

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
May 8, 1996

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM at the McCall home. He welcomed new Board members, Herb Bloom, Polly Kuhn, Louis Langdon, and Jeff Pinerio.

Directors Present - Anderson, Arnold, Bloom, Kuhn, Langdon, Berna and Stan Lincoln, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Nina and John McCall, McKown, Pinerio, Romaine, Smolin, Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim.

Minutes of the April 4, 1996 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following changes: Page 1, line 19, delete "realized" and insert "used"; Page 3, under Budgets, line 31 & 32 delete entire sentence starting with "Unspent" and ending with "programs". Stan Wecker wrote the following clarification for the minutes concerning the Education program, "Because some orders for the Education program were placed late in the 1995-96 fiscal year, the invoices will not actually be paid until after the books closed on March 31, 1996. This means that the cost of the items in question will be charged against the Apr.1-Dec.31 Education budget. Stan Wecker expressed concern that this could lead to a potential short fall and suggested that the Apr.1st to Dec.31st Education budget be increased accordingly. After prolonged discussion, the matter was tabled by mutual agreement, without a vote. Stan was instructed to come back to the Board with a request at the end of the year, if and when additional funding is actually needed."

Minutes of the April 19, 1996 Annual Meeting were accepted without correction.

Mailbag - Martin Smolin commented on the NAS chapter wetlands survey that was prepared by Anne Swaim. Sanctuaries were surveyed. Items included in the report: the acquisition of the Crystal Spring property, Choate wetland stewardship (lease), the impact of Hudson Golf Course on the Brinton property, and wetland educational programs. The Westchester Land Trust has set up a board to coordinate community water monitoring programs in the middle Hudson valley. The idea is to bring together financial and technical people in communities to monitor and protect the watersheds. Children at Pleasantville elementary and middle schools are participating in the monitoring of water, on a regular basis, in the Saw Mill River area. Data collected will be shared with other local schools participating in the project. In connection with International Migratory Bird Day Survey, members were reminded about the guided Monday morning walks to local birding spots to observe migrants. The walks are Monday, May 13 to Friday, May 17th. Other mailbag items included miscellaneous NAS reports and meetings, NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation material, Audubon Adventures and congressional activity information.

Jim reported current memberships at 881.

Stan Lincoln distributed Director's Handbooks to the four new

Board members. Also distributed to all the Board members, for file in the Handbook, were updated pages on various subjects and explanatory notes.

Treasurer's Report - Berna Lincoln commented about items in the fiscal year end treasurer's reports. During discussion of the "Notes", there was objection to the use of the word "improper", under #2 Operating Fund, second line. The Board decided to delete that word. Related to this, "improperly" should also be deleted from #5 Pinecliff Boardwalk Fund, first sentence. The Balance Sheet 3/31/96 showed Total Liabilities & Net Assets of \$653,580.33. The Statement of Support, Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets 3/31/96 showed Total Support & Revenue of \$128,710.13 and Total Expenses of \$90,478.53. Total Fund Balances were: Operating = \$6,828.74, Endowment = \$621,479.42, Pinecliff Boardwalk = \$7,752.12, Larry Light Memorial = \$17,502.05, and Sanctuaries & House = \$18.00. John McCall thanked Berna, on behalf of the whole Board, for her efforts.

Fund Raising - Nina McCall had nothing new to report. Berna said approximately \$4,700 was raised, including matching grants.

Finance Committee - Rita Wecker was not at the meeting but sent a written Investment Portfolio Performance Report for 3/31/96, showing a market value of \$697,981. John McCall said the Finance Committee was pleased with results and, for the first time, expected the portfolio to be over \$700,000.

Pinecliff Dedication - Nina McCall reviewed plans for the Disabled Accessible Boardwalk dedication. Invitations were mailed to Pinecliff neighbors for a kind of open house on Saturday, June 1st, 11:00 to 2:00 PM. There will be environmental demonstrations and displays. Invitations were mailed for the actual dedication on Sunday, June 2nd at 2:00 PM. Volunteer workers, contributors, Board members, and officials involved with the project, were invited. Invitation samples were passed around. Anne Swaim is preparing interpretive signs for the boardwalk. The Taconic Garden Club donated 48 native ferns from Lyndhurst, and they were planted at Pinecliff. Nina requested help from all Board members and asked people to carpool. Nina has applied for a grant from Chase Bank to fund landscaping at the sanctuary. John McCall spoke with Charles Glover, a neighboring property owner, who was concerned about privacy on his land. He agreed that hemlocks planted on the sanctuary property would be a good screen for his property.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported heavy school programming. She is enthusiastic about a new school, Hillcrest in Peekskill. Some adult programs (charged at \$40 hour) were: The Birding Workshop, two presentations at Weinberg Nature Center, Westchester Land Trust Teachers' Workshop and Scarsdale Adult school. Six sterile grass carp are now swimming at Pinecliff and are expected to control the algal slick. Anne prepared a new Pinecliff map and distributed copies.

