

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
February 7, 1996

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

Directors Present - Anderson, Arnold, Keyes, Berna and Stan Lincoln, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Nina and John McCall, Romaine, Smolin, Walker, Rita and Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim. Also present were guests Louis Langdon, Jeff Pinerio, and Dr. Herb Bloom.

Minutes of the December 6, 1995 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: Page 1, line 31, change "Jim" Ryan to "Geoff"; line 36 and 37, delete "be inappropriate to take equipment since members had donated money", and insert "rather have the money"; line 40, insert after Dept of, "Environmental Conservation, Div. of". Page 2, lines 3 and 4, change "30th" to "31st" and line 11, change "30" to "31"; line 35 insert after voting, "for quorum purposes". Page 3, line 46, insert after "accident", "coverage is" and delete "are". Page 4, line 2 and 3, delete "the Budget Committee to look into it". Due to inclement weather, there was no Board Meeting in January.

There was no membership report.

President's Report - Jim reported meeting with his "Support Committee", a presidential guidance group. Jim plans more efficient meetings. Issues will be directed to the appropriate committees for recommendation. There was a short discussion regarding a proposed donation to the NYS Bird Club book project. John McCall made a motion that the Board accept and approve SMRAS donation to the Federation of NY State Bird Clubs' State Ornithology Book project. \$1,000 to be sent in the 1996 fiscal year (4/1/96-12/31/96), and \$500 for the next two years, for a total donation of \$2,000. Seconded and carried. Jim announced that SMRAS received a United Way Fields of Service Grant of \$1,500 for the Pinecliff disabled walk. SMRAS received a copy of the title for the property Aggerwal (Crystal Springs) plans to donate. Mr. Brisson is looking into it. Jim briefly went over the contents of his miscellaneous material folder... Spring Council meeting of NYS Audubon chapters is April 12-13, Anne Swaim is on the committee... National Audubon Convention '96 is June 8-12 in Washington DC... Teatown meeting Feb. 25 - Preserving Family Lands... Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook NY - Mar. 30, Wetlands... Newspaper clipping from The Citizen Register of Jan. 15th regarding Croton on-Hudson Planning Board's notice to Hudson National Golf Club that construction will be stopped in the spring unless a satisfactory site plan is submitted... Chappaqua PTA seeking candidates for an Honorary Life Membership Award... Assemblyman Brodsky newsletter item about

receiving the Wm. B. Hoyt Environmental Award from the Audubon Council of NY State...and other Audubon material.

Nominating Committee - Nina McCall welcomed and introduced three visiting Board nominees; Jeff Pinerio, Herb Bloom and Louis Langdon. A fourth nominee, Polly Kuhn, was unable to attend the meeting. Nina circulated a list of new nominees, current Board members who agree to serve again, and the slate of officers. Tom MacNair, Nina McCall, Pam McKown and Bill Romaine agree to serve again (Class of 1999). The Slate of Officers is: President - Jim Anderson; Vice President - Martin Smolin; Chairman of Board - Nina McCall; Recording Secretary - Joyce MacNair; Corresponding Secretary - Alice Maram; Treasurer - Berna Lincoln; Historian - Stan Lincoln.

Deadline for the next Bulletin - Sophie Keyes needs items for the newsletter by March 1st or earlier, and before the next Board meeting. The Bulletin must be postmarked 30 days before the Annual Meeting of April 19th. The Slate of Officers and the voting proxy will be part of the newsletter. Members can return the proxy in the self mailer (postage not included).

Treasurer's Report - Berna Lincoln sent out the Quarterly Budget Report. As of Jan 31st, the balance in the Operating Fund was \$9,699.10. As of today, the balance in the Pinecliff Boardwalk Fund is \$7,112.12. Berna attended a "legal check up" seminar. SMRAS is in good shape and complies with non-profit rules. The Society can elect to register with the IRS as a lobbying organization. She will get the instructions and forms from IRS and will make a report. Changing the fiscal year to the calendar year was discussed. IRS forms and instructions for the change have been received, but the filing can't be done sooner than October. The filing fee will be about \$150. Stan Lincoln moved that The Saw Mill River Audubon Society, Inc. change its fiscal year to a calendar year, effective January 1, 1997, and that the By-Laws Committee and Treasurer initiate the necessary actions to accomplish same. Seconded and carried.

Finance Committee - Rita Wecker circulated The Investment Portfolio Performance Report for Period Ending Dec. 31, 1995, and reviewed it with the Board. The balance on 12/31/95 was \$674,336. Approximate Portfolio Total Return from 10/1/95 to 12/31/95 was 3.09%, and from 1/1/95 to 12/31/95 was 20.86%. Rita circulated the amended Policy and Guidelines for Management of Funds. She moved that on behalf of the Finance Committee, the revised Policy and Guidelines for Management of Funds, as presented to and amended by the Board on February 7, 1996, be approved. Seconded and carried. Stan Lincoln moved that it be reflected in the minutes that Board members, not involved with finance, appreciate the Finance Committee's efforts and thank the committee for its good work. Seconded and carried.

