

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
June 5, 1996

President Anderson welcomed all members and guests and called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM at the Arnold home.

Directors Present - Anderson, Arnold, Bloom, Keyes, Kuhn, Langdon, Lunetta, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Nina and John McCall, McKown, Pinerio, Romaine, Smolin, Walker, Rita and Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim. Also present were the following guests: Joann and Neil Arena, Larry Bickford, Jo Lunetta and Carol Coggeshall.

Minutes of the May 8, 1996 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following changes: Page 1, line 44, delete "lower" and insert "middle"; Page 3, line 52, insert "Council" after Park; line 53, delete "Super" and insert "protection"; line 58, delete "would" and insert "might".

Jim reported current membership at 898.

Treasurer's Report - There was no report since Berna Lincoln was out of town. Jim Anderson will keep the books until Berna returns. Any questions should be referred to him.

President's Report - Jim reported that the Crystal Springs deed should be ready for transfer by July. The Planning Board has approved the redistribution of land into five sites. The fifth site will be SMRAS property. The assessor will work out the tax distribution. Dr. Aggarwal has agreed to pay '96 and '97 taxes. Bob Brisson is working on the transfer. SMRAS has until June 1, 1997 to file for tax exemption. Jim reported work is progressing on the reevaluation of committee functions. A report should be ready for the September meeting. Available for reading was a paper by Jeffrey Wells: NAS NY Field Office Launching Important Bird Areas Program. Jim announced a Block Grant deadline, but there were no new requests. Jim received a phone call from Alice Maram expressing regret for being unable to attend the meeting. She is still not quite up to par, but hopes to be back in the fall.

Committee Assignments - Jim circulated copies of proposed committee assignments and encouraged discussion. Audit Committee consists of two members, but only one can be a Board member. Polly Kuhn will chair if she is needed. Development/Planning needs a chair. Nina McCall said she would work, but did not want to chair. Jon Goplerud is off the Environmental Action Committee. Insurance Committee will be chaired by Don Lunetta with Jo Lunetta's assistance. Also on that committee will be Stan Lincoln, Jim Miller and Jeff Pinerio. Membership will be chaired

by Polly Kuhn. She will meet with the committee to set goals. One objective will be to increase the core of active people in the Society. The Nominating Committee is strictly defined. It consists of three members (only one can be a Board member). Julie Amaral is a possible candidate. Nina McCall said she would help. A committee must be formed by September. Jeff Pinerio will chair the Pruyn House Committee. There was a short discussion about combining Pruy House and Arboretum into one committee. Jeff said he would work with Midge Arnold and Anne Swaim as a team. Martin Smolin will join the Personnel Committee. Tom MacNair will do Publicity. Sanctuary Committee, Members at Large, will add Anne Swaim and delete Nina McCall.

\*ACTUALLY  
ELECTED BY THE  
BOARD AT THE  
SEPT. 11, 1996 MTG.  
(SEE MINUTES)

John McCall made a motion for the Board to approve the same Summer Executive Committee as last summer (Jim Anderson, Martin Smolin, Joyce MacNair and Stan Wecker) to serve over the summer until the next Board meeting. Seconded and carried.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported a busy month with lots of meetings. Anne represented SMRAS in NY Audubon Council work as part of a statewide effort on Audubon environmental education planning through phone conference and report preparation. Anne was on the judging committee at Pace for awarding the first annual Green Award. She will attend the NAS Convention. Mt. Kisco summer camp work begins June 24th.

Field Trip Committee - Midge Arnold reported a poor showing for the canoe trip on the Croton River. The MacNairs and Mickey Spano participated. The last trip of the 1995-96 season will be lead by Trudy Battaly on July 21st. Butterflies will be counted at Brinton Brook.

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin reported that the fence at Brinton/Amberlands will be repaired by Carjen and should be completed by September. Martin and Anne Swaim attended two Croton Planning Board meetings. Hudson National Golf Course and its impact on Brinton Sanctuary was discussed at the meeting. Permission to open the Course for three days, June 8 - 10, was granted by the Board. The Village of Croton purchased 100 acres of Hudson River land (Buchanan - Senesqua Park). Croton is trying to get the public interested in a July clean up day and Martin would like SMRAS to show support for the project. The Board was in agreement. Regarding an update on the Corry property, Martin spoke with Mrs. Corry's lawyer. He agreed to draw up the property deed.

