was discussion of direct deposit to the employees' accounts. A motion was made and seconded that if the 15th or the last day of the month fall on a Saturday or a holiday that the employees will be paid one working day prior to the Saturday or holiday. The motion passed.

Nina McCall's report - She reported that the children sent to the Audubon camp in Maine (through the three Larry Light scholarships) had a great time. The Episcopal church in Peekskill sent a letter thanking SMRAS for making it possible and how much the camp helped the children and opened up their world. The Kenya trip bulletin has garnered 18 responses and so far 12 people have signed on.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.



Mary Kilroe
Pro-tem Recording Secretary