

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
January 5, 1995

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:43 PM at the Chappaqua Library. The meeting was hosted by the MacNairs.

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

Minutes of the December 14, 1994 were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: Berna Lincoln is on the steering committee of N.Y. State Watchable Wildlife Project, not Defenders of Wildlife; re. the stone spring houses at Pruyn, they will be researched before action is taken, not removed; the Finance Committee will discuss publishing a financial statement in the Bulletin and report its findings to the Board.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine presented his report for the month ending December 31, 1994. Revenue exceeded expense for the month of December by \$7,065.29. Cumulative revenue over expense from April 1, 1994 was \$4,337.53. Operating Fund balance was \$30,370.51 (includes \$5,000 Pinecliff trail grant). Total Fund balance was \$617,446.39. Bill will reimburse Stan Wecker for the National Audubon membership given to the Chappaqua Library custodian. It will be charged against program expense. In order to reduce premiums for N.Y. State Worker's Compensation Insurance, Bill made a motion to exclude from coverage SMRAS' four unsalaried executive officers: Nina T. McCall, Chairman of the Board; James W. Anderson, President; Martin Smolin, Vice-President; William Romaine, Treasurer. Seconded and carried. The two salaried workers, Anne Swaim and Lois Skelly are insured. A second motion by Bill to charge recipients of educational material a nominal fee was withdrawn for lack of support. The Education Committee will review this matter and report to the Board. Bill distributed copies of the third quarter budget comparison and reviewed it with the Board. There was discussion about the best way to show annual giving, which is a source of revenue. Also discussed was how investment income should be shown. Bill records the information according to accounting practices used in business. Others felt that perhaps a new category should be established to better serve the needs of the Society. These matters will be discussed at the Budget and Finance Committee meetings. When the Budget is prepared for the new fiscal year April 1st some procedures will be revised.

Membership Report - Lois Skelly reports present membership down to 808.

President's Report - Jim Anderson reported that Lois Skelly's health problems have been resolved and she will be able to resume her regular work schedule soon. The next Board meeting date is February 2nd at the Weckers. Don Lunetta has advised Jim that he wants to remain on the Board. Don will host the Board meeting on March 2nd to be held at the Chappaqua Library. Jim talked with Gareth and Karen Hougham regarding the Route 9 widening over the Croton River and their concern about damage to the environment. They advised them that the Hudson River Keepers are satisfied with the work. No further action is necessary. Martin Smolin said there is a traffic problem and some kind of walkway is needed there. The Crystal Springs meeting was postponed until January 17th. The land donation to SMRAS may be a problem for the developer because he does not have as much building land as he originally thought. Bruce and Pam Gilchrist are researching the stone spring houses on the property, one of which goes back to the 1800s. The Pinecliff Sanctuary Boardwalk Project will be delayed because the neighbors have appealed the Wetland Permit and SMRAS must respond with further information. The permit has been awarded but is held up because of the appeal. Anne Swaim has drafted a letter stating that our purpose is environmental and educational and not damaging to the wetland. There has been some minor vandalism at the sanctuary that should probably be reported just to document the case. Dues of \$50 will be sent to the Federation of N.Y. State Bird Clubs.

Representative nominations from the Northeast Region for National Audubon must be in by the end of the month. No nominations were made.

Nominating Committee - Replacements are needed for three Board members and seven people are needed to replace members whose terms end this year. Alice Avouris and Carol Coggeshall are now on the nominating committee. Tom MacNair made a motion to nominate Alice Maram to fill a Board vacancy until the end of the fiscal year. Alice was unanimously elected.

Budget Committee - Bill Walker hopes to have a preliminary budget ready at the end of February. The committee will try to present a budget that is compatible with financial and accounting needs. Money for Pruyn House maintenance was budgeted this year but probably won't be spent and should accrue until the next fiscal year. The Board also needs to think about purchasing a new tractor.

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin reported that the committee will meet January 12th at the Arnolds, primarily to draw up a new budget. Martin will speak to the Mayor of

Croton regarding the Kaufman property.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported slow school activity due to the holiday closings. January and March are booked, but February is slow. Anne walked the sanctuaries and checked the eagle scout project at Pruyn.

By-Laws Committee - Stan Lincoln reported that proposed by-law amendments will be presented for possible Board action at the February meeting. Stan talked about the desirability of presenting a Director's Handbook to all Board members and prospective members. Because there is some cost involved in preparing the Handbook, Stan made a motion for the Board to approve up to \$200 to cover the cost of preparing a Director's Handbook and having copies available for all Board members. Seconded and carried. Stan Wecker talked about making up a chairman's handbook for key committee chairs. This could be a future goal. Stan Lincoln is concerned about an easement at the edge of Devoe property at Pruyn. The right of way could be lost if it is not walked annually. For the record, it is now recorded that Anne Swaim walked the property for SMRAS this week.

Board Meetings - After some discussion, the Board decided to continue meeting on Thursday evening (at least until the new fiscal year) and to begin the meetings at 7:30 PM.

Other - Sophie Keyes said it is the deadline for the Feb/Mar Bulletin. Schools and education is the focus. Postage is now \$.32 and she will continue with first class mailings. Martin Smolin showed some booklets about birds in Israel in case SMRAS should sponsor a trip there. Nina McCall and the Board officially acknowledged and thanked Bill Arnold for all his hard work on the Scope Project. Nina reported the a n final figure is \$6,575. The next phonathon date phon the

~~Stan Wecker said the Finance Committee meeting is on Friday, April 7th at Teatown. SMRAS will co-sponsor the program if there is no charge. Stan said the April 21st Pancake Supper will be canceled. He talked about having the Annual Meeting on April 30th at Ossining Library to tie in with a Brian Goodman field trip. Some members thought the Ossining Library was not the best choice for the Annual Meeting. The Christmas Count was snowed-out. Scholarship records are organized and filed in the office. Mary Kilroe verified some hospitality volunteer hosts and dates. The next Finance Committee meeting is Tuesday, January 24th, at 7:30 at the Weckers.~~

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Joyce MacLaurin
Recording Secretary