

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
November 1, 1995

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

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

Minutes of the October 2, 1995 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: Page 1, line 53, delete "IBM" and insert "Mormon church"; Page 2, line 53, delete "Bowell" and insert "Byrwa"; Page 3, line 13, insert "Bentonite" in front of "rug" and line 52, delete "Reconciliation Budget" and insert "Bill, some riders and EPA Budget Bill"; Page 4, line 19, insert "per hour" after "\$8.00."

Jim Anderson reported current membership at 875.

Treasurer's Report - Jim will continue treasury duties until Berna Lincoln returns on November 5th. At that time, Jim will be out of town for one week. The checkbook will be in the Pruyn office.

President's Report - Jim reported that charges from New Castle and Clark Associates for the Pinecliff Disabled Boardwalk project will be adjusted and a cap of \$1,000 is expected. Jim Miller is in contact with Dr. Alok Aggarwal (Crystal Springs) concerning the land donation to SMRAS at Pruyn Sanctuary. Papers are being prepared to make the land transfer. SMRAS conditions for acceptance of the 14 acres will include pump house and debris removal, possible liens, and full property descriptions. Aggarwal knows he will be responsible for paying the property taxes in 1996. SMRAS will have to go to the Town Assessor's office in the spring to revise the tax rolls. Jim Miller says a contractual agreement is needed and recommends a real estate professional. Jim Anderson will contact Judge Brisson about hiring a real estate lawyer. A new publication, "New York Wildlife Viewing Guide", is offered by the Audubon Council of NY State at a pre-publication price of \$3.50. After December 1st the retail price will be \$8.95. The Board decided to order copies. Jim Anderson presented a motion for the Board to approve an order for 25 copies of the guide @ \$3.50 each. The purchase will be charged to education. Seconded and carried.

Financial Committee - Rita Wecker reported that the revised "Policy and Guidelines for Management of Funds" was not yet ready for presentation. Rita circulated copies of the quarterly/yearly Investment Portfolio Performance Report for

Period Ending Sept. 30, 1995. Approximate Portfolio Total Return for 7/1/95-9/30/95 was 5.19%; and for the period 10/1/94-9/30/95 was 14.22%. The Balance at the end of both periods was \$663,288.

Vote on Proposed By-Law changes submitted at the Oct. 2nd meeting - Copies of the proposed changes were sent to Board members who were not present at the meeting. Revision of Article IV, Section 6, covering "family membership" voting, was tabled at the Oct. 2nd meeting for further study. Revisions to Article VI, Section 6, and Article VIII, Section 3 (b), Par. 2, were scheduled for a vote at this meeting. The Board unanimously approved (quorum) Article VI, Section 6. This vote was later rescinded. After discussion, Article VIII, Section 3 (b), Par. 2, was not approved but tabled until the next meeting. At this point Nina McCall made a motion for the Board to reconsider the vote and this was unanimously approved. Again there was a lot of discussion. Martin Smolin then made a motion for the Board to table all three By-Law revisions, discussion and voting, until the next Board meeting when Stan Lincoln will be present. Unanimously approved.

Stan Wecker announced the date of the Annual Meeting. It will be Friday, April 19, 1996 and will be held at Teatown. It will be a joint meeting with Teatown and SMRAS will pay for the speaker. Since the Annual Meeting date is set, February 19, 1996, is the deadline for Nominating Committee recommendations to be in the hands of the Corresponding Secretary. March 20, 1996 is the deadline for mailing proxies to members.

Public Relations Committee - Tom MacNair volunteered to chair this committee. He will work with Lois Skelly to get releases out to the newspapers. He will also work with Stan Wecker (public programs), Midge Arnold (field trips) and Anne Swaim (education).

