

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

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM at the McCall home.

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

Minutes of the September 6, 1995 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: Page 1, lines 39-41, delete "which was not previously included with the Financial Statements for the fiscal year April 1, 1994-March 31, 1995"; Page 3, line 5, delete "expertise" and insert "cooperation"; Page 3, line 6, insert after "River," "water quality."

Jim Anderson reported current membership at 860.

Treasurer's Report - Berna Lincoln reported that SMRAS will receive less money from National Audubon this year (based on the past year's membership experience). Berna reported, as of September 30th, the Operating Fund was approximately \$9,185.00 and the Pinecliff Fund was \$8,740.00. A report of performance against the Operating Budget for the second quarter and year to date of fiscal year 1995-96 was circulated. She noted that the budget line for contributions had been met. Berna will be out of town until November 5th and Jim Anderson will take over Treasury duties during her absence. Berna made a motion for the Board to approve the transfer of money from the Larry Light Fund to the Operating Fund. Seconded and carried.

President's Report - Jim continues to negotiate with Joe Chiseri, New Castle Town Administrator, to keep costs down as much as possible on the Pinecliff parking area paving job. A letter of resignation from the Board was received from Mary Kilroe. Jim spoke to Jill Jones and asked her to consider chairing the Public Relations Committee. No change will be made until we know Jill's decision. Jane Muir has notified the Board that she will be moving out of the area but will continue to serve on the Board for this fiscal year. Jim mentioned a Croton Arboretum and Sanctuary Benefit on October 23rd.

Hosts for Board Meetings - Jim and Pam McKown have swapped meeting dates....Jim will hold the November 1st meeting at his house and Pam will have the March 6th meeting. Jim hopes that Diane Neski will consider doing the Christmas Tea. Other meeting places were discussed among them the Mormon Church building on Route 134.

Financial Committee - Rita Wecker reported an Investment Portfolio balance of \$663,038 as of September 30, 1995. On

the US Golf Assoc. about erroneous bird lists in their booklets, and traded information with the chapters about the environmental impact of golf courses. The Albany NAS office has continuing struggles with the so-called "NY Audubon Society," a questionable non-profit group that is less than environmentally sound in its work as consultants to golf course developers. They are a commercial entity and should be continually tracked. There is a need for all chapters to get together and share information on golf courses. Anne has vacation plans (Venezuela) for the fourth week in Oct.

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin discussed problems at Brinton Sanctuary. The dam will be patched with "rug" ^(Brenton site) material. The golf course was sodded and fertilized but not fully pinned. An August storm caused the sod to slide downhill. Fortunately it was pinned on our side. Ground water samples should be done to measure toxic and nutrient levels. It won't be known until spring if the ground water flow is affected. Beth Evans is watching this also. Anne prepared a list of ongoing concerns at Brinton for the Village of Croton-on-Hudson. At Chernick Sanctuary, Martin met with Sal DiSantis who favors linking up Pocantico Park and two parcels of Briarcliff Manor land with ours, but does not want publicity about it. There are still some questions about liability and ownership to be resolved. The blue bird boxes are ready for Croton Point Park and will be put up in early spring. The County plans a nature education pavilion at Croton. At Choate Sanctuary the land parcel from New Castle has been trail outlined. It is owned by the Town but SMRAS has an obligation to manage it for the Town on a 99 year lease. Jim Miller is checking with Dr. Aggarwal about a transfer document for the 14 acre land donation at Pruyn Sanctuary.

Pinecliff Boardwalk - John McCall reported on the status of work for the boardwalk...the parking spaces are in...hardware has been delivered...Trimax material is scheduled for delivery at the site on Thursday, 10/6. Volunteer workers are needed for Saturday and Sunday. Dean DiMauro will be paid for the extra work and Jordan Ellsworth will be a part-time employee. The plan is to complete the work by the end of October.

Bird Seed Sale status - Jim Anderson reported seed orders going well. Volunteers are needed to help at the sale October 14th and 15th. 60,000 lbs. of seed (two trailers) must be sold.

