

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
April 6, 1995

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM at Jim Miller's home.

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

Minutes of the March 2, 1995 meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: Page 1, line 47, insert with the committee after Ronkonkoma; Page 2, line 23, insert and carried to the next meeting after options; line 55, delete trées after down.

Treasurer's Report - Bill Romaine presented his report for the month ending March 31, 1995. Expense exceeded revenue for the month of March by \$2,936.30. Cumulative excess of expense over revenue from April 1, 1994 was \$2,437.77. Operating Fund balance was \$15,081.38. Total Fund balance was \$615,348.73. Bill also circulated copies of the year end report that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Total Fund balance is \$6,044.48 more than last year.

Membership Report - Lois Skelly reports 822 memberships.

President's Report - Jim Anderson reported that the New Castle Planning Board met on March 31st and is in favor of proceeding with the handicapped trail at Pinecliff. A public hearing is scheduled for April 18th. An approved permit is expected soon. At the same meeting (3/31), Crystal Springs was discussed. The Planning Board seems to favor a variance at the fourth building site. Jim, Pam McKown and Anne Swaim attended the Northeast Regional meeting in Albany on March 25th. The Contract with America was discussed. Sterling Forest is not a dead issue. The state has plans to buy the property. Iona Island will be classified as a sanctuary for eagles. Long Island pine barrens and Allegheny State Park were discussed. Attendees voted on issues for Audubon to support. Pam wants to join "Armchair Activities"; SMRAS to pick up the tab. Jim had informational handouts about the candidates for the National Audubon Board. Voting will take place at the next meeting. The Audubon Conference in Middlebury, Vermont, April 28th and 29th, will be attended by the Martin Smolins. Westchester County will celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, April 23rd, at Lasdon Park and SMRAS will be represented.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reached 1,012 students this month through 44 classroom presentations. The April calendar schedule was presented using a new format. Anne met with Alice Maram on March 16th, at Choate Sanctuary, to flag new paths. It's the season for Anne to answer the "crazy bird banging at my window" phone calls; at an average of six a week.

Report on Mailing Expense - Sophie Keyes, Berna Lincoln and Nina McCall toured the premises of the U.S. Post Office facility in Elmsford. They investigated mailing rates. The newsletter can be sent 2nd Class (distributing information) at 12.7 cents each, bundled and zip coded. A license is needed, costing \$305 (one-time fee). Sophie will apply for the license. A non-profit status report also has to be filed. Mailings will be from the Chappaqua Post Office. The next Bulletin, May 15th, will be mailed 2nd class. Stan Wecker made a motion (clarified by John McCall) for SMRAS to change the mailing of the Bulletin from 1st to 2nd class, and to buy a Post Office license costing \$305. Seconded and carried. Berna Lincoln recommended getting a 3rd class non-profit bulk mailing permit for mail other than the newsletter. This rate is 12 cents a piece. There is an initial fee of \$85 plus an annual cost of \$85. Berna made a motion for SMRAS to get a permit as soon as possible for 3rd class non-profit bulk mailing in the Chappaqua Post Office, at an initial fee of \$85. Seconded and carried. Bill Walker expressed thanks, on behalf of the whole Board, to Sophie, Berna and Nina for their efforts.

Proxies - Berna Lincoln reported 238 proxies received as of April 6th. A quorum is assured. Each ballot is treated as a single vote since it is almost impossible to determine family membership vs single membership. How we define "membership" will be qualified in the By-Laws. Ken and Janet Silver will be tellers. Berna suggested that in order to save some money, next year's voting could be done via the newsletter with a self-mail voting proxy. This year's cost was approximately \$454.

Sanctuary Report - Martin Smolin reported there will be a meeting April 11th with the Croton Village Planning Board. Brinton Sanctuary damage, as a result of the golf course project, will be discussed. Additional site violations have been discovered. Supervision was poor. Martin has asked for a \$100,000 escrow fund for damage. A special note for the record concerning Brinton Sanctuary - wood planks, called "water bars", are placed across trails for the purpose of erosion control only. Martin announced that a Croton carpenter donated four wood duck boxes for the sanctuaries. Louis Langdon, Jim Anderson and Martin walked along the Pocantico River at the back side of Chernick Sanctuary and found it passable. The Committee will meet to talk about ideas for Chernick. Jordan Ellsworth, coordinator at Pruyne, was interviewed by a reporter from the Croton Gazette on Sunday, April 2nd, at Pinecliff Sanctuary. A news article about Croton Point Park credited National Audubon for environmental action instead of SMRAS. Midge Arnold reported on the work at Pruyn Sanctuary. Midge and Anne Swaim attended a course at Millbrook on meadow planting, but found the ideas were not practical for SMRAS. Wild flower seed was scattered this winter in the meadow. Carl Speck at Lasdon will donate four trees from Maine for the Arboretum. Stan Wecker volunteered to care for the garden at Pruyne House entrance. A fence will be put up to define Anne's private entrance on the property. Bill Walker promises a butterfly bush.

Local Audubons - Martin Smolin gave a report about the meeting of local Audubon groups on March 21st in Greenwich. There were many concerns and clubs are reaching out for help. SMRAS is in good shape compared to some others. The President of Bedford Audubon

is organizing the next meeting, May 2nd. Martin would like Stan Wecker to attend too. There is a problem with zip code 10566 that needs to be worked out. Peekskill claims part of that code.

Nominating Committee - Tom MacNair will nominate Pam McKown to fill an opening in the class of 1996. Another opening in 1996

one in 1997 will be filled by the Board when someone agrees to and serve. A Corresponding Secretary to replace Berna Lincoln is still needed.

Development Committee - Nina McCall reported the Phone-a-thon raised almost \$5,000 to date. She noted a misprint in the Bulletin regarding the upcoming Kenya trip. The trip is not scheduled for a month!

Insurance for Directors - Jim Anderson and the Board discussed ~~getting a liability insurance for the directors. It would be a good idea in a nuisance suit and thought the insurance would be a good idea. It is expensive. Some people may already be covered by their own insurance.~~ Jim Anderson will follow up on this.

Director's Handbook - Stan Lincoln showed the Board the cover of the new handbook. A draft copy of the handbook is being critiqued by Jim Anderson and Nina McCall and will be ready for reproducing soon. The printed copies should be ready for the May Board meeting.

Scholarships - The Committee members are Stan Wecker, Sophie Keyes, Donna Nye and Anne Swaim. More requests have been received than ever before. This year's budget provides for two scholarships (\$900). Last year three were offered (\$1,350). Stan Wecker said he would like the

Society's function to educate. A motion by Stan Wecker to that ~~effect have been admitted regarding the Gangas' scholarship.~~ Stan Lincoln made a motion that if, upon investigation, it is found that there was not an intentional reduction of one scholarship, then the reinstatement of that scholarship should be approved. Seconded and approved. Jim

Anderson will discuss this matter with the Budget Chair, Bill Walker.

Bird Seed - Jim Anderson announced that some seed is still unsold. After some discussion it was decided to wait until after the Annual Meeting to make a decision about disposal of the seed.

Other - Pam McKown said the Environmental Action Committee will be busy in the Senate after the Easter break. It is important to send letters and possibly to set up phone trees.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Joyce MacNair
Recording Secretary