

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
November 6, 1996

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. The meeting was held in Sophie Keyes' home.

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

Minutes of the October 9, 1996 Board Meeting were reviewed and accepted with the following changes: Page 1, line 34, delete "requests" and "from" and insert "offers" and "for"; line 44, delete the decimal point in ".8%"; Page 2, line 16, after "designed", insert "safety".

Jim reported current membership at 882.

President's Report - Jim asked for volunteers to host Board meetings in December and January. The McCalls volunteered their home for December 4th. Stan Wecker will find a meeting place for the January 8th meeting. Miscellaneous material included articles about job opportunities at NAS ecology camps and workshops, Membership Matters, October Bulletin, Killdeer and Huntington Audubon Bulletin. Jim reminded members that the SMRAS office maintains files of newsletters and other mail.

Treasurer's Report - Berna Lincoln reported that as of October 31st, the Operating Fund balance was \$8,405.34, and the Pinecliff Fund balance was \$2,915.21. She reported that Mr. Larsen was working on auditing the books.

Insurance Committee - Jim will contact Don Lunetta to discuss insurance. A recommendation will be presented at the next meeting. There was a discussion about the insurance among the members. SMRAS currently has an umbrella policy with the Cigna group. Some people thought another insurance company should be contacted. Some thought only the policy needed to be changed. It was agreed that, for now, the current policy should be renewed when the bill is rendered.

Holiday Tea - The Tea is Sunday, December 8th at 2:30 PM at the Chappaqua Congregational Church. Jim will call Diane Neski and ask her to chair the event. Joyce MacNair and Sophie Keyes will help. The Bulletin notice will request volunteers and cookies.

Budget Committee - Jim reported that Bill Walker is preparing the new budget. It must be approved at the next Board meeting.

Finance Committee - On behalf of Rita Wecker, who was absent due to illness, Berna Lincoln circulated copies of the Investment Portfolio Performance Report for the period ending September 30, 1996. The portfolio had a market value of \$712,790. The three month (7/1-9/30) approximate portfolio total return was 2.39% and compared favorably with the benchmarks. Fidelity Asset Manager was sold and the money was reinvested in the Janus Fund, T. Rowe Price International Stock Fund and Vanguard Index 500.

Nominating Committee - Nina McCall requested nominations from Board members to fill officer posts and seven openings on the Board. Her committee will be meeting soon to prepare the slate.

By-Law Amendment - Stan Lincoln placed a motion before the Board to officially amend the By-Laws to implement previous agreement to change the fiscal year. His motion: The Board (previously notified of the proposed change) agrees to amend the By-Law, Article X: Fiscal Year. The current wording 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." Seconded and carried with no opposition.

Federation of New York State Bird Clubs - Stan Lincoln gave some background information about the Bird Clubs. There are 40 clubs in the State, with about 700 individual members. An executive committee meets four times a year. The Club now has organizational problems because it is technically illegal and does not comply with the N.Y. State non-profit law. Its executive committee has an unusual structure and its president has great appointment powers. There is concern about voting rights for individual members in addition to delegates. The current president and board hope to amend its by-laws, to comply with the State law, by the Club's 50th anniversary in 1998. They hope to convince the member clubs to increase directors. Stan wondered how the SMRAS Board felt about these changes. He had informational sheets available for viewing. This will be taken up again at the December meeting and Jim Anderson will submit a response about the changes.

Partners for Sustainable Development - Stan Wecker and Polly Kuhn talked to the Board about fostering and supporting a concept of sustainable development and a philosophy of planning especially in the Hudson River area. This idea grew out of the Rio conference that was concerned about global planning. A local steering committee is forming from various interest groups (business, community, municipal government, environmental and schools, etc.). This core group will be partly educational and partly functional. It hopes to act locally and think globally. Projects will be started and information shared. There is no financial backing but The Land Trust has done mailings. The goal is to establish "Partners for Sustainable Development" on the Pace University campus. An attempt will be made to put some by-laws together and establish a general membership. Interested clubs are urged to sign the charter and become organizational members. Membership means commitment. Stan Wecker presented the following motion: Move that President James Anderson, or his designee, be empowered to sign The Partners for Sustainable Development (PSD) Charter making SMRAS an organizational member of the PSD. This membership shall not obligate SMRAS to support specific actions or policies of PSD without prior approval of

the SMRAS Board. Seconded and carried with 2 abstentions. On Nov. 18th Martin Smolin will represent SMRAS for the signing of the Charter at Pace Law School.

