

Saw Mill River Audubon Society
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
May 7, 1997

Vice-President Jeff Pinerio called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM at the Chappaqua Library.

The following directors were present: Amaral, Bloom, Keyes, Langdon, Berna and Stan Lincoln, Maram, John and Nina McCall, Pinerio, Romaine, Rothlein, Smolin, and Rita and Stan Wecker. Secretary Chris Nykwist and Education Director Anne Swaim were also present.

The minutes of the April 2, 1997 Board of Directors meeting were accepted with the following correction: on page 2, line 16, replace "we authorized at our March 5 meeting" with "the Finance Committee authorized at their January 29 and February 27 meetings." The minutes of the April 18 Annual Meeting were approved as circulated.

Chris reported that the Society's latest membership count was 840. Jeff reviewed various communications received from National Audubon Society.

In response to Treasurer Berna Lincoln's request for guidance, we suggested that payment on an insurance claim be credited to the Operating Fund, and that proceeds from the sale of the tractor go into the Capital Fund. Alice Maram moved that the Treasurer take steps to change the signatures authorized on the Society's checking account at the Bank of New York to those of the current President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Chairman of the Board. Seconded and carried.

Finance Committee Chair Rita Wecker presented the attached "Investment Portfolio Performance Report for Period Ending Mar. 31, 1997" and "SMRAS Investment Portfolio - Asset Allocation Mix - Mar. 31, 1997 (Composition % as of 12/31/96)." Rita explained that the recent changes to the Society's investment portfolio made by the Finance Committee are intended to make the portfolio more diverse and less risky.

Rita reported that the Finance Committee decided at their May 1 meeting that the \$31,000 proceeds from the U.S. Treasury Notes maturing in May would be allocated \$20,000 to the Vanguard UST Money Market Fund for operating expenses through September, and \$11,000 to the Janus Worldwide Fund. Martin Smolin said that the Finance Committee ought to consider environmental and social consequences in its choice of investments. There was no consensus on this. John McCall complimented Rita for a fine report.

Anne Swaim said that Larry Bickford attended the organizational meeting of the Croton Watershed & Clean Water Coalition April 14 at which officers were elected and many handouts were distributed.

Pam McKown said that she and Anne Swaim attended the Audubon Council Meeting at the

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology from April 4-6 where resolutions were adopted to encourage an amendment to the Constitution to favor a clean and healthful environment, and in favor of state legislation enabling citizen suits against polluters. The armchair activist issue of the month is support for a House Bill, the Theodore Roosevelt Wildlife Legacy Act, which would give habitat maintenance and preservation priority in the National Refuge System.

We decided not to involve the Society in a controversy over building subsidized housing in part of a park in Yonkers. Pam moved that we write a letter encouraging the Mount Pleasant Planning Board to ask the County Soil and Water Conservation Board to review the Home Depot development site in Eastview. Seconded and carried.

Julie Amaral and Jim Anderson attended a workshop at Greenwich Audubon on April 19 on ways to increase membership. Julie distributed copies of a short, comprehensive handout.

Anne Swaim said that she and Martin Smolin submitted a matching grant application to the State for funds that would be used to repair the boardwalk at Pruyn Sanctuary and to extend a trail into the Crystal Springs tract. Anne distributed copies of her April report and of her May schedule. Anne reported that the annual amount budgeted for Dean DiMauro's labor has been used for his work cleaning up the April storm damage. There has been subsequent damage at Pruyn and elsewhere from wind.

Jeff Pinerio said that a contract for painting Pruyn House and the shed has been let, and that the tractor has been sold for \$600. John McCall said that a long-term plan for the Pruyn Arboretum is needed. Jeff asked us to recognize Chris Nykwest's fine work in the office, which we did.

Martin Smolin reported on the clean-up work at Pruyn Sanctuary. Martin said that the trail signs at Graff Sanctuary are in place, and he distributed copies of a new map of Graff. Martin met with Linda Puglisi, Supervisor of the Town of Cortlandt, to discuss a possible link-up of a trail at Graff with trails on Town land on the other side of Furnace Dock Road.

Nina McCall reported that the March Phonathon has raised \$5,509, which includes \$1,000 to come from matched gifts.

Stan Wecker moved that Pam McKown be allowed to spend \$75 at the Society's expense to attend a course at the Institute of Eco-System Studies. Seconded and carried.

John McCall said that he is planning a clean-up with volunteer labor at Pinecliff Sanctuary. Sophie Keyes reminded us that the deadlines for material for the next bulletins are this week and June 15.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 4 at the Arnolds'.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

William Romaine