

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
June 8, 1995

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:55 at the Arnold home.

Directors Present - Anderson, Arnold, Keyes, Kilroe, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Nina and John McCall, McKown, Smolin, Walker, Rita and Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim. Also present were guests Dotty and Howard Rath and Carol Coggeshall.

Minutes of the May 4, 1995 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: ~~Page 1, line 41, change~~ ~~"approximately \$5,704" to "exactly \$4,536.82";~~ Page 2, line 56, insert after "hire", "to complete the audit"; Page 3, line 45, change "was" to "will be".

Jim circulated some handouts and sign up sheets for Board meetings. The new meeting day is Wednesday and the time is 7:30 PM.

Membership Report - Lois Skelly reports present membership at 822.

Treasurer's Report - Nothing to report.

President's Report - Jim reported meetings with the Croton Village Manager on May 9th and 25th regarding the Hudson National Golf project. Regarding the Pinecliff handicapped walk, SMRAS reapplied (at additional cost) for a building permit from the New Castle Planning Board. The committee met with the Planning Board and received verbal OK but no document as yet. We've requested relief from certain charges. If all goes well, supplies will be ordered in September for the boardwalk and construction can begin in October. Jim attended the celebration of the re-opening of Croton Point Park.

Jane Muir was unanimously approved by the Board to fill a vacancy on the Board until elections at the next Annual Meeting.

As recommended by the Audit Committee, the designation of A. Ernest Larsen as Auditor was unanimously approved.

Nina McCall made a motion for the Board to approve an Executive Committee (Jim Anderson, Martin Smolin, Joyce MacNair and Stan Wecker) to serve over the summer until the next Board meeting. Seconded and carried.

John McCall made a motion for the Board to approve a Nominating Committee (Nina McCall, Lois Skelly and Alice Avouris). Seconded and carried. Nina McCall agreed to serve as Chairman.

National Audubon, Northeast region, Board members election was discussed. SMRAS cast two ballots - one for Jim Koch and one for Norman Shapiro.

Naturalist/Education Director's Report - Anne Swaim reports reaching 989 students this month through SMRAS programs. Two new programs are "Rocks and Minerals" and "Life Cycles". New maps were prepared for Choate and Graff sanctuaries, showing the latest trail

changes. Work at Brinton is continuing...flagging was done in different colors. Long range monitoring will be needed. Three coyote sightings were received this week. Continental Cable taped a show at Pruyne (Anne put in a plug for the Pinecliff trail). The office copier is up and running. The Mt. Kisco summer camp will run from June 26th to August 10th, Monday to Thursday, 8:30-12:30. SMRAS does not have Lyme Disease warning signs in sanctuaries - the Sanctuary Committee will look into it. To relieve the duckweed problem at Pruyne and Brinton, sterile carp might be considered, but a permit is necessary.

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin reports that Hudson National Golf still says trees will be planted at Brinton to replace the ones cut down. The questions about the buffer zone are still unresolved. Discussions are under way regarding the possible land donation or leasing of approximately 20 acres at Brinton of the Kaufman property, now owned by Croton. Plans are progressing with Croton Trails Committee regarding the joining of trails. At the celebration for the re-opening of Croton Point Park, SMRAS received accolades. And apologies were expressed for confusing National with SMRAS. An article about the Park will appear in the National Audubon Magazine. Martin has been in touch with David DeLucia regarding Chernick. The County cannot finance the bridge across the Pocantico River, but can donate some materials. The County supports opening up the property from Briarcliff and perhaps some long range plans can be made. A letter to the Parks Commissioner might help.

Environmental Action Committee - Pam McKown circulated copies of a special issue newspaper called "The Sterling Messenger" and discussed the importance of saving the 17,500 acre undeveloped land called Sterling Forest in Orange County from development. It is the largest tract of private land near New York City and is an important source of drinking water for New Jersey. The owners are willing to sell for \$50 million. Public hearings are scheduled in June. Pam, Jim, Martin and Anne plan to attend the June 20th meeting in Monroe. Pam passed out sample letters from Armchair Activist for members to write to Gov. Pataki urging NY State to provide funding through the EPF fund to help save Sterling Forest. Letters should be postmarked by June 26th.

Federated Conservationists of Westchester County - FCWC is celebrating its 30th anniversary on June 12th with a dinner at Beckwith Point on the Sound. Call if you wish to attend.

Corry Case - Jim Anderson reports from Jim Miller that the case is still on hold awaiting court action.

Pinecliff Boardwalk - The committee met with New Castle and got oral approval. See "President's Report".

Financial Committee - Rita Wecker reported the value of SMRAS investments as of May 31, 1995 was \$625,074. Rita reported a correction in SMRAS Director's Handbook from Stan Lincoln. In "Financial" section, the page entitled "SMRAS Endowment Fund - Asset Allocation Mix" - turn the page over (reverse it).

Development/Planning Committee - Nina McCall reported that her committee was working on more funding for the Pinecliff handicapped walk. Foundations, corporations, local businesses and clubs are

being approached. Mailings will go out to birdseed purchasers who have not been approached before for funds. Nina hoped also that Board members would donate to the cause. Nina reported that she received the third class permit for mailings. It will be tried out with the funding request letters.

Bulletin - Sophie Keyes reported that she did not receive the 2nd class (1st class routing) mail permit yet. So the next Bulletin will be mailed 1st class. The deadline for the September issue is July 1st. That issue will include the year's schedule, Auditor's letter, and the pie charts.

Other - Midge Arnold reported that the newly planted trees at Pruyne are doing well. A split rail fence will be put up later on to separate Anne's private quarters. Mary Kilroe reported that Lois Skelly was very helpful in getting all her publicity out. There will be a committee meeting in July to discuss more effective ways to publicize programs. Stan Wecker reported 17 people enjoyed the Chesapeake Bay field trip. 155 species were spotted. Stan and the Board discussed meeting places and programs. It was suggested that plans should be made for the year but published half yearly. Anne Swaim was congratulated on her 6th year with SMRAS and she thanked the Board for her cake. Jim Anderson wished all a good summer.

The next meet will be Wednesday, September 6th at 7:30 PM at the home of Sophie Keyes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Joyce MacLean
Recording Secretary