

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

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM at the Keyes home.

Directors Present - Anderson, Keyes, Berna and Stan Lincoln, Lunetta, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Maram, Nina and John McCall, McKown, Miller, Muir, Romaine, Rita and Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim.

Minutes of the June 8, 1995 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: Page 1, strike the first correction; Page 3, line 10, delete "if there is room".

Jim and the Board congratulated Nina and John McCall on the occasion of their 49th wedding anniversary. Jim passed around sign-up sheets for volunteer hosting of meetings. Because of the Yom Kippur religious holiday, the next Board meeting date is scheduled for Monday, October 2nd., hosted by the McCalls.

Lois Skelly reports present membership at 866.

Treasurer's Report - Berna Lincoln reports that the federal and state tax returns were completed. The federal form was mailed but not the state form. Jim and Berna met with the accountant Larsen to review the books. Berna reconstructed the Pinecliff Boardwalk Restricted Fund from April '93 to the present. The current balance is \$9,044.80 (matching donations not included). Pinecliff receipts are approximately \$12,000 and expenses about \$3,000. Stan Lincoln reviewed about ten or fifteen years of Board minutes relating to funds and prepared an Abstract of Fund Management. It is a working document for reference purposes. The Board thought it would be a good addition to the SMRAS Handbook and Stan agreed to provide the copies. Berna circulated copies of SMRAS Balance Sheet March 31, 1995, for the corporation as a whole.

A second Balance Sheet was attached to the first showing figures for the start of the current fiscal year. This sheet is the same as the first sheet except that the legally restricted Pinecliff Boardwalk Fund (\$4,560.60) was separated from the unrestricted Operating Fund. Both sheets show Total Liabilities & Fund Balances of \$615,532.93. There was discussion about formats for the balance sheets.

President's Report - Jim gave a report on the status of the Pinecliff Boardwalk. New Castle agrees to put in the parking lot on Pinecliff Road at an estimated cost of about \$1,300. SMRAS to remit the actual cost to the Town. The Town negotiated a compromise with Clark Associates for a total charge of \$1,000. Jim wrote a letter to Joseph Chiseri, Town of New Castle to confirm this. Publicity has appeared in the newspapers. Westchester County has the contract and should return the approved document within the month. The Trimax material is ordered. Vendor bills will be sent to the County for payment. Construction is scheduled for the first week in October. The

summer executive committee approved a \$40 fee for Berna Lincoln to attend a course. Also approved (letters to Mr. Joel Walker, NY RCSC and Mr. E. L. Frank, Mgr. Business Mail Entry, Wch. Customer Service and Sales District) that a copy of each issue of the "Saw Mill River Audubon Society Bulletin" shall be sent to each member of SMRAS, Inc. and that \$5.00 of each member's annual dues of \$35 shall be for a year's subscription to that publication. The committee also approved a County tree removal application that needed the official SMRAS seal and was notarized at the Bank of NY. Jim brought the Board's attention to a story in the latest National Audubon Magazine in which SMRAS is mentioned in connection with the Croton dump site. Jim reported that Norman Shapiro was elected to serve on the Board of National Audubon, Northeast Region. Rita Wecker made a motion for the Board to approve Alice Maram to serve as Corresponding Secretary. Seconded and carried.

Financial Committee - Rita Wecker handed out copies of SMRAS Investment Portfolio Performance Report for Period Ending June 30, 1995. This was formerly called the Endowment Fund Performance Report. Approximate Portfolio Total Return for 4/1/95-6/30/95 was 6.80%; for the period 7/1/94-6/30/95 was 11.30%. The balance at the end of both periods was \$637,455. The committee intends to reduce holdings in Asset Manager over the next six months and put money in Vanguard Index 500. Foreign holdings will be reduced. The August 31, 1995 statement shows Grand Total of \$657,718.

Federation of NY State Bird Clubs - Stan Lincoln talked about the Federation. It documents ornithology in NY State. Berna and Stan will attend the annual meeting on October 6th to elect officers. We are entitled to five delegates who must attend or exercise signed proxies. Proxies were signed instructing Stan to vote on their behalf. Stan read to the Board the proposed By-Law changes the Federation plans to make that must be voted on by the member clubs. Stan made a motion for the Board to approve By-Law changes as read. Seconded and carried.

