

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
March 6, 1996

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM at the Chappaqua Library. Pam McKown was hostess.

Directors Present - Anderson, Keyes, Berna and Stan Lincoln, Lunetta, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Nina and John McCall, McKown, Miller, Romaine, Walker, Rita and Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim. Also present were guests Polly Kuhn and Herb Bloom.

Minutes of the February 7, 1996 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following correction: Page 2, line 31, delete "State" and insert "IRS".

Jim Anderson reported 866 memberships.

President's Report - Jim was in contact with Wendy Stickland, Outreach Naturalist at Teatown. She was interested in Anne Swaim's work and wondered if she could study some of it. The Board rejected this request. There was no update on Crystal Springs. Jim is still awaiting details from Mr. Brisson. The Westchester Urban County Consortium announced a luncheon on April 3rd at the Don Bosco Center, to celebrate the Block Grant Program. Speakers will talk about the successful ways in which the grant money was used. Jim, Bill Arnold and Nina and John McCall will attend the lunch. Jim briefly discussed the contents of the miscellaneous file...A post card from Jane Muir...Migratory Bird Workshop April 10th...Regional Plan Association meeting on April 23rd; topic is, "From Risk to Recovery".

Stan Wecker had some meeting announcements: The March 27th joint meeting with Taconic Gardeners Club at the First Congregational Church at 7:30 PM; The Annual Meeting at Teatown on April 19th still needs a host; The May Board Meeting, tentatively set for May 8th, still needs a host.

President's Support Committee - The committee met and wants to re-evaluate committee functions. New committees may be considered. With this in mind, Jim requested all committees to submit written reports to him by the end of the month. The Support Committee recommends the use of SMRAS office generated mailing labels for the Bulletin. Martin Smolin will get bids for repair of Brinton fence at Amberlands. Stan Wecker discussed changes for public program meetings. Booking space at the Chappaqua Library is difficult so alternate meeting places in new areas will be looked into. A suggestion was made to start meetings at 7:30, serve refreshments, and then begin the program. A different meeting night, possibly Friday, was discussed. The Board was open to change. Membership was discussed. Jim turned over to Stan Wecker an extensive report from NAS about membership. Repair of bathroom facilities at Pruyn House was also on the committee's agenda.

Decision on accepting lower settlement on the Corry case - Jim Miller recommends settlement of the Corry case by accepting Mrs. Corry's bid of \$1,000 for the disputed land. Bill Walker

motioned that the Board accept Mrs. Corry's offer of \$1,000 to purchase the disputed land in Graff Sanctuary. Seconded and carried with 15 votes in favor and 1 opposed. The 15 in favor included 3 proxies, 2 written and 1 verbal. The vote was carried by at least 2/3 of the Board. Jim Anderson noted that if the judge approves and the case is closed, SMRAS' deed needs to be amended.

Audit Committee - Jim Anderson and Neil Arena are the committee and, according to the By-Laws, recommends the hiring of an independent public accountant to audit the Society's books. John McCall moved that the Board accept the recommendation of the Audit Committee to hire Mr. Larsen to audit the Society's books. Seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report - Berna Lincoln urged members to submit bills for reimbursement as soon as possible, but before the end of the fiscal year. As of February 29, 1996, Operating Fund balance was \$6,419, and Pinecliff Boardwalk Fund balance was \$7,387. Berna revised a motion made on February 7th. She made a revised motion for SMRAS to make a donation to the Federation of NY State Bird Clubs to help fund the State Ornithology Book project. \$1,000 to be sent in the current fiscal year (ending 3/31/96), instead of in the calendar year (ending 12/31/96). And \$500 to be sent in 1997 and again in 1998, for a total donation of \$2,000. Seconded and carried. Berna discussed SMRAS' annual contribution to the Northeast Regional Office. This contribution is already noted in the Budget, and therefore a motion was unnecessary. The contribution is given in lieu of the "Birdathon". Berna will send a check for \$350.

Budget Committee - Bill Walker distributed copies of a proposed nine month budget that begins 4/1/96 and ends 12/31/96. This is in accordance with the revised fiscal year change to coincide with the calendar year. Bill asked the Board to keep in mind that this was a customized budget, and that not every item was figured on a 3/4 of a year basis. There were 19 cost centers for a total expenditure of \$47,828. And there were 6 profit centers for a total income of \$48,248, with a total budget surplus of \$420. Savings were realized from lowered postage and printing costs. Bill made a motion for the Board to accept the Budget as presented. Seconded and carried. Stan Wecker motioned for a vote of thanks from the Board to Bill Walker for a job well done. Seconded and unanimously carried.

