

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
November 3, 1994

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:12 PM at the Chappaqua Library. Jim Anderson was the host.

Directors Present - Anderson, Arnold, Keyes, Berna and Stan Lincoln, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Nina and John McCall, Romaine, Smolin, Walker, Rita and Stan Wecker. Naturalist Anne Swaim and guest Alice Maran were also present.

Jim Anderson introduced guest Alice Maran who has been very active in SMRAS field work. Tom MacNair, Nominating Chairman, invited Alice to observe the Board meeting with an eye toward possible membership on the Board.

Minutes of the October 6th meeting were accepted without correction.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine presented his report for the month ending October 31, 1994. Expense exceeded revenue for the month of October by \$2,268.20. Cumulative excess of ~~revenue~~ ^{expense} over expense from April 1, 1994 was \$1,971.23. Operating Fund balance was \$24,061.75. Total Fund balance was \$610,913.95. Bird Seed Sale money was \$7211. so far, with an anticipated profit of about \$12,000. Jim Anderson noted that the Seed Sale realized 50 new customers from the street this year. Bill presented a motion for the Board to approve sending new authorized signatures to the ~~bank~~ ^{signature} for check writing purposes. Any two of the following may sign checks: James W. Anderson, President; Martin Smolin, Vice-President; William D. Romaine, Treasurer; Nina McCall, Chairman of the Board. Seconded and carried.

Membership Report - Jim Anderson noted that Lois Kelly reports 835 memberships. The bulk of our members joined in the last four years. The total numbers in different areas are about equal for Chappaqua, Croton, Ossining and Pleasantville. The Board does not currently have a Membership Committee, but should have one. There was some discussion about getting new members and keeping them. Jim had a note from Lois Kelly saying that she will be unable to work on Mondays in November (and possibly in December) and will be on one-half pay, but the work will get done.

President's Report - Jim noted, from a National pamphlet, that membership dues the first year are \$20 and are increased on a sliding scale up to \$38 in the fifth year. The chapters get \$5 for each member. SMRAS has received New Castle Wetlands Board approval for the Pinecliff

disabled boardwalk. A tree removal permit will be needed and a timetable for the work must be submitted to the Town. The Scope meeting for this is still unscheduled. Jim circulated a sign up sheet for Board and Public meeting hosts. Help is also needed for the Holiday Tea on Dec. 11th. Sophie Keyes will work with Diane Neski to organize the Tea. Because five Board members will be away on a trip in early December, the next Board meeting will be Wed., Dec. 14th. In response to Jim's SMRAS letter to County Exec. O'Rourke, regarding David's Island, New Rochelle has rejected the County Plan and will consider only the Trump Plan. However, the final decision has been put off for 14 months.

Jim Anderson said he received a verbal resignation from the Board from Donna Nye. A formal letter will follow. Jim thought the Board might consider abolishing the Scholarship Committee and make it a sub committee of the Education Committee.

Nominating Committee - Tom MacNair reported that Carol Coggeshall refused Board membership. Phil Heidelberger said maybe and Janet Townsend wants to be off the Nominating Committee. Alice Maram is an observer tonight and may be a member. There was some discussion about an earlier time slot, but nothing was decided.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported that October had record school bookings, especially 7th and 8th graders. She arranged for 12 classroom subscriptions for "Audubon Adventures". Boundary signs were posted in Brinton Brook and more are planned for the Hudson National Golf Course and Arrowcrest developments. Anne circulated copies of a publication called "The Green Drummer" which is a kind of directory of New York environmental groups and their issues, and is published in Pleasantville. Anne showed the 1994 Trails Poster. She compiled information for the National Audubon Society 1994 Chapter Newsletter Editors Survey and distributed copies of same. Anne showed a batch of letters from 7th graders at St. Patrick's School.

Sanctuaries Report - Martin Smolin reported the Brinton Brook walk for Board and committee members was held on October 8th and was led by Anne Swaim. The walk was past the power lines and into the former Kaufman property. The views of the Hudson valley are pretty and the trail is in good shape. Work has been done by the Eagle Scout. The Mayor of Croton says the village is interested in donating the Kaufman property to SMRAS but won't discuss it until after the elections. Another sanctuary walk is scheduled for Nov. 12th at Pruyne and the Crystal Springs property will be viewed. Regarding Graff Sanctuary, Jim Miller reports no further progress on the Corry suit. Anne Swaim will put up the SMRAS sign near the street. A new trail,

named by Mary Kilroe's stepdaughters, will be called "Jack-in-the Pulpit". The main trail will be called "Tulip Tree". Alice Maran has been working hard at Choate Sanctuary replacing markers. A new trail will be blazed in the winter or spring and a new trail map will be posted. At Haas Sanctuary it has been noticed that an automobile parks at the site. The boundary lines should probably be defined. Anne reported that the Crystal Springs donation by the developer is going through and should be completed by the end of the year.

Bird Seed Sale - Jim Anderson reported a successful sale. There was some trouble with the supplier. Next year Jim wants exclusive use of the trailers or he will change to a new supplier. Off the street sales were recorded and will be added to next year's list.

Finance Committee Report - Rita Wecker handed out copies of SMRAS Endowment Fund Performance Report for Period Ending September 30, 1994. The report confirms the decision to unload Bond Funds. This report will be prepared quarterly for the Board. At the last Board meeting, the Finance Committee was asked to review Control of Funds procedures #6 and #7 and render a recommendation. The committee recommends that verification of disbursements and deposits should be handled by an Audit Committee and that such a committee should be formed. The By Laws provide for such a committee but it has not been formed in recent years. Jim Anderson will look into this further.

By Laws Committee - Stan Lincoln circulated copies of the By Laws for the ~~charts~~ to study. A meeting is planned in November to make any recommended changes.

The Bulletin - Sophie Keyes reported the December/January deadline. Sophie asked for volunteers to bring cookies to the Holiday Tea.

Other Business - Midge Arnold reported about "On the Wing" articles. Maybe next time Elder Hostel...some requests for more travel information. Nina McCall asked people to save pictures for the 50th anniversary celebration. Anne Swaim asked the Board to co-sponsor (no money) with Greenwich Audubon a Bird Migration exhibit at the Bruce Museum on Jan. 16th. The Board was in favor of it.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14th at the Keyes' home. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Joyce MacLain
Recording Secretary