

Saw Mill River Audubon Society  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
September 11, 1996

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. The meeting was held in Polly Kuhn's home.

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

Minutes of the June 5, 1996 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following changes: Page 2, line 48, after "project" insert "by co-sponsoring"; Page 2, line 49, delete "Martin" and insert "Jim Miller"; Page 3, line 25, delete "motioned" and insert "moved"; Page 3, line 41, delete "the County recommends" and insert "We want the County to do".

Jim reported current membership at 920.

President's Report - Jim reported that Dr. Aggarwal has not yet signed the transfer papers for the Crystal Spring property adjoining Pruyn Sanctuary. We hope to have them by the end of the year and not later than February '97. Jim told the Board about an incident regarding Fidelity that points up the need to constantly monitor our funds. Berna Lincoln received an unauthorized change of address notice for our Fidelity fund. The address was changed to South Padre Island, Texas. Berna promptly corrected this and SMRAS will get a new account number. It is unclear whether this was just a mistake or some kind of fraud. The next Audubon Council meeting and banquet is Saturday, Sept. 28th., Bear Mountain Inn. Pam McKown and Anne Swaim will attend. Sign up sheets for hosting the public programs and monthly Board meetings were passed around. Miscellaneous materials will be filed in the office from now on. Of interest among the various materials was a July NY Bureau of Wildlife report and the first issue of a new Audubon publication called "Advocate".

Environmental Action Committee - Pam McKown discussed Suzanna Dwyer's letter calling for better protection for endangered species and the NAS Fact Sheets regarding proposed bills introduced in this Congress that would significantly undermine the protections of the Endangered Species Act. Authorizing legislation for the ESA expired in 1993 and since then numerous attempts have been made to pass new legislation but no bill has passed either house of Congress. Support is needed now to convince the 104th Congress to pass a reauthorization bill that strengthens and fortifies the ESA. This bill is called Endangered Natural Heritage Act (ENHA) and was drafted by members of the Endangered Species Coalition, of which Audubon is a member. The bill will strengthen protections for declining species (and plants) before they need the full protection of the ESA. Pam read a resolution from the Audubon Council of NY State supporting the passage of the Endangered Natural Heritage Act. Martin Smolin made the following motion: SMRAS endorses and

supports the resolution of the Audubon Council of NY State to encourage Congressional passage of the reauthorization bill called The Endangered Natural Heritage Act. Seconded and carried with no opposition. Pam had good news about the proposed water bottling plant at Quarry Lake (property owned by V. Hearst), near Cranberry Lake Preserve. A.B.W. Investors have withdrawn their proposal. Westchester County land next to the Hearst property will be designated park land for County use. The September Activist subject - the NY State \$1.75 billion Bond Issue that will be on the ballot in November. This will provide funding for clean air and water and open space. A "yes" vote is recommended. At the Council meeting, Audubon passed a resolution to support passage of the Bond issue.

Treasurer's Report - Berna Lincoln reported that a new account will be opened and made the following motion: The Board directs the Recording Secretary to sign and seal a corporate resolution designating any two of the persons currently holding the following offices: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board, to act on behalf of the corporation in connection with any Vanguard US Treasury Portfolio shares owned by the corporation. Seconded and carried. Berna reminded the Board that the nine-month fiscal year will be ending soon, Dec. 31st. A new Budget for 1997 must be approved at the Dec. meeting. A report of performance against approved Operating Budget for the second period (4/1 - 6/30) was sent out. The Budget Committee should meet in October to plan for the following year's budget. Federal form 990 for last year was filed. SMRAS met the criteria for a publicly supported organization - based on the preceding four years, 37.17% publicly supported financially. We should not operate on the interest, we still have to ask for contributions. As of 8/31 the Operating Fund was \$2,860.65 and the Pinecliff Fund was \$2,959.21. Mr. Larsen has not started his audit of the Society's books yet, but the audit should be done by the Nov. meeting.

Finance Committee - Rita Wecker reported good results for the Society's portfolio for the period 7/1/95 to 6/30/96 - 16.11%. By comparison the benchmark return (Balanced Fund Average) was 15.06%. At their last meeting, committee members decided to make portfolio changes. Fidelity Asset Manager will be sold. Money will be added to Janus Fund, T.Rowe <sup>Asset</sup> International, <sup>Asset</sup> and Vanguard Index 500. Scudder ST Bond fund will be sold and the money put into the Vanguard US Treasury Money Market Fund. Rita gave some background information regarding a motion she was making regarding the management of funds. In order to access funds easily for operating expense in the event of a market decline, her committee recommends changing the guideline specifying "not less than 10% of SMRAS's endowment shall be invested in fixed income securities such as Treasury Notes and CDs." Rita's motion: On behalf of the Finance Committee, I move that a new guideline, Number 8, be added to the SMRAS document titled, "Policy and Guidelines for Management of Funds", dated February 7, 1996. It shall read as follows:

8. In order to provide adequate cash for operating expenses in the event of extended market declines, approximately

twice the annual budgeted amount of withdrawals from the Endowment Fund shall be invested in highly liquid assets such as money market funds and short term fixed income securities such as CDs and Treasuries.