SECRET  
PROPERTY

Pruyn House Committee - Jeff Pinerio met with Anne at Pruy House. It seemed obvious that house repairs were neglected for some time. The interior has water damage and bathrooms and kitchen need work. The exterior needs new siding and the garage needs repair. Jeff will give Jim a written outline of the needed work, and will have a

better idea of the approximate cost in a few weeks. The Board was in favor of going ahead with the work and gave Jeff the okay to start interior repairs.

Pinecliff Boardwalk Dedication - Nina McCall gave a brief report on the June 2nd dedication. It was a lovely day and the boardwalk looked great. About 50 people attended, including local and county officials, the media, and other invited guests. Don Lunetta voiced his concern about vandalism in the sanctuary. He feels that SMRAS should have some plan of action to handle this. Anne thought perhaps a neighborhood watch committee could be formed.

Personnel Committee - John McCall reported ten responses from Pennysaver ads. There were two finalists. Christine Nykwest was hired. She will work Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings (9:00 to 12:00), at \$8.50 an hour. She will be on probation until mid September, and if her work is satisfactory, her salary will be raised \$.50 an hour. The need for a second workstation in the SMRAS office was discussed. Anne has researched computers and printers and briefed the Board on her recommendations. By mail order, a computer and printer could be purchased for about \$1500. John McCall ~~mentioned~~<sup>MOVED</sup> that the Board authorize the purchase of a computer and printer, and related costs, at an expenditure of up to \$1500. Seconded and carried with one opposing vote.

Environmental Action Committee - Pam McKown reported the Activist concern for June was Sterling Forest. A purchase price of 55 million dollars for 90% of the land has been agreed upon. Pam urged members to write to Congress and ask to have Bill #HR400 brought to the floor for a vote. Cranberry Lake Preserve is the second concern. Meetings have been held in North Castle and Harrison to study the impact of a water bottling plant at Quarry Lake proposed by A.B.W. Investors. Quarry Lake is located on a 45 acre estate presently owned by Veronica Hearst. Quarry Lake water runs into Cranberry Lake and feeds Kensico Reservoir. <sup>we</sup> ~~The County recommends~~<sup>to SR</sup> a full Environmental Impact Study. Lori Hoffman, Conservation Chair of Central Westchester Audubon, is drawing up a letter to have the property next to the Hearst land (which was bought by the County for open space) dedicated as "Park Land". Lori hopes SMRAS will support Central Westchester and Bedford in this cause. Martin Smolin made a motion for the Board to join in the signing of a letter to Westchester County together with Bedford and Central Westchester Audubon Societies supporting the protection of Cranberry Lake. Seconded and carried. Carol Coggeshall told the Board about a new farming concept called "Whole Farm Planning". The DEC hopes to try this plan in the New York City watershed lands. Farmers can volunteer to join the plan in which they would be paid to hire expert people to advise them on the best way to manage their farm to prevent pollution. The DEC is doing an inventory of farms east of the Hudson. The aim of this plan is to avoid

filtration of the New York City water system.

Deadline for Bulletin - Sophie Keyes announced a July 1st deadline for the September bulletin. Included will be the schedule for the year and committee lists. Immediately following will be the bi-monthly newsletter. Chapter mailing labels, not NAS, will be used.

Old or New Business - Tom MacNair reported publicity on the Pinecliff disabled walk in local newspapers. Rita Wecker announced that the market value of the SMRAS portfolio is now over \$700,000.

On behalf of the Board, Jim Anderson thanked the Arnolds for hosting the annual picnic. He wished everyone a good summer.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 1996 at 7:30 PM, at Polly Kuhn's home.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 PM.

*Joyce MacNair*  
Recording Secretary

The Board meeting on Wednesday, September 11th, at 7:30 PM will be at Polly Kuhn's. Polly's address is 58 Spring Lane, Chappaqua. Please call Polly if you are unable to attend. The telephone number is 238-3733.

Directions: Spring Lane is located off Route 120 (Quaker St.), about 1/8 mile north of the last traffic light out of Chappaqua. Polly's house is located at the end of Spring Lane..