

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
March 2, 1995

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. The meeting was held at the Chappaqua Library and the Lunettas provided refreshments.

Directors Present - Anderson, Arnold, Berna and Stan Lincoln, Lunetta, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Maram, Nina and John McCall, Romaine, Smolin, Walker, Rita and Stan Wecker. Naturalist Anne Swaim and guest observers Jane Muir, Jill Jones, Sue and Phil Shulman were also present.

Minutes of the February 2, 1995 meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: Page 1, line 50, insert the donor after suggests; line 54, substitute is for was; line 55, delete and harm to the property; line 56, insert wetland before concerns; Page 2, line 7, delete chair and insert coordinate with; line 16, delete is and insert plans; line 50, insert before were judges, and Stan Wecker; Page 3, line 51, change 32 to 31; Page 4, line 7, delete anticipate and insert reflected; line 10, insert after \$1,340 for the Mc. Kisco summer camp; line 15, insert after June and.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine presented his report for the month ending February 28, 1995. Expense exceeded revenue for the month of February by \$3,275.49. Cumulative excess of revenue over expense from April 1, 1994 was \$498.53. Operating Fund balance was \$26,531.51. Total Fund balance was \$614,159.89. There was discussion about the pros and cons of rounding figures on the financial report read at the Annual Meeting. Martin Smolin made a motion for the Treasurer to orally present his financial reports, without rounding figures, at the Annual Meeting this year. Seconded and carried with two abstentions.

Membership Report - Lois Skelly reports 830 memberships.

President's Report - Jim welcomed visitors Jane Muir, Jill Jones and Sue and Phil Shulman. Jim reported that New Castle Planning Board met on February 21st and Crystal Springs was brought up at the meeting. Richard Katz was not present. Jim talked about visiting the Trimax factory in Ronkonkoma, ^{with the Comm. Fee} to discuss using the material for the Pinecliff handicapped trail. Trimax agreed to payment one month after SMRAS receives the grant money. The material will be pre-cut to size before delivery. Action is still needed to counter current legislation in Washington detrimental to environmental controls. Letters can be sent to Congressional representatives expressing concerns. SMRAS still has unsold birdseed stored at Hartmanns. The price is now reduced for quick sale. April 1st is the deadline for scholarship applications for the Maine Workshop. Earth Day is April 22nd.

May 2, 1995

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported light February school programs but a heavy March schedule. She hopes to reach over a thousand students. She prepared program outlines for two presentations at the NE Science Teachers Conference in White Plains on March 18th. She helped Richard Nelson at Rockefeller Park prepare a park bird list. She helped Muscoot Farm plan projects including bird lists and boxes. SMRAS received over \$1,000 worth of donated software that has been installed on the computer. Anne rescued a screech owl from a Chappaqua fireplace on February 23rd and took it to the Somers Animal Hospital. It was released the next day. The Chappaqua people sent a \$20 donation. Anne wrote, desktop published and mailed, a Trail Walker Report and newsletter.

Budget Report - Bill Walker presented the proposed 1995-96 Fiscal Year Budget that his committee reviewed and approved. According to the By-Laws, the Board must approve the Budget at the March meeting. The Budget projects Total Income of \$81,400 and Expenses of \$82,480, leaving a shortfall of \$1,080. Bill was confident that the deficit can be offset by savings in postage and printing costs. There was much discussion about the high cost of mailings and the need to try new options. ^{Carrying to next meeting} Also talked about whether an unbalanced budget should be approved. After thanking Bill Walker, Stan Lincoln made a motion for the Board to accept the Budget as presented. Seconded and carried.

By-Laws Revision - Stan Lincoln made a motion for the SMRAS Board of Directors to approve the Revised By-Laws as submitted by the By-Laws Committee to all directors on January 26, 1995, and the Modifications thereto as submitted to all directors on February 13, 1995, along with the further modification that in the third line of the Revised Article IV, Section 2, the words assets and be inserted immediately before the word liabilities. Seconded and carried. Stan reported that a completed Directors Handbook, with the adopted By-Laws, is about one month away. An abstract of the new By-Laws will also appear in the next Bulletin to inform the membership of the changes.

Meetings - The Audubon Northeast Regional Council will meet in Albany on March 24th and 25th. There will be no hotel bill since only Saturday's session will be attended. Martin Smolin will represent SMRAS (at his own expense) at the Audubon Conference April 28-30, in Middlebury, Vermont.

Sanctuary Report - Martin Smolin invited the Board to walk the Pinecliff Sanctuary on April 2nd at 1:00 PM. Martin talked about the damage at Brinton from the golf course project. The problem was discussed at The Croton Planning Board meeting on February 28th, but without satisfactory solutions. Martin has asked for transcripts of private meetings that were held. He wants the developer to spell out in writing how the damage will be reconciled. He has asked Rosedale Nursery to estimate in writing the cost of replacing the trees cut down in the buffer zone.

Crystal Springs - Alok Aggarwal has a problem with the 4th building site (too close to wetlands) and the Planning Board won't give him a variance. This would have a bearing on his promised land donation to SMRAS. We will not intercede since it is in Aggarwal's interest to give a land donation.

Membership Contacts - Stan Wecker talked with the Board and asked for comments about their phone calls to people from the membership lists. Comments were good and bad. Some people were receptive and some were not. Jim thought a Membership Committee would have a more organized approach and should be formed.

Nominating Committee - Tom MacNair reported that March 9th was the target for the slate of officers for the new fiscal year. Berna Lincoln has agreed to be Treasurer and Nancy Hurwitz will be Assistant Treasurer. Corresponding Secretary is now needed. Berna ordered the envelopes for mailing the proxies. Postage will be 1st class because of the time element and there will be no return postage.


Development Committee - Nina McCall asked for volunteers to help with the Phone-a-thon at Pace/Briarcliff on March 14-15. To help with this, Anne Swaim prepared calling lists from membership and seed sale records. As a result of mailings, some donations have already been received. Tentative plans for two future trips will be placed in the Bulletin. One is another Kenya trip in December and the other is Trinidad/Tobago in February '96. Nina reported receiving a donation from a Pinecliff neighbor whose wife is confined to a wheelchair.

Other Business - Bill Romaine reported that the end of the fiscal year is approaching and the Northeast Regional Council dues have not been paid. He made a motion that SMRAS send \$300 to the Northeast Regional Council of Audubon. Seconded and carried with one abstention.

Stan Wecker urged motel reservations be made by anyone interested in the Delmarva Peninsula/Chesapeake Bay Spring Migration trip. The date is May 5th-7th. He noted the April 7th program at Teatown Reservation (co-sponsored by SMRAS) by Ed Kanze, "The World of John Burroughs". Stan will present his program, "What's New (and Old in Human Evolution)", on March 17th at the Chappaqua Library. This will be followed the next day by a trip to the Museum of Natural History. Stan's program will be video taped by Cablevision in two one-half hour segments.

Anne Swaim announced some future programs: May 13th - Big Birding Day; April 22nd - Earth Day; April 23rd - Program at Lasdon Westchester County Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.


Recording Secretary