Finance Committee - Rita Wecker noted that since the last report of Return on Investment as of 12/31/95, the return was up 2.3% in January. Rita's sub-committee met to make the changes to the "Control of Funds". Bill Romaine reviewed the changes and explained the reasons. John McCall made a motion for the Board to accept the changes to the "Control of Funds" as presented by the committee. Seconded and carried.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported reaching over 1600 students in the month and might reach over 8,000 by the end of June. Special research and preparation was done for Greeley H.S. presentations on the Endangered Species Act and the Wise Use Movement. Programs for all classes in the Pleasantville schools have been arranged. Wind downed a mature red maple and tulip tree at Pruyne Sanctuary. Matt Carney, errant Eagle Scout candidate, returned to work on Pruyne Pond. Bedford Audubon came to SMRAS office to view NAS computer resources. Anne received two E-Mail new membership requests. The NY Audubon Council

meeting is coming up. April 22nd is Lobby Day in Albany. Hudson National Golf is at a stalemate with Croton. Croton wants an accurate site plan and is standing firm on requiring it. National Golf would like spring occupancy.

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report. Blue bird boxes will be put up in Croton Point Park on March 8th. At Brinton Sanctuary the fence is broken in six places at Amberlands. The manager said to get an estimate but does not promise to pay.

Personnel Committee - John McCall reported receiving four inquiries about the office position. Two candidates sent applications, but one had second thoughts. The committee will interview the remaining applicant on March 13th.

John also gave an update on the Pinecliff project. Materials will be delivered on the 12th, 13th and 14th. Volunteers are needed on Sat., March 16th to distribute the material in three piles. Bill Arnold will be there and Dean DiMauro will return on the 18th.

John announced that the annual fund raising event called "Phone-a-thon" will take place on March 27th and 28th at the offices of Holmes and Kennedy Realtors. Orientation for volunteers takes place at 5:30 PM. There will be pizza and soda. Pace students will help again this year. SMRAS volunteers are needed to help make the calls.

Nina McCall reported meeting at Pinecliff on March 5th with two representatives from the Region 4 Garden Club. The women were very impressed with the handicapped accessible boardwalk and promised to recommend a donation from their Club. SMRAS was presented with personal checks from the women. Nina noted a dog problem on the walk. A sign could be posted to encourage curbing dogs "off" the walk.

Environmental Action Committee - Pam McKown reported 30 people have joined the Armchair Activist. She had post cards for mailing to Gov. Pataki to oppose the Truck By-Pass Route in Saratoga Spa State Park. The route, as proposed, goes through the wetlands. There is no active master plan for the Park. Writers can request a master plan and an inventory of resources. Pam talked with Rep. Gilman, of Rockland, about issues and the Endangered Species Act. It is very hard to get an appointment to see Sue Kelly. She is usually booked in advance. Opposition to a harmful bill, "National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act" is urged. This bill would allow hunting and fishing in all refuges and would turn the refuges into recreation areas. The Bedford Audubon Club will propose a resolution to the Audubon Council to oppose allowing the sale in NY State of a product called "Rid-a-Bird" or "poison perch". The product was responsible for a large bird kill in Dutchess County.

Scholarships - Stan Wecker reported good publicity for scholarships but poor response. Only one adult request was received. The Greenwich tuition is raised from \$495 to \$550. The Maine Camp for kids tuition is raised from \$695 to \$750. The Chappaqua Garden Club has been notified of the new costs. The recipient still pays a \$50 fee. SMRAS will support three youth scholarships. The Society paid for ~~Jennifer Gibson~~ ^{MICHAEL KORTMOLNER} to go to the DEC. ~~The Larry Light Fund provides \$1,930 for~~ scholarships. Stan made a motion for SMRAS to appropriate funds \$1,930.00

for three youth scholarships from the Larry Light Fund. Seconded and carried with one opposition.

Bird Seed - Jim Anderson reports only nine bags left.

Other - Jim Miller reported that the survey done in 1982 at the start of the Corry case does not have to be done again. It has been "agreed" that Corry is burdened with drawing up a new deed. Jim noted that there are lessons to be learned from this case. Accurate and running records must be kept. Some records for this case could not be used because they were incomplete. Revised property markers will have to be posted when the case is closed. The Board gave a vote of thanks to Jim Miller for his efforts on behalf of the Society. The Board also thanked all members who worked on the case through the years.

Stan Wecker said there were four openings left for the Delmarva trip in May. Stan reported the Westchester Land Trust is coordinating water monitoring programs. SMRAS sponsors Pleasantville Middle School. Stan got kits for the students and talked to them about hydrology. Community leaders will meet and reconcile watershed problems. Four meetings are planned.

Sophie Keyes reminded Board members to mail back the salmon colored proxy voting sheet as soon as possible. The proxy will be included in the Newsletter mailing.

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 4th, at the Lincolns.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.


Recording Secretary

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, April 4, 1996, at 7:30 PM, at the Lincolns, in Somers. Parking space is limited, so carpool if you can. Please call the Lincoln's, Tel. No. 277-8264, if you are unable to attend.

Directions: From intersection of Rts. 100 & 202 at Somers, go west on Rt. 202 about 1/4 mile to the Heritage Hills Westchester entrance on the right. Enter Heritage Hills and take the first left turn, West Hill Dr. Continue on West Hill Dr. through traffic light and up, up, and over the hill and down the other side to the first 900 numbers sign, on the right. Turn right and continue down to very bottom of the hill and #955C on the right.