Sanctuaries Report - Martin Smolin had no update from Jim Miller regarding the Corry Case at Graff. The new "Jack in the Pulpit" trail at Graff needs some plantings. Martin spoke to Mr. Brisson and Dr. Aggarwal about Crystal Springs. SMRAS has until June 1st to file for tax exemption. Dr. Aggarwal agreed to payment of

taxes. He will also remove trash and structures. This work should be put in the agreement with a definite completion date. The stone wall will be left in tact on one spring house. Mr. Brisson says the new deed should waive all rights to access by the seller and SMRAS. The old deed allowed right of access for carts. An original estimate of \$2,650 was received from Carjen of Peekskill for fence repair at Brinton-Amberlands. This estimate was reduced to \$2,200. SMRAS is responsible for any repairs. There are six major breaks. Martin is concerned about the cost since only \$500 is budgeted. Jeff Pinerio thought the job could be done for less and suggested that Martin contact other companies. Martin made a motion for the Board to authorize an expenditure of up to \$2,200 to repair the fence at Amberlands, with one opening. Seconded and carried. The expenditure will be covered under "Sanctuary Repairs". There was discussion about establishing a contingency fund in the budget to make it easier to handle unexpected expenditures. Anne Swaim brought up the problem of grass cutting and the need for a new tractor. After much debate, it was generally agreed that grass mowing should be contracted out. John McCall made a motion for the Board to permit grass cutting at Pruyne to be contracted out now. Then the problem is referred to a House Committee (when formed) to study the situation and report back to the Board. Seconded and carried. Stan Lincoln felt the Board should realize that it is necessary to contract out mowing and snow removal at Pruyne. Berna reminded the Board that she needs a W9 form and a Social Security number for any hired worker. Martin discussed the problems at Brinton Brook. The Croton Planning Board is furious at Hudson National but is powerless to enforce anything. SMRAS would like the buffer zone restored. Hudson National wants to open for Mother's Day. The elected officials can stop it if they want to, but Croton is in favor of the golf course. Louis Langdon suggested that since Brinton flows into the Hudson, perhaps the Hudson River Keeper could be helpful. Martin will contact him.

Personnel Committee - John McCall gave an update on the office worker search. Twelve calls were received as a result of a Pennysaver ad. Six were interested and John sent them job descriptions. Lois Skelly officially resigned, effective June 1.

Birdseed Sale - Jim reported all the seed was sold. Profit not quite \$10,000. For the next sale he might consider a mess mix" of chips, "no hearts and corn.

Environmental Action - Pam McKown reported that at the Audubon Council meeting important birding places were identified. The NY State office is up and running. Pam and Polly Kuhn attended the Albany Lobby Day on April 22nd. The purpose was to block state programs that will hurt the environment and to lobby for new and effective laws for protection. Some issues were Adirondack Park Council, an environmental protection fund, composting and recycling. Sue Kelly supports a dangerous bill called National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act. This bill would allow mining and logging, etc. in the refuges. We need bills to protect wildlife. Pam spoke

about a proposed bottling plant operation, on 43 acres of Hearst property in North Castle that might have a detrimental impact on the County's Cranberry Lake Preserve. ABW Investors has applied for a special use permit and proposes bottling 100,000 gallons of

water a day from Quarry Lake. Pam suggested that individuals write to the County and urge that the special use permit be denied. Since this property is in Bedford Audubon's region, we should support their efforts to monitor this project.

Education Committee and Field Trips - Stan Wecker noted the end of the program year and asked members to submit new ideas. Midge Arnold reported 18 people went on the Hudson Valley Raptor Center field trip, April 20th. Stan reported 24 people signed up for the Delmarva Peninsula trip on May 17-19. Mike Lolya will not be able to make the trip. There is some money in the budget for trips, but Stan is considering charging participants \$5.00 to help defray the cost of information packets. Birding Big Day is May 11th. Midge is leading a canoe trip on the Croton River May 25th. Midge announced a Field Trip Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 14th at 7:30 PM.

Other - Stan Lincoln welcomes any updates for the Handbook. Alice Maram is still sick - get well cards would be welcome. The next Board meeting will be combined with a picnic at the Arnolds on June 5th. Picnic at 6:00 and meeting at 8:00 PM. Spouses and significant others are invited. Please call Jim Anderson if you plan to bring a guest. Bring your own hamburgers or main dish. Salads and desserts can be shared, and beverages will be provided. Carpooling would be appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 PM.


Recording Secretary

The next Board meeting and picnic is Wednesday, June 5th, at 6:00 PM, at the home of Midge and Bill Arnold, 812 Pinesbridge Road, Ossining. Please call the Arnolds if you are unable to attend. The telephone number is 762-0689.

Directions: From the intersection of Pinesbridge Road and the Taconic Parkway, go east on Pinesbridge Road about one mile. There is an exit to Pinesbridge Road on the Taconic from the northbound lane only. There is no exit from the southbound lane. When traveling east, the Arnold home is on the right and the number "812" is on the blue mailbox.