Environmental Action Committee - Pam McKown reports the Armchair Activist urges action to prevent oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Letters and calls to elected representatives must be made by Oct.10th. Pam is organizing a telephone tree to make calls to Congressional representatives to urge them to vote against the Interior Dep't. ~~Recreation~~ ^{Recreation} Budget. Major damage to environmental controls are included in this bill. Pam will make up calling lists of 20 people, broken down by community. She will supply information sheets. She will have information sheets and post cards available at the next SMRAS public meeting. Pam was concerned about her expenses. With a budget of \$150 she has

September 18th, \$6,000 from the Scudder Short Term Bond Fund was deposited to checking for the Operating Fund. The portfolio increased 1.72% in September. Rita read four motions presented by Berna Lincoln for Board approval. These motions were approved in advance by the Finance Committee and are as follows: 1. We give up, retroactive to April 1, 1995, the

" Environmental Education Fund" as a separate fund. 2. All interest earned on the Vanguard Money Market account will be credited to the Operating Fund. 3. Likewise, all charges relating to maintaining the checking account and money market account will be expenses of the Operating Fund. 4. All corporate matching funds will be credited to the same income account to which the donor triggering the match made his/her original contribution, unless the Treasurer is instructed otherwise by the donor. Seconded and carried.

By-Law changes - Stan Lincoln distributed copies of Proposed By-Laws Amendments. He discussed the problem of proxy votes with the Board (Article IV, Section 6). Since there is no way to verify how many people are represented by "family membership", and to be consistent with National Audubon's voting procedures, Stan recommends one vote per family membership. There was discussion about the wording of this Article. Some members felt that Board members should have one vote each, even though they might have a "family membership". Stan withdrew this proposed amendment to further study it. To ensure adequate time for receipt, response, and tabulation of proxy ballots before the meeting, Stan proposes this change to Article VI, Section 6: In the fifth line, after the word Society, insert the following: at least thirty days before the scheduled meeting of members. The next proposed change is to Article VIII, Section 3 (b), Par. 2, and will ensure sufficient time for preparation and distribution of proxy material. Replace the second sentence with the following: Its report will (1) be provided to the Corresponding Secretary, for preparation of the proxy ballots, at least 60 days before the Annual Meeting of Members, and (2) be presented for action at the Annual Meeting. The Board was in agreement with the proposed amendments to Article VI, Section 6 and Article VIII, Section 3 (b), Par. 2. Actual voting to make the changes will be done at the November Board Meeting. Stan Wecker thought the Annual Meeting should be scheduled for the second or third week in April. The actual date will be announced in November.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported light school programming in September. For two weeks in the early part of September, because of the drought conditions, the sanctuaries were closed. The fire hazard signs that were posted at the entrances can now be replaced with caution notices. At Pruyn Sanctuary, Eagle Scout candidate Jonathan Flynn of Pleasantville, planned and built a natural bird splash pool in the arboretum area where there is spring seepage. Scout Eric ~~Brown~~ Bowell also promised to work at Pruyn, but did not. Anne

looked into a planned new subdivision, Haymson, at Haas Sanctuary. She doesn't think Haas will be impacted. Anne attended the NY State Audubon Council meeting 9/29 to 10/1. Anne networked with L.I. chapters in contacting

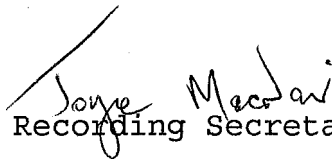
~~budget of \$150~~ she has already spent \$106 for printing and \$18 for postage. Sophie Keyes made a motion for the Board to allow an increase in the budget, within reason, for Pam McKown to continue her work. Seconded and carried.

Development/Planning Committee - Nina McCall reported a mailing of 300 letters to people not previously solicited for funds, in Pleasantville, Peekskill, Croton and a few other communities. Nina might also apply to the County for more money.

Other reports or old or new business - John McCall announced a tentative meeting of the Personnel Committee on November 8th. Sophie Keyes announced the November Board Meeting date was the deadline for the December/January issue of the Bulletin. Spring programs will be included and a notice for Board member nominee suggestions. Also needed is a tentative schedule of field trips. Stan Wecker reports the Chappaqua Library raised the rental for the Theater (without the stage) from \$40 to \$50. And the custodial fee is now \$8.00 per hour.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 1st at 7:30 PM at Jim Anderson's home. Refreshments will be provided by the MacNairs.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.


Recording Secretary

Directions to Jim Anderson's:

Take King St. (Route 120) to Bear Ridge Rd., which is 3 1/2 to 4 miles south of the intersection of King St. and Bedford Rd. in Chappaqua. Turn right, if travelling south, on Bear Ridge Rd. Then take the first left on to Usonia Road. Jim's driveway is the second on the left, marked Tulip Tree Lane, and his house is at the end of the driveway. This is a narrow driveway so if you want to get out early park on Usonia Rd., and bring a flashlight as there are no street lamps.

If coming from the south, Bear Ridge Rd. is about one mile north of the intersection of Rtes. 22 and 120.

Jim Anderson's telephone number is 769-3977.