The motion was seconded and carried with no opposition. It was noted by the Board that the guideline change was well thought out.

Insurance Committee - Don Lunetta was not present, but it was noted that the Certificate of Insurance for programs policy runs out in December.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim reported that Camp Iroquois in Mt Kisco ran for 6 instead of 7 weeks because of inclement weather. Pinecliff walk was in use and enjoyed by a group from Yonkers, New Castle Seniors, Chappaqua Garden Group, three school groups and BOCES program. The Hudson National Golf Course problems continue at Brinton. Monitoring is being done at the Birchwood Club in connection with the Aggerwal property transfer. Anne said Chris Nyquest works quite independently now and handles the office in an efficient and helpful manner. The new computer is up and running. Chris is using the older one. Among publications produced this summer were school program brochures, Calendar of Events, Newsletter and Rockefeller Park bird brochure. Over 300 phone calls were answered or returned in the chapter office. Articles about Trimax have prompted some calls, one from Ocean City. Anne thanked Jeff Pinerio for the house repairs at Pruyn.

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin reported SMRAS co-sponsored a clean up day on Aug. 10th on newly purchased land (former Sepreo property) by the Village of Croton on a strip between the railroad tracks and the Hudson River. There was publicity. SMRAS was noticed in news articles. The fence is repaired at Brinton and Amberlands. A new map is needed to show new entrance. Troubles with Hudson National Golf Course continue. The course is open all week now. Exotic trees have not been replaced. The water board is angered about a dam being lowered two feet and is watching the situation. Croton is planning to clean up the Croton River, so Martin made a motion: Propose that SMRAS support Croton efforts to clean up the littoral, on the Croton side of the Croton River. Seconded and carried.

Seed Sale - Jim Anderson passed around samples of a new "no mess mix" (chips, peanut bits and corn) that will be tried this year. A new supplier will be used. Some volunteers are still needed for the sale on Oct.19th and 20th.

Nominating Committee - Nina McCall asked everyone to be looking for new people to work on next year's Board. To confirm action taken at the last Board meeting, Jim Anderson made a motion: To confirm action taken June 5, 1996, the Board officially elects the Nominating Committee, consisting of Nina McCall, Chair, and Julie Amaral and Jo Lunetta. Seconded and carried.

Pruyn House Committee - Jeff Pinerio reported his committee has

not met yet, but he has consulted with Midge Arnold and Dean DiMauro about the problems with the house and property. Interior moisture in the house mandated repairs. Exhaust fans have been installed and a basement door replaced. An electrician will need to be hired for the electrical work. Jeff estimates about \$500 to \$600 has been spent, and he will need about \$1,000 more to do the job. Martin Smolin made a motion: The Board authorizes Jeff Pinerio to hire an electrician to do the electrical work at Pruyn House. Seconded and carried. Jeff Pinerio made a motion: Requests another \$1,000 for Pruyn House repairs and paint. Seconded and carried. Stan Wecker suggested that Jeff include "wish list" projects in next year's budget.

Other - The public meeting Sept. 26th will be hosted by Louis Langdon and Jim Anderson. Sophie Keyes thanked everyone for promptly submitting articles. The Oct/Nov Bulletin deadline is ~~being prepared now~~. Stan Wecker said Peggy Frese is the Hospitality person. Meeting places for public meetings are still being sought. Chappaqua Library is very busy and booked far in advance. Other possibilities might be Town Hall or New Castle Community Center. The Light Scholarship committee met. Recent recipients have been invited to give informal talks. The October public meeting will be at the Warner Library. Herb Bloom said his photo ~~committee~~ met twice. They had an interesting session with Trudy Battaly and the butterfly count. Herb thought he might keep a record of SMRAS activities on slides that could be shown.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

  
Recording Secretary

The next Board meeting is on Wednesday, October 9, 1996, at 7:30 PM. at Jeff Pinerio's home. Jeff's address is 91 Seven Bridges Road, Chappaqua. Please call Jeff if you are unable to attend the meeting. The telephone number is 242-0701.

Directions: The Pinerio's house is a white colonial with a pink door. #91 Seven Bridges Road is at Ludlow Drive. It can be reached by traveling south on Route 133 or north on Route 120.