

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

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:43 PM at the Keyes home.

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

Minutes of the November 1, 1995 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following correction: Page 2, line 42, delete "\$15,000" and insert "\$15,900."

Jim Anderson reported current membership at 864. One new member joined the Society at the birdseed sale.

President's Report - Regarding Crystal Springs and Aggarwal, Jim discussed the land acquisition with Attorney Brisson. Mr. Brisson will donate his services, but recommends a title search be done (\$250). Jim will contact Harold Campbell for the survey. The expenditure is covered in the Budget under "legal fees". The creation of a New York State Field Office for National Audubon was discussed. Handouts were distributed and read. The Board response was generally negative. Questions about the need for such an office and the cost were discussed. Jim will pass along comments and suggestions to ^{Geoff} Jim Ryan and will ask for further clarification. The Board acknowledged the formal resignations, in writing, of Jill Jones and Mary Kilroe. Nina McCall received a letter from IBM regarding matching grants. Grant recipients have the option to take equipment in place of actual money. The Board decided that it would ~~be~~ ^{RATHER HAVE THE} money. As a result of member donations during the annual fund drive, SMRAS is expecting \$600 in matching grants from IBM. Jim reported receiving a letter and ^{with pr} highlights ^m ^{ogral} ^{a report} ^{from the New York State Dept of} ^{and how does that} ^{comment} ^{the agency} strives to foster interest in wildlife resources.

Treasurer's Report - Berna Lincoln reported that as of November 30th the balance in the Operating Fund was \$5,750. The balance in the Pinecliff Fund was \$1,913. Upon Finance Committee recommendation, Berna presented the following motion: The Board directs the Recording Secretary to sign and seal a corporate resolution designating any 2 of the following: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board, to act on behalf of the corporation in connection with any Vanguard mutual fund shares owned by the corporation. Seconded and carried. Berna and the Board discussed the proposal to change the Society's fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year. This change would give the Treasurer more time for closing the books. It would also simplify and better reflect results of the annual

fund raising campaign. Rita Wecker is in favor of the change and the Board seemed to favor it also. In 1996 there would be a 9 month budget...April 1st to December 31st; and thereafter a 12 month year...January 1st to December 31st. IRS approval would be needed and also a SMRAS By-Law revision. Tax returns could be prepared in January or February. No formal action was taken, but Berna urged the Board to think about the idea. She presented the following motion:

The Board votes to pursue the mechanics of effecting the fiscal year change and to convey to the Budget Committee that a 9 month budget (April 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996) is needed for next year. Seconded and carried.

Stan Lincoln and the Board discussed the proposed By-Law changes submitted at the October 2nd and November 1st meetings. The By-Laws committee recommended the changes to give the Corresponding Secretary enough time (at least 60 days) to prepare and distribute proxy material (from the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees) before the Annual meeting, and enough time (at least 30 days) for the secretary to send out proxy ballots and then tabulate the receipts before the Annual Meeting. The Board was not against the basic change but questioned the necessity of making a formal change to the By-Laws. Stan Lincoln thought the change was necessary because of the Society's increasing financial responsibility. Berna said the eventual intent was to include the proxy as part of the Bulletin to avoid a separate mailing. Sophie Keyes thought the timing would make it too hectic to include the proxy with the Bulletin. Stan will check N.Y. State requirements. The Board decided not to make any formal changes to the By-Laws, but planned to make an effort to work within the time limits discussed. Stan Lincoln also discussed the problem of counting votes for "family memberships". National no longer has a family membership category. SMRAS now counts pieces of paper in the proxy voting because actual number of members is unknown.