Beaver Dam Sanctuary - Anne Swaim talked about the problems at the privately owned sanctuary in Mt. Kisco. A new property owner has challenged the easements allowing a trail through his property and threatens to close it. Carolyn Cunningham (FCWC) has requested support in principle only from SMRAS. After some discussion the Board agreed to offer support. Stan Wecker made a motion that SMRAS agrees in principle, pending further information, to register as an amicus curiae for action to retain a conservation easement for the Beaver Dam Sanctuary. Seconded and carried.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported that SMRAS will participate in Community Day, September 9th. Various brochures and application blanks will be available. Anne reported a busy summer... Audubon programs now reaching just under 9,000 students. The Society now acts as a resource for local communities. Anne began two lake habitat assistance projects this summer; one at Clear Lake Boy Scout Camp and the other at Mohegan Lake. Both projects resulted in good publicity for the chapter. School programs are being prepared... Pleasantville schools will now participate. The new postal mail permits

result in big savings.

Stan Wecker announced a UN Conference in Rio - Agenda 21, addressing global environment. Three local school districts, Chappaqua, Pleasantville and Briarcliff have pledged cooperation. The Saw Mill River water quality will be monitored.

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin could not attend the meeting, but sent a written report. There is more trouble at Brinton...silt in the brook, but remedial efforts continue. Evans Associates and the Village of Croton are unhappy with Hudson National project, and are on their case. Evans did some nice rock work on the brook, but the ponds fill with algae bloom from fertilizer runoff. Anne continues to monitor the site. US Fish & Wildlife agents paid a return visit to Croton on August 2nd. They left a Bentonite "rug"...good for patching leaky earthen dams (Brinton), and also left a big keg of Bentonite. Regarding Chernick Sanctuary, the proposed plan to hook up Chernick with Westchester's Pocantico Lakes Park is popular. The Village of Briarcliff Manor is interested in a new trail and can provide high school volunteers to build the trail along the Pocantico River. Two parcels owned by Briarcliff and Chernick would make up this system. A meeting with PRC Commissioner DiSantis, Briarcliff Recreation Director Dan McBride and SMRAS is scheduled for September 13th. At Choate, the new trail is mapped and the forty acres leased from the town is cleared.

Bird Seed Sale - Jim reported that flyers were sent out by bulk mail. The new supplier, "The Naturalist", quotes a price a little higher than last year. We will also sell "Bishop" suet cakes. Volunteers are needed. Jim received a note of thanks from Angelo Spillo, Director of Pace Environmental Center, for the bird seed donation.

Environmental Action Committee - Pam McKown reported an encouraging letter from Gov. Pataki regarding Sterling Forest land acquisition. Apparently the State does have the funds for purchase. Armchair Activist advises contacting our Senators and urging them not to pass any riders to the upcoming appropriations bill that would prevent the EPA from enforcing existing laws, such as the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Development/Planning Committee - Nina McCall reports fund raising for the Pinecliff trail is progressing. 500 pieces of mail were sent out. Nina thanked Board members for donations. The travel agent for the Trinidad-Tobago trip requires a \$250 advance payment. Nina moved that the Board approve a \$250 deposit for the Trinidad-Tobago trip scheduled for March 16-26. The trip raises \$100 donation for each person. Seconded and carried. Stan Wecker moved that the Board authorize Nina McCall to be signatory on the contract. Seconded and carried.

Status on Corry Case - Jim Miller reports Mrs. Corry must provide information or be found in default. There won't be a decision for one or two months and then a motion for rejudges will be made at the end of the year.

Bulletin - Sophie Keyes reports this is deadline for the October

issue. The bi-monthly series begins. The Chappaqua Post Office has been very helpful with the mailings. The 2nd class permit is approved and will come from the Library of Congress and we will be assigned a permit number. We will be paying 15 or 20 cents per pound or about 7.9 cents per piece. We were paying about \$260 and will now be paying about \$86.

Other - Stan Wecker reminded people that the Spring Field Trips deadline is November...Patent Trader to use SMRAS pictures for their wildlife quiz...Sophie Keyes enjoyed Jamaica Bay trip - 13 people participated...Berna Lincoln won't present resolutions tonight due to lateness of the hour...Stan Lincoln announced that Ed Kanze will lead a trip to New Zealand for National Audubon...John McCall announced tentative meeting of the committee for the "disabled trail" (preferred wording, rather than "handicapped trail") on September 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05.


Recording Secretary

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, October 2, 1995, 7:30 P.M.

Home of: Nina and John McCall
260 Hamilton Road
Chappaqua

Directions: Take the Saw Mill River Parkway and get off at the Chappaqua exit. Hamilton Road is on the west side of the parkway directly behind the statue of Horace Greeley.

If lost call: 238-5203