

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
December 14, 1994

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

Directors Present - Anderson, Arena, Arnold, Keyes, Berna and Stan Lincoln, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Nina McCall, Romaine and Rita and Stan Wecker. Naturalist Anne Swaim and guest Pam McKown were also present.

Minutes of the November 3, 1994 meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: Bird Seed Sale "money" should be "profit"; new authorized signatures were sent to "bank" but should be "Scudder"; Lois "Kelly" should be "Skelly"; By Laws sent to "chairs" should be "committee".

The Board discussed changing meeting dates and times. Wednesday evening was convenient for some. A 7:30 start time for meetings seemed popular. As a trial, it was decided to start the January 5th meeting at 7:30. The February meeting date was indefinite. These matters will be discussed again at the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine presented his report for the month ending November 30, 1994. Expense exceeded revenue for the month of November by \$756.53. Cumulative excess of expense over revenue from April 1, 1994 was \$2,727.76. Operating Fund balance was \$23,305.22. Total Fund balance was \$610,157.42. This does not reflect the decline in investment value at this time. Rita Wecker noted that according to the Guidelines, Operating Fund balance should not exceed \$20,000. The balance includes "cash" and receivables. Nina McCall asked how money received for the handicapped boardwalk will be accounted for. It will be shown in Vanguard as a separate item.

Membership Report - Lois Skelly reports current membership at 826.

President's Report - Jim Anderson showed the Board the new bulletin board stand that replaces the "look-see" folder. Items of interest will be posted on the stand. Jim welcomed guest Pam McKown. Pam is considering joining the Board as a member. She is very interested in conservation and environmental issues.

Nominations for the Northeast Region at National Audubon should be filed by January 31st. Candidates for nomination will be discussed at the January 5th meeting. Jim circulated a sign-up sheet for refreshment hosts for the public meetings. Jim received a letter from National Equity Development Group offering to investigate any electric utility overcharges at Pruyn House. The analysis is free but the Group keeps half of any refund. The Board generally agreed not to pursue it. Renewal of membership in Federated Conservationists (FCWC) is due. The fee is \$50, but SMRAS, based on its large membership, usually sends \$100. A motion was made by Stan Wecker to send \$100 to FCWC. Seconded and carried. Berna Lincoln is on the steering committee of Defenders

~~WATERBURY WILDLIFE BOARD~~  
~~of Wildlife~~ and reported that the group plans to publish a soft covered book listing easily accessible places for wildlife watching. The Board decided not to nominate any SMRAS sanctuaries or Westchester sites for inclusion in the book. The Scope meeting for the Pinecliff boardwalk is scheduled for January 20th. Jim Anderson, Bill Arnold and the McCalls will attend the meeting.

SMRAS received \$5,000 from Norcross for this special boardwalk. Jim reported that Alok Aggarwal (Crystal Springs) still plans to donate about 14 acres to SMRAS as an addition to Pruyn Sanctuary. The town planning board has not yet made a final decision on the building sites. Aggarwal is aware that SMRAS does not want the land donation until next spring because of tax considerations. Jim reported that Alice Avouris will replace Janet Townsend on the Nominating Committee. Mary Kilroe reports a new address and telephone number: 18 Chestnut St., No. Tarrytown, NY 10591, Tel.No. 366-4355. Jim received a call from Gareth and Karen Hougham who were concerned about environmental damage to the Croton River area where the widening of Route 9 is taking place. Jim made a verbal statement in favor of an Environmental Impact Statement and will write a follow-up letter if necessary.

The Board was in agreement with a proposal to combine the Scholarship and Education Committees and does recognize the added responsibility for the Education Committee. Stan Lincoln made a motion that the Board will henceforth consider the Scholarship and Education Committees as one body. Seconded and carried.

Nominating Committee - Tom MacNair needs more candidate suggestions for the Board. Louis Langdon refused because of a Thursday night conflict. Alice Maram is definitely interested in serving. Replacements are needed for Donna Nye, Louisa Baker and Diane Neski. Donna Nye and Louisa Baker sent letters of resignation and are officially off the Board. Berna Lincoln made a motion to drop Diane Neski from Board membership since she has missed three plus meetings and has expressed the desire to resign. Seconded and carried. Stan Lincoln made a motion for Alice Avouris to fill the vacancy on the Nominating Committee left by Janet Townsend's resignation. Seconded and carried. Stan Wecker noted that proxies need to be mailed soon and Sophie Keyes needs Nominating Committee information for the Bulletin.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported continued school program activity through the end of January and mid winter looks good too. She found two enthusiastic birders in eighth grade at Bell School who want to help with the Christmas Count. Various magazines have been filed in the office and are accessible to members. Envelopes without return address are ordered. Lois Skelly should be paid one-half salary for the month of December. She is always in the office Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 12:30.

Arboretum - Midge Arnold reports that Pruyn grounds need a lot of maintenance and she will probably call for help from volunteers. She will try to finish the labeling project soon. New projects include planting some native trees.

Sanctuaries - Jim Anderson reported for Martin Smolin. There are

some stone spring houses on the land to be donated to SMRAS (Pruyn Sanctuary). The Board thought these should all be carefully removed. Stan Wecker will check with the Historical Society before removal. The Village of Croton is still planning to donate the Kaufman property to SMRAS. Anne Swaim said Dean DiMauro plans two days of chipping at Brinton. He rents the machine and wants to know if he can leave it at the sanctuary overnight. The Board thought it would be all right but does not want this to be a precedent.

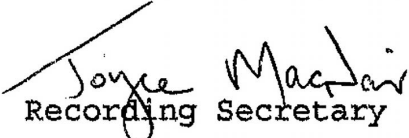
By-Laws Committee - Stan Lincoln reports that his committee is actively meeting and plans to present the revised laws to the Board at the February meeting for review and action.

African Trip - Nina McCall reported a most interesting trip and announced that \$800 will be donated to the Endowment Fund.

Other - Sophie Keyes reported that January is the deadline for articles in the Feb./Mar. issue. Sophie needs some kind of financial statement at the end of the fiscal year. There was some discussion about whether to publish an official financial statement or some abbreviated form of it. The Financial Committee will work on this and report the findings at the next meeting.

The Development Committee will meet in January to discuss raising money and the Personnel Committee will also meet.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5th at 7:30 at the Chappaqua Library. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

  
Recording Secretary