Pruyn House Committee - Jeff Pinerio reported a meeting of his committee on Oct. 21st to define the use of space. The possibility of using Pruy House as a meeting center or the garage as a classroom were explored. Also discussed was a way to better unify the sanctuary and the arboretum. Contracts for the repairs to the interior of the house were out this week. The insurance company will pay for the water damage. Other work that needs to be done includes garage door repair, driveway repave and shed repair. Jeff estimates \$4,000 to \$5,000 to paint the house, and \$700 to \$800 for garage doors. The committee would also like to plant some native trees. Possibly a small volunteer group could work on the garden or perhaps hire a professional. Maintenance on the house must be done and one possible way to provide funds would be to start a capital fund. Stan Lincoln feels that Board action is necessary to resolve the problem of maintenance on Pruy House. A long range plan needs to be developed and a reserve fund established. The Board discussed this and suggestions were offered. Stan Wecker made the following motion: Move that President Anderson set up an ad hoc committee to report back to the Board by the February 1997 meeting with a proposal to deal with the long range capitalization needs of the Society (independent of the annual operating budget). Said committee should include representation from the following: The Pruy House and Grounds Committee, The Budget Committee, The Finance Committee, The Sanctuaries Committee, The Development Committee and representatives of any other committees and/or individuals who might contribute to the planning process. Seconded and carried with 3 opposed.

Naturalist's Report - Anne Swaim was pleased to have the work done on Pruy House. School outreach continues. The sanctuary report is being prepared. A new program was "night sky" for Scarsdale Audubon. She's been asked to do a Field Guide for Audubon chapters for the Internet, Long Island and Westchester. Anne will do a birding program at Greenwich on Nov. 16th and will give a seminar on Dec. 7th. Anne had a full page article in the Audubon Advocate about chapter education outreach.

Sanctuary Committee - Martin Smolin and Anne met with Hudson National Golf to discuss a planting plan of trees and shrubs for the SMRAS border. The committee met on Oct. 30th and recommends to the Board that SMRAS pay \$800 to cover Worker's Compensation for Dean DiMauro, with no trade-off in Dean's wages. A projected Sanctuary budget was worked up. Repairs are needed on the Pruy boardwalk and Anne had a list of short and long term jobs. Existing wood boards at Pruy will be replaced with about 765 feet of Trimax. The work will be done during a one day volunteer project. "No Skating" signs are ordered.

Personnel Committee - John McCall said it is clear, after receiving information from the State insurance fund, that SMRAS is liable for approximately \$800 to cover the cost of Workmen's Compensation for Dean DiMauro. Reclassifying Dean as an employee will be taken up at the next committee meeting.

Environmental Action Committee - No report - Pam McKown was not present.

Seed Sale - Jim Anderson reported a loss of about two tons of seed on the first day of the sale. The seed had inadequate protection on the truck and got so wet from the severe storm that it was unusable. Fortunately, the seed company made good on the order a few days later. In spite of the weather, sales were about the same as last year. Unsold seed is stored at the Hartmanns. Jim thanked everyone who helped to make the sale a success.

Other - The McCalls will host the Nov. 23rd meeting. Stan Wecker said the Congregational Church has the 3rd Friday night of each month available for regular meetings. Martin Smolin noted an article in "Teatown Trails" honoring Sophie Keyes and her many hours of volunteer work. Herb Bloom said 25% of his group showed up for the photo walk in the Sebago Lake area. Photos were made of foliage and canoes on the lake. Louis Langdon suggested that the photo group do a photographic story of the Pocantico River.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.


Recording Secretary

The next Board meeting is on Wednesday, December 4, 1996, at 7:30 PM at the home of Nina and John McCall. The McCall's address is 260 Hamilton Road, Chappaqua. Please call the McCalls if you are unable to attend the meeting. The telephone number is 238-5203.

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.