

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
April 4, 1996

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM at the Lincoln home in Somers.

Directors Present - Anderson, Keyes, Berna and Stan Lincoln, Lunetta, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Nina and John McCall, Romaine, Smolin, Rita and Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim. Also present were Polly Kuhn and Jeff Pinerio.

Minutes of the March 6, 1996 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following corrections: Page 1, line 25, replace "duplicate" with "study"; Page 3, line 31, replace "8" with "9"; Line 61, replace "Jennifer Gibson" with "Mika Kortmulder"; Line 62, delete "The Larry Light Fund provides \$1,930 for scholarships."; Line 63, replace "funds" with "\$1,930".

Jim Anderson reported 879 memberships. There was one new member inquiry from Shrub Oak.

President's Report - Jim had nothing new to report regarding Crystal Springs. The title search should be done by the end of May. On April 3rd, Jim and the McCalls attended a luncheon meeting hosted by the Westchester Urban County Consortium. Successful use of block grant money was featured. The miscellaneous file material was briefly reviewed. A NAS video was available introducing Frank Gill, Sr. VP for Science. NAS Convention will be June 8-12, American University, Wash. DC. The convention will be followed by a Learning Lab, Chesapeake Bay and Pennsylvania, on June 12-14. Additional file material: American Birding Association - Teaming With Wildlife; Fed. of NY State Bird Club Awards; BIRDathon News; Treeline, Newsletter of Croton Arboretum & Sanctuary; International Migratory Bird Day - May 11th; Yonkers Audubon Newsletter.
Jim will be away on a short vacation beginning April 22nd.

President's Support Committee - Reevaluation of the functions of committees is underway. The committee plans guidelines for future use.

Treasurer's Report - Berna Lincoln is preparing the end of the fiscal year (March 31, 1996) formal financial reports and statements for the Annual Meeting. As of March 31st, she reports that the Operating Fund had a balance of \$6,828.74 and the Pinecliff Boardwalk Fund \$7,752.12. Berna distributed copies of the Operating Budget Performance Report for the full fiscal year, 4/1/95 - 3/31/96, and for the fourth quarter. Budgeted Total Revenue for the year was \$81,400. Actual Total Revenue for the year was \$71,455. Fourth quarter Actual

Revenue was \$11,306. Budgeted Total Expense for the year was \$82,480. Actual Total Expense for the year was \$75,142. Fourth quarter Actual Expense was \$15,299. To clarify this report, two attachments accompanied it. One attachment was an informal report showing more clearly how our general operations have been funded. It differs from the Budget Performance Report in that funding from the Bird Seed Sale is shown as net revenue: Bird Seed Sale gross revenue less Bird Seed Cost. Also, Revenue is separated into two categories. Revenue from operations provides about half of the money needed to support our operations. The other half comes from funding from the Endowment Fund and a drawdown of Operating Fund balance. This report showed Adjusted Budgeted Total Expense for the year was \$62,450, but \$54,339 was actually spent. There were significant savings on printing and postage costs. Budgeted Total Revenue from Operations for the year was \$32,350, but \$28,760 was actually realized. Budgeted Funding from Endowment Fund for the year was \$30,100, but \$21,892 was actually used. Actual Operating Fund Opening Balance Less Operating Fund Closing Balance was \$3,687. The second attachment was a breakdown of Pruyn House expenses. \$5,425 was budgeted for the year, but \$4,620 was actually spent. There was some discussion about results. Stan Lincoln pointed out that about \$10,000 less than the budgeted amount in the Operating Budget was actually spent. Stan Wecker thanked Berna for helping the Board understand the figures.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim had two handouts, the usual monthly Education Director's Report and a detailed summary of educational programs, completed and scheduled, for 1995-96. The expected total of students reached is 9,118. This includes the Mt. Kisco Camp classes. Three Eagle Scout projects are being completed, started or underway at Pruyn Sanctuary. Matt Carney continued work on the pond. Jon Flynn is putting finishing touches on the spring pool. A third scout works on the trail improvements to the Swamp View Trail. Anne is scheduled to give a birding class at the Scarsdale Adult School. Anne continues to find interesting notes on the Web.

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin commented on the spring pool at Pruyn. It is constantly fed by ground water and attracts birds and amphibians. The Pinecliff boardwalk project is almost completed. At Brinton, one fence company will give an estimate of repairs at Amberlands. The SMRAS trail is linked to the Croton Trail System. There is a small parking lot and the Trails committee will post signs.

