

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
October 9, 1996

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

Directors Present - Anderson, Arnold, Bloom, Keyes, Kuhn, Langdon, Berna and Stan Lincoln, Lunetta, Joyce and Tom MacNair, Maram, Miller, Pinerio, Romaine, Smolin, Rita and Stan Wecker and Naturalist Anne Swaim.

Minutes of the September 11, 1996 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following changes: Page 2, line 30, delete "can't" and insert "should not"; line 42, after "Rowe" insert "Price" and after "International" insert "stock"; line 48, before "guideline" insert "obsolete"; Page 3, line 55, after "Lunetta" insert "Seconded and carried".

Jim reported current membership at 969.

President's Report - Jim received a letter from David Miller recertifying Saw Mill River Audubon Society's membership in the national society. Mr. Miller praised the chapter report submitted by Jim Anderson. He noted the good works accomplished by SMRAS. Rick Werwaiss, Director of Development, NY State Field Office of NAS, offers fund raising help for the chapters. He is forming a stewardship committee. Jim asked the Board to think about a response to his request. Miscellaneous material included "Membership Matters," the September Bulletin, a killdeer article, and a Huntington Audubon Bulletin.

Treasurer's Report - Berna Lincoln attended a post office seminar regarding recent changes for mailings. Costs will be about 8% more per piece. Periodicals will be the same rate. As of Sept. 30th, the balance in the Pinecliff Fund was \$2,915.21. The balance in the Operating Fund was \$12,248.89 (\$4,983.20 is prepaid bird seed money). The third quarter (7/1 - 9/30), and year to date fiscal year 1996, budget comparison report was handed out. Revenues budgeted was \$48,248. Actual for 7/1-9/30 was \$13,373, and for year to date was \$29,630 (61%). Expenses budgeted was \$47,828. Actual for 7/1-9/30 was \$14,104, and for year to date was \$29,456 (62%). There was a surplus of \$420. Because of the Fidelity fund's unauthorized address change, on 8/20 our old account number was canceled and a new number assigned. New signature papers have to be prepared to access our account. Berna presented the following motion: The Board directs the Recording Secretary to sign and seal two corporate resolutions designating any 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 and all shares in any and all mutual funds of Fidelity Investments owned by the corporation, one of which resolutions specifically

establishes the ability to make direct transfers between Fidelity accounts and the corporation's checking account at The Bank of New York. The Board further directs the Treasurer to sign, with signature guarantees, authorizations to implement the above corporate resolutions. Seconded and carried.

Insurance - Insurance renewal is due in December. SMRAS has a normal liability policy (we have the actual policy), and a \$1 million umbrella policy (we do not have a copy). Don Lunetta talked about safety and liability at the Pinecliff sanctuary. Some discussion followed. Jim Miller said there were some protections in the law but liability was possible. Martin Smolin said his committee would look into better designed safety signs for the sanctuaries. Stan Wecker noted that since our policies expire in December, a decision should be made at the next Board meeting about any changes to be made. Stan Lincoln suggested that perhaps the umbrella policy should be raised to \$2 million. The Insurance Committee will meet and bring its recommendations to the next Board meeting.

Personnel Committee - John McCall sent the Board a note about insurance for Dean DiMauro. It seems the State Insurance Fund wants SMRAS to pay Worker's Compensation for Dean, even though he declares himself an independent contractor. Berna will discuss this with John McCall and the Personnel Committee.

Audit on Pinecliff Boardwalk - Jim Anderson received a letter from Lynn Oliva regarding grant money awarded for the Pinecliff boardwalk and requesting an audit. Berna will confer with John McCall and do the audit.

Environmental Action Committee - Jim had a written report from Pam McKown. A meeting is planned at Teatown on Oct. 28th to discuss trail use and mountain bikes. Mt. bikers are trying to open more trails to biking. Part of the Briarcliff-Peekskill trail goes through Teatown wetlands. The presence of more Audubon people would be helpful. Members are urged to vote "yes" on Nov. 5th for the NY State \$1.75 billion Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act. NYC Audubon Society plans to publish a letter in the NY Times urging public support of the \$1.75 billion Bond Act, endorsed by Audubon chapters. They want to add SMRAS to the list of chapters. Jim Anderson proposed the following motion: SMRAS officially endorses and supports the publication of a letter in the NY Times urging a "yes" vote on the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act. Seconded and carried.

