

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
October 6, 1994

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

Directors Present - Anderson, Kilroe, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Nina and John McCall, Nye, Romaine, Walker, Rita and Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim.

Minutes of the Sept. 8th meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections regarding the Treasurer's Report: The figure of \$5,167.68 excess of expense over revenue, Aug. 31st, is not cumulative but for the month only. The correct Operating Fund balance for that date is \$5,790.06.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine presented his report for the month ending Sept. 30, 1994. Excess of revenue over expense for the month of Sept. was \$7,388.69. Cumulative excess of revenue over expense from Apr. 1, 1994 was \$296.97. Operating Fund balance of \$26,329.95 includes revenue from the bird seed sale and a transfer of money from the Dreyfus Fund. Total Fund balance was \$613,182.15. Bill presented a motion that was recommended by the Finance Committee: Resolved that the liability of the Light Memorial Fund to the Operating Fund for summer 1994 activities be set at \$3,001. This motion was seconded and carried with one abstention by Bill Romaine. The breakdown of the \$3,001 is as follows: \$2,130 for three tuitions, \$597 for airfare, \$150 for Youth Camp and \$124 for educational supplies. Donna Nye will inform the Lights about the awarded scholarships.

Membership - Jim Anderson reported 839 memberships. Almost all the memberships are from National Audubon. A recent survey showed that about 1/3 of new memberships only last one year.

President's Report - Jim Anderson gave a brief rundown of the "look see" folder...meeting Nov. 3rd re: David's Island...report on Northeast Regional August retreat and ideas for publicity. The Scope meeting for the Pinecliff boardwalk for the disabled has been postponed because of personnel changes and will probably be rescheduled in November. Jim received a letter from A. Ernest Larsen stating that SMRAS' financial accounting for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1994 fairly states our position. Jim received a letter from Louisa Baker resigning from the Board, and an oral resignation from Diane Neski. These resignations leave two positions open on the Board. Suggestions for replacements are welcome. Names of possible candidates are needed for the November Board meeting.

Nominating Committee - Tom MacNair will present two nominations for the Board at the November meeting.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim attended the National Audubon State Council meeting in Canandaigua, NY, 9/30 to 10/2. She reported that the council approved chapter dues at \$50 a year. There are two council meetings a year and there are twenty plus chapters. L. Reeves was nominated for Northeast Regional

Representative for the National Board. Statements were made about David's Island and the NYC watershed rights. With regard to educational programs, Anne plans to sign up more schools, especially junior and high schools.

Publicity Committee - Mary Kilroe reported that her committee met on Sept. 24th and discussed ideas for more publicity. She submitted a report outlining her committee's suggestions for public relation activities. SMRAS has become somewhat of an expert on environmental issues for local communities. Increased mailings are planned and more people are needed to help. The Board discussed new ideas and ways of implementing them. A possible monthly newspaper column was one idea. Tom MacNair volunteered to take photographs of interesting events. "How to" flyers and a schedule of events will be available for handouts at the seed sale. Mary will have an updated media list available at the November meeting.

Environmental Action Committee - Jim Anderson reported that a decision regarding the disposition of David's Island was probably going to be made this month. Therefore, it is critical to let the City of New Rochelle and the County Executive know where SMRAS stands on this issue. We would like to see a park. A motion was made by Nina McCall for SMRAS to send an official letter, written by Jim Anderson, stating our position, to the Mayor of the City of New Rochelle and to the County Executive. This was seconded and carried.

Crystal Springs Development - Jim Anderson read a letter from a Dr. Alok Aggerwal concerning development of land abutting Pruyn Sanctuary. The developer plans building on three sites off Millwood Rd. He wants to donate a fourth parcel of 14.2 acres of land to SMRAS. The Town of New Castle has yet to approve the subdivision. Stan Wecker pointed out that the donor should be made aware that he is responsible for paying the property taxes until the land becomes tax free. There was some discussion about the dangers of pollution from the septic systems. Bill Romaine made the following motion: The Board members of SMRAS are favorably disposed to accept the donation of 14.2 acres of property abutting Pruyn Sanctuary from Crystal Springs Development, after approval by the Town of New Castle, and with the donor's knowledge of his tax responsibility. This was seconded and carried.

Finance Committee - Rita Wecker reported that her committee met on Sept. 26th and resolved two subjects of concern to the Board. Rental of a post office box was rejected. But the committee suggested putting a door on the present box on Millwood Rd. and the timely removal of mail. Anne Swaim said these recommendations have already been adopted. In her absence she will designate someone to pick up the mail. The committee affirmed that the Annual meeting, usually held in early April, should be scheduled two or three weeks later to give the Treasurer more time to prepare his reports. Therefore, the next Annual Meeting will be April 21, 1995. The committee rejected the idea of changing the SMRAS fiscal year. The fiscal year begins April 1st and ends March 31st.

Budget Committee - Bill Walker presented charts and sample forms to explain his philosophy on budgets. He feels a budget should

be meaningful, manageable and reportable. He would like to narrow the scope of the budget to six areas of importance. They are: Arboretum (Pruyn), Education, Personnel, Programs, Sanctuaries and Seed Sale. Bill would like the committee chairs to report twice a year to the Board as to where their committee stands in relation to the budget. A timetable will be worked out so that the Board can knowledgeably adopt the budget in March, as required by the By-Laws. Bill Romaine passed around the half-yearly budget and comparisons. After some discussion it was agreed to reword (under Receipts) "Investment income" to "Transferred from Endowment Fund". Bill R. said he needs more guidance to estimate educational programs. Anne Swaim and Stan Wecker will work on this and report at the next meeting. Bill Walker noted that in the "Control of Funds" procedure #6 states that the Budget chair examine SMRAS bank statements. Procedure #7 directs that duplicate bank statements go to the Budget chair. Bill Walker feels these are Audit functions and not Budget Committee functions. The Finance Committee was asked to examine these procedures and also to consider forming an Audit Committee, and report the findings to the Board.

By-Laws Committee - Jim Anderson reported that Stan Lincoln says the By-Laws have been updated and that the committee expects to meet in November.

Bird Seed Sale - Jim Anderson reported that he ordered thirty-three and one-half tons of seed again this year. About 68% of the orders were in on time. His committee is busy making calls. The sale is Oct. 15th and 16th in the parking lot of the New Castle Police.

Sanctuaries - Martin Smolin sent invitations to Board members to join him and Anne Swaim on a walk at Brinton Brook Sanctuary on Saturday, Oct. 9th, at 3:00 PM. This is an effort to familiarize Board members with SMRAS sanctuaries.

Corry Litigation - Nina McCall had nothing new to report.

Bulletin - Sophie Keyes sent word that items for the next Bulletin should be in by the November meeting.

Other - Anne Swaim will host the next regular meeting at the Chappaqua Library on Oct. 14th. There was some discussion about selling selling National Audubon Calendars at public meetings.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Nov. 3rd. at the Chappaqua Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Joyce MacNair
Recording Secretary