Pinecliff Boardwalk - John McCall reported that the new section is 95% completed. Handrails and bumpers are now installed. The "handicapped only" parking spaces allow buses to easily drop off and pick up wheelchair people. Dedication of the boardwalk will be June 2nd.

Personnel Committee - John McCall reported three applicants for the office job, but only one person came for an interview. She later declined to take the job. Advertisements will be

placed again after Easter. The job calls for up to nine hours of work, three times a week. Salary would probably start at \$8.50.

Environmental Action Committee - Jim Anderson read a report sent by Pam McKown. The Armchair Activist issue for this month is State legislation to prohibit the use of lead fishing sinkers (less than an ounce in weight). Wildlife frequently ingest them. Assembly bill #A4197 and Senate bill #S3471 both would prohibit use of such sinkers. The Assembly bill also would make it illegal to dispose of monofilament fishing line on land or water. Armchair Activists can contact Senator Marcellino, Chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee. Pam reminds people that Earth Day Lobby Day in Albany is April 22nd. Pam has not had any response from Sue Kelly about setting up a meeting. There was a meeting at Teatown to discuss the use of mountain bikes on multiple use trails. Bikers want to use the Briarcliff Peekskill Trail, part of which goes through Teatown wetlands. Discussion was about safety and environmental impact. Bikers offered help in maintaining trails and educating the bike riders. Another meeting will take place in the fall.

Phone-a-thon - Nina McCall thanked all the people who helped on the fund drive. Donations of approximately \$3,000 have been received and a total of maybe \$6,000 to \$7,000 can be expected by the end of the year.

Budgets - Budget information is covered above under the Treasurer's Report. Committees are reminded to send in their budget forms. ~~Unspent money from Anne's Summer Camp was used for other school programs.~~ * Stan Wecker noted that next year's expense budget does not account for the necessary material orders for the camp. *FOR CLARIFICATION OF THIS, SEE MINUTES OF 5/2/96.

Scholarships - Stan Wecker reported that the Chappaqua Garden Club will continue to fund scholarships even though the cost has risen. The Club will fund \$445 this year and a full \$500 next year. Stan Lincoln suggested that Jennifer Gibson might be proposed for a Stoner Award from the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs.

Annual Meeting - The Annual Meeting is April 19th at Teatown. The program will be a talk and slide show about the Southwest by Jeff Main. Members were reminded to send in their proxy ballots. Peggy Frese will provide refreshments.

Bird Seed - Jim reported only five bags left. If these are not sold, Anne will take them.

Announcements - Sophie Keyes announced a May 1st deadline for the June-July-August Bulletin. Fall announcements will be in the Annual Schedule in Sept. Sophie also reported receiving calls regarding the field trip to the Hudson Valley Raptor Center. The trip is scheduled for April 20th. Midge Arnold will hold a Field Trip Committee meeting on May 14th at 7:30 PM. Anne Swaim and Pam McKown will attend the NY Audubon

Council meeting. Rita Wecker announced a Finance Committee meeting on April 25th. Stan Wecker reported 24 people signed up for the Delmarva peninsula trip on the weekend of May 17-19. Many of the participants are beginning birders so Stan feels he will need some help with the trip. He has asked Mike Lolya, but doesn't know yet if he can make it. Stan wondered if the Society could help defray some of Mike's expenses if he makes the trip. Stan Wecker motioned that SMRAS appropriate, if necessary, \$135 to defray room expenses of a second leader for the Delmarva trip. Seconded, 7 votes for, and 4 against. Stan Lincoln motioned that the Field Trip Committee establish a policy to keep field trip attendance consistent with the number of leaders available. Seconded and carried, 2 opposed.

Reports of old or new business - Now that the fiscal year is over, Stan Lincoln, as Historian, needs to update the Director's Handbook, give new Board members a Handbook, update archives, etc. Committee evaluations will be added to the book. Suggestions are welcome. Stan wants to build an archive for the Pinecliff Disabled Accessible Boardwalk project. Stan Wecker reported no more public programs until fall. He welcomes suggestions.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 8th, at the McCalls.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Joyce MacNeil
Recording Secretary

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, May 8th, at 7:30 PM at the McCalls. Please call Tel. No. 238-5203 if you are unable to attend.

Directions: Take the Saw Mill River Parkway and get off at the Chappaqua exit. Hamilton Road is on the west side of the parkway, directly behind the statue of Horace Greeley. The McCalls address is 260 Hamilton Road.