Pinecliff Boardwalk - John McCall reported that about 80% of the work is completed. Dean DiMauro and Jordan Ellsworth, our paid employees, worked with 36 volunteers. Work will probably stop at the end of the month and will be resumed in the spring. Nina was just notified that her second block grant request was approved for an additional \$15,900. This will be used to complete the project. So far, approximately \$53,264 has been raised through donations (including the second grant). Matching funds and pending donations are not included. A field trip for Board members is scheduled for Saturday, November 11th. There will be an official dedication but the date has not been set yet. Stan Wecker made a motion for the Board to recognize the extraordinary efforts of Nina and John McCall and Bill Arnold, above and beyond the call of duty, to make the Pinecliff Disabled Boardwalk project a success. Seconded and carried.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported school program scheduling going well. She noted that SMRAS has been listed with excellent comments in the BOCES handbook of programs sent to all regional schools. She noted that the Eagle Scout splash pool project in the arboretum was a success and the birds seem

to enjoy it.

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin inspected Brinton Sanctuary after the heavy rains of Oct. 28th and did not notice any visible damage. Anne Swaim is concerned about future damage to the sanctuary caused by the golf course project. She talked about the findings of a 36 page non-compliance report prepared by Bruce Donahue, who was hired by the Town. He can make recommendations but has no enforcement authority. The Board suggested that members who reside in Croton might attend the Planning Board meeting on Nov. 7th and make known their concerns. Letters could also be sent to the Town Manager. Martin passed around photographs of Brinton that will be filed in the archives. He announced a Sanctuary Committee meeting on Nov. 9th.

Bird Seed Sale - Jim Anderson reported some seed mix ups that, fortunately, were remedied in time for the actual sale. Net profit so far is a little less than \$7,000, and if all the seed is eventually sold, net profit should be about \$9,700. Donations this year were up, netting over \$1,000. Thank you notes will be sent to donors giving over \$10. A notice will appear in the Bulletin about the left over seed for sale that is stored at the Hartmanns.

Holiday Tea - Diane Neski has agreed to take charge of the event, but needs helpers. Sophie Keyes, Joyce MacNair and Nina McCall volunteered help.

Environmental Action Committee - Pam McKown gave a report about the phone tree set up to contact Congressional representatives to urge them to vote against three pending bills. Volunteers received background information about the bills and a list of people to be called in their local area. People were, for the most part, willing to make the calls. Hopefully, as many as 300 calls could have been made to the Congressmen. Pam feels that it is hard to cover three bills. One at a time would be better. If the bills are passed, the next step is to urge Bill Clinton to veto. The Senate amended the Sterling Forest bill with a proposal to put up money for purchase of the Forest. Pam said she picked up 16 people for Armchair Activist.

Development/Planning Committee - Nina McCall plans a Nominating Committee meeting soon. She requested that each Board member give her the name of one person who might be a possible Board member nominee.

Other - Midge Arnold noted some upcoming field trips: 11/4 Brinton Brook Sanctuary, lead by Anne Swaim; 12/2 Marshlands and Reid Sanctuary, lead by Mike Lolya. Sophie Keyes said she would like to mail the December/January Bulletin before Thanksgiving. Notices about the Holiday Tea, nominations, and the need for more donations for the Pinecliff Boardwalk will be in the issue. Jim Miller gave an update on the Corry case...they have not complied and a meeting is set. The judge might push Mrs. Corry to purchase the property, at the \$2,000 price. Jim made a motion for the Board to authorize him to

settle the Corry case on the best possible terms and at a purchase price above \$2,000. Seconded and carried with one opposition. SMRAS does not have a copy of the insurance policy but it is paid up according to the broker in Arlington, Va. Anne Swaim gave an update on the Beaver Dam Sanctuary problem. We made known our views...a motion for a temporary restraint was denied and there may not be an appeal.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:30 PM at Sophie Keyes home.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.


Recording Secretary

Directions to Sophie Keyes, 209 Barnes St., Ossining:

From the intersection of Pinesbridge Rd. and the Taconic Parkway, go east on Pinesbridge Rd. about one mile. Turn left on Chadeayne Rd. and then take a left on to Syska Rd. Proceed on Syska Rd. to the end (short distance) and then turn right on Barnes St. Sophie's home is immediately on the left.

There is an exit to Pinesbridge Rd. from the Taconic Parkway, northbound lane, but not from the southbound lane.

Sophie Keyes' telephone number is: 762-2569