For women purposes

Stan Lincoln talked about the Federation of NY State Bird Clubs. He is a permanent representative. SMRAS is a member club. The Federation has money available for scholarships and grants. Member clubs are invited to suggest candidates for awards. A major project of the Federation (as noted in the Dec/Jan Bulletin) is the preparation and publication of a book that completely revises and updates the history of New York's ornithology. The new book will be a complete revision of the 1974 John Bull's Birds of New York State and is expected to be available in the fall of 1998. The Federation is working in partnership with the American Museum of Natural History and Cornell University Press. The Federation is soliciting funds from member clubs. The printing costs will be borne by Cornell Press. About 3,000 books will be printed and will sell for \$50 a copy. Stan suggested that SMRAS should financially support the project and presented the following motion: SMRAS goes on record as being in support of the Federation of NY State Bird Club's book project with a one time gift or pledge and direct the President to refer the matter to the appropriate committees for a recommendation on the amount and timing of the contribution. Seconded and carried.

Finance Committee - Rita Wecker was unable to attend the meeting and informed Jim Anderson that there was nothing active at this time.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported outreach at the schools continues and also some after school club activity. She is also working with the Scout Councils. New scheduling will commit Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to school projects and Monday and Friday to office and sanctuary work. Scholarship press releases were prepared and bulk mailed to middle and high schools in SMRAS area, media contacts and environmental contacts. Windstorms resulted in fallen trees and branches in the sanctuaries that required clearing. Anne met with Vincent Turk regarding his Eagle Scout project at Pruyn. She went to Crittendon Middle School in Armonk to retrieve a dead Cooper Hawk that had crashed through a window.

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin had nothing new to report at Pruyn or Chernick. Bushes were planted on the lawn at Graff. At Brinton Brook there are still a lot of problems. Anne met with Village of Croton Manager and the Planning Board. They claim water testing was done but they have not seen it. It is alarming that nobody wants to take action. D.E.C claims it is monitoring the water quality. There was a small article in the local paper about water quality problems. The Croton Trails Committee wants to cut trails through the Kaufman Property. There is still no agreement on the property but it will probably be leased to SMRAS. The fence along the border of Brinton and Amberlands is in disrepair. There is no agreement as to who owns it. We could suggest a gate to allow entry to the sanctuary.

Status of Corry suit - Martin Smolin reports possible settlement soon.

Pinecliff Boardwalk - John McCall reported Phase I of the project completed. It took five weeks of work and about fifty volunteers and two paid workers to get the job done. The bridge for Phase II is in place. There was a walk for members on November 11th to show them the completed work. A check was received from the County for the first phase and second phase grant will come later. Insurance coverage expires December 1, 1995, but will be extended and will be renewed. There was no premium notice. Volunteer accident coverage is not automatically renewed. John thanked Don Lunetta for being an "ambassador of good will" in the neighborhood. Don said that the walk is getting a lot of use by walkers with baby carriages and children with bikes. Nina heard that a handicapped person from her church used the walk and was delighted with it.

Personnel Committee - John McCall reported meeting with his committee. Lois Skelly was evaluated. She is doing a satisfactory job. More time in the office would be preferred. Her job requirements will be reviewed. No change in salary was recommended. Dean DiMauro is doing an excellent job. The committee recommends that the Budget Committee raise his basic

pay rate, probably \$3.00 an hour. Anne Swaim is doing a fine job and a change in salary is recommended.

Public Relations Committee - Tom MacNair had nothing new to report.

Environmental Action Committee - Pam McKown reports 20% cuts in the County budget. The full impact on environmental problems is not known yet. Sue Kelly now supports our view on the Takings Bill. An 800 line for NY State activists will be in place January 1st.

Holiday Tea - Sophie Keyes reported a meeting with Joyce MacNair and Diane Neski to complete plans for the Tea on December 10th at the Congregational Church in Chappaqua. Cookies will be needed.

Other - Nina McCall asked members to give her names of candidates for possible nomination to serve on the Board. She also reported that the Trinidad/Tobago trip was still on. The deadline for signing up was extended. Sophie Keyes received SMRAS' 2nd Class mailing permit number. She said the deadline for the Feb/Mar Bulletin was Jan 3rd. Stan Lincoln distributed handouts for inclusion in the Director Handbook.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.


Recording Secretary

The next Board Meeting is postponed one week and will be held Wednesday, January 10, 1996, at 7:30 PM, at the Chappaqua Library.