Scholarships - Stan Wecker said applications were mailed. The deadline for youth scholarship applications is February 9th and for adults March 1st.

Environmental Action Committee - Jim Anderson read a flyer sent by Pam McKown. Phil Schaefer, (National Audubon staffer) offers a free computer demonstration on the use of the Internet World Wide Web (WWW). Anne Swaim explained that 30 chapters have sites on the WWW, and SMRAS could be on it also. She has worked up a proposed WWW home page for the chapter. National Audubon will provide free computer space. Upon Board approval, Anne and Pam would take care of arranging a date and place (probably Chappaqua Library) for the demo. Neighboring chapters will be invited. Jim polled the Board informally and found it was in favor of the demo and of putting SMRAS on the WWW. Pam's flyer gives Audubon's NY State Activist 800 number. It is 1-800-414-2286, and is a taped message of the issues. Support for Bill #3409A, now in the Assembly, is urged. This Bill would prevent logging in State Parks. Pam urges calls to Sue Kelly to ask her to co-sponsor the Furse-Morella Bill HR 2745, which would repeal the timber salvage rider passed last spring. This rider suspends all environmental laws that would normally apply to logging. Martin Smolin uses #1-800-622-smart for National Political Awareness and WWW access-[http://WWW.vote\\_smart.org](http://WWW.vote_smart.org). Louis Langdon said he had copies of Sue Kelly's papers on water quality.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim distributed two reports, 12/7/95-1/10/96 and 1/11/96-2/7/96. She researched and wrote articles about local wildlife for the North County News. Anne will have a regular column in the paper. The winter weather had a big impact on wildlife and caused damage in the sanctuaries. Anne is working with BOCES and the schools to schedule programs for wheelchair students. School scheduling is completed through June, with Peekskill schools included. In communication with Jim Anderson, Anne researched and wrote a letter about the impact on the Croton River from digging on the east side of the river, near Route 9, by a quarry operator. No impact report was made by the quarry operator and the town will not renew his permit. Anne posted on the WWW a summary of the NY Times article about the Dutchess County bird kill caused by "poison perches" used by a farmer. Responses were directed to the DEC and Hudson Valley Raptor Center. Two articles in the Gannett papers were the result of a report of a Con Edison transformer oil spill from a pole on Hardscrabble Rd. The oil drained into Cameron Murtfeldt Sanctuary. Con Edison cleaned up and was concerned about the sanctuary and the surrounding neighbors. Anne's Email address is: [AnneSwaim@compuserve.com](mailto:AnneSwaim@compuserve.com). The Board agreed to have Anne register SMRAS; the address will be: [SMRAS@compuserve.com](mailto:SMRAS@compuserve.com).

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin reports meeting with the Mayor of Croton. There is still nothing definite with regard to the lease for the Kaufman property. Some action might be taken after next month's election.

Pinecliff Boardwalk - John McCall reported that 775 feet of the boardwalk is complete. \$20,000 grant money was used for Phase I. \$15,900 will be spent for material for Phase II,

which will start in March. Material delivery is scheduled for the week of March 11th. Work will begin again on March 18th. Dedication is tentatively scheduled for June 2nd.

Office Worker - John McCall reported the resignation of our part time officer worker, Lois Skelly. She will continue until a replacement is found. Advertisement netted 3 phone calls. Candidates will send information. Two mornings a week are needed, with a possible third morning in the future.

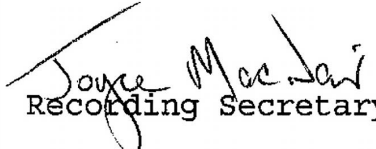
Annual Phonothon - John McCall reported tentative dates of March 5th and 6th for the fund drive. Pace University facilities will be used again. Mailings will be done beforehand.

Bird Seed Remaining - Jim Anderson reported seed going fast. There is some black oil and striped sunflower left.

Other - February 18th is Membership Participation Day...Bronx Zoo trip very successful-33 adults and 10 kids...Midge Arnold wants to replace a downed apple tree with another. Since it is the responsibility of the Board to establish the Annual Meeting date, Stan Lincoln moved that the Annual Meeting of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society be held on Friday, April 19, 1996, at Teatown. The business meeting will begin at 7:15 PM and the program at 7:45 PM. Seconded and carried.

The next meeting will be March 6th, hosted by Pam McKown.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

  
Recording Secretary

The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 1996, at 7:30 PM at the Chappaqua Library. If you are unable to attend please call Jim Anderson, Telephone #769-3977