September New York Council Meeting - Anne Swaim gave a report on the highlights of the Audubon Council meeting held at Bear Mt. Inn, 9/28. Gov. Pataki was a guest speaker and he spoke about environmental issues. He announced that Congress had just passed the bill approving matching federal funds for the purchase of the Sterling Forest tract. Rick Werwaiss, Director of Development, spoke about his plans to work with the local chapters.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim continues educational outreach. She had a busy September with classes, among others, at Pace University, Chappaqua Garden Club and Hackley School. October school bookings are good (Pawling and Peekskill schools included). Anne worked with Chris Nyquest indexing all SMRAS files. A new school brochure "1996-97 Audubon Classroom and Outdoor Programs", was circulated. Anne reported a lot of tree damage in the sanctuaries due to recent storms (especially at Choate and Graff).

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin reported Hudson National Golf will not begin replanting the clear cut at Brinton this fall, but will do it over three planting seasons. He plans a tentative committee meeting October 24th to discuss the budget. Jim Miller reported no further progress on the Corry case. He is still waiting for the deed from the attorney.

Membership Committee - Jim Anderson received a letter from NAS congratulating SMRAS on significantly surpassing last year's membership. The "Bronze Award" included a \$25 gift certificate good for a purchase at the NAS store.

Pruyn House Committee - Jeff Pinerio reported completion of the house electrical work. Painting will begin soon. A volunteer work day might be possible. His committee will meet soon to discuss work and budget matters.

Seed Sale - Jim Anderson placed an order for 31 tons of seed from a new supplier in Middletown. Volunteer schedules are set up for the sale.

Next Board Meeting - Jim said a host for next month's meeting was needed. Sophie Keyes volunteered her home for Nov. 6th.

By-Law Amendment - Stan Lincoln gave each Board member an official notification of a proposed By-Laws Amendment which will be submitted for consideration at the November meeting. This amendment is to implement the decision of the Board of Directors made at its meeting of Feb. 7, 1996. The current wording of Article X: Fiscal Year, is replaced in its entirety with: "The fiscal year of the Society shall commence at the beginning of the first day of January of each calendar year and end at the conclusion of the thirty-first day of December of that year." Stan reminded the Board that it is required to officially elect an Audit Committee. Stan Lincoln's motion: The Board officially elects Polly Kuhn and Martha Child to the Audit Committee. Seconded and carried.

Copy for next Bulletin due by November 6th Board Meeting - Sophie Keyes would like the Calendar Sheet of Programs and Field Trips in by Nov. 6th.

Old or New Business - Herb Bloom reported his photo group will meet in the next week and will discuss the problem of converting slides into prints. He proposes a fall foliage trip. Polly Kuhn announced a LWV political debate with

Sue Kelly and local and state candidates for election. The debate is Oct. 28th at the Chappaqua Library. Martin Smolin suggested that SMRAS should co-sponsor other chapter programs and invite co-sponsorship of our public programs. Better attendance might result from this sharing of programs and ideas. Stan Wecker needs Spring Programs for the next Bulletin. Three scholarship winners spoke to Board members before the Sept. 26th public meeting. Stan would like Friday night public meetings in the fall (3rd Friday night available at the Congregational Church) and Saturday meetings in winter months.

Jim Anderson thanked Jeff Pinerio for his hospitality and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Joyce MacLari
Recording Secretary

The next Board meeting is on Wednesday, November 6, 1996, at 7:30 PM at the home of Sophie Keyes. Sophie's address is 209 Barnes St., Ossining. Please call Sophie if you are unable to attend the meeting. The telephone number is 762-2569.

Directions: From the intersection of Pinesbridge Road and the Taconic Parkway, travel east about one mile on Pinesbridge Road. Turn left on to Chadeayne Road and then take a left on to Syska Road. Proceed on Syska Road a short distance to the end, then turn right on Barnes Street. Sophie's home is immediately on the left.

There is an exit to Pinesbridge Road from the Taconic Parkway northbound, but not southbound.