

THE SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
Minutes of a regular meeting of
The Board of Directors
and Chairmen of standings Committees
April 5, 1956

The regular meeting of the Officers, Directors and Chairmen of standing Committees, held at the Pleasantville High School Library, was called to order by the President at 6.15 P.M.

Members absent: Mrs. Swope, Mrs. Weinland and Mr. Aikman.

The minutes of the meeting of March 1st were read and approved.

The Treasurer reported balance as of April 1st of \$265.S2 in the General Fund and \$52.87 in the Scholarship Fund. The screen Tour account will be unsettled until after the final showing. The report was accepted.

The Scholarship, Auditing and Nominating Committees reported progress. Complete reports will be forthcoming at the Annual Meeting.

Satisfactory progress was reported on the plan by the joint Committee of the three Westchester societies for the entertainment of the convention of the New York Bird Clubs.

The Conservation Committee reported that the Village of Pleasantville has no interest in the Consolidated Edison Co. property on Broadway and this fact has reduced the Committees consideration of it to the vanishing point. On the other hand-

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SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

For inclusion in Minutes of the Meeting
of the Board of Directors held April 5. 1956

The President then referred to negotiations with the Estate of Albert B. Turner looking to the acquisition by this Society or Nature Conservancy of, a tract of land for a wildlife sanctuary of about 20 acres consisting of a marsh lying east of Hardscrabble Road in Chappaqua. He reminded the Board that the subject had been discussed at earlier meetings of the Board. He reported that in January he, in the company of Richard H. Pough, president of Nature Conservancy, the Chairman of the Board of this Society, and Carl Burger, a member of the Conservation Committee of this Society, had made an inspection of the property and that as a result Mr. Pough was enthusiastic with respect to the possibilities of the property for a wildlife sanctuary. He further reported that subsequently he, Mr. Pough and Mrs. Alfred Forsyth, a member of the Conservation Committee of the Society, had conferred with Mr. Bayne Turner and his counsel and that as a result of such conference Mr. Turner stated that the Estate would be willing to convey the marsh for purposes of a sanctuary provided that the Town Board of the Town of New Castle would rezone the remainder of the Turner Estate property now zoned for one acre to one-half acre. The President then asked the Chairman of the Board to present a proposed petition to be executed by the President and Chairman of the Board of this Society to said Town Board and a form of propose agreement between tills Society and the Estate of Albert B. Turner. The Chairman of the Board then explained at length the terms of the proposed agreement and the provisions of the proposed petition. He pointed out that the Estate's agreement to convey the marsh

for a sanctuary was contingent upon the Society obtaining from the Town Board the change in zoning above referred to within 60 days from the date when such agreement might be signed. He reported that both the petition and the agreement had been submitted to and approved by Mr. Pough and by the Washington office of Nature Conservancy. However, he pointed out one objectionable provision of the agreement as prepared by the Estate's attorney, namely, that the Society was obligated to obtain a survey of, and pay the entire cost for surveying the entire 100 acres more or less, which, except for the approximate 20 acres to be conveyed for a sanctuary, would be laid out into one-half acre lots. He further pointed out that the agreement provided that the Society should pay the legal fees of the Estate's attorneys for preparing the agreement and the deed of conveyance to the approximately 20 acres for the sanctuary. Mrs. Forsyth reported that at the President's suggestions she had obtained an estimate from a surveyor in Chappaqua of approximately \$20 per acre as the cost of surveying the 100 acre parcel and laying out into one-half acre lots, other than the 20 acres to be conveyed for sanctuary purposes. The Chairman of the Board emphasized that on that basis the agreement as presented might involve the Society in an obligation in excess of \$2000 which both he and the President believed unreasonable. Copies of the proposed petition and agreement were made available to the members of the Board and the President directed that copies thereof as presented to the meeting be filed with the records of the Recording Secretary. There then ensued a full discussion of the terms of the petition and agreement.

In the course of such discussion, it was brought out, among other things, that the reason that the Society did not pursue earlier negotiations with the State Conservation Department looking to a lease of the property was that such lease would be terminable on short notice and that the President and the Chairman of the Board were of the opinion that the proposed arrangement covered by the petition and the agreement presented to the meeting would result in permanently setting aside the property for wildlife purposes. It was also pointed out that after the property was acquired, it was planned to erect a small dam to partially flood the marsh which would entail raising funds for that purpose, and that the Society should not be committed to expending as large a sum as might result from the agreement as presented merely to acquire the property.

After further discussion, the following resolution was duly moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED that the President and the Chairman of the Board of this Society be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to execute in the name of and on behalf of this Society the petition to the Town Board of the Town of New Castle and the letter agreement with the Executors of the Estate of Albert B. Turner, deceased, with respect to the conveyance to this Society or to Nature Conservancy for a wildlife sanctuary of approximately 20 acres of land in the Town of New Castle referred to in said petition and described in said agreement in the forms presented to this meeting of the Board of Directors of this Society; provided however that said agreement be first amended so as to provide that under no circumstances shall this Society's share of the expenses (including the cost of survey, legal fees, recording fees, etc.) of acquiring said approximately 20 acres for such purpose exceed the sum of \$600 in the aggregate.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:15.

Respectfully submitted
R. A. Youmans
Recording Secretary

MEMO from the desk of
RODNEY B. JOHNSON

March 1, '56

APPROXIMATE statement of the SMRAS as of 3/1/56:

Income:	Bull Ave.....	\$2.50	
	NAS (members)	16.85+	
			\$16.65+

Disbursements:

	JA Malone Jan Bull.	\$3.50	
	VI Cypher Sect	5.99	
	NAS(mdse paid for)	29.86	
	West. Mail Service (JanBull)	52.00+	
			\$69.55-

Balance on hand (+/-):

\$242.75 (+52.27 Scholarships=\$295.)

RBJ

April 1, 1956

Income:	NAS (members)...	\$19.50
	June error.....	1.09+
	Added	\$20.59=

Balance on hand (Exact!) \$265.52 + 52.27

RBJ

|_ | 8 Broadway, Hawthorne, N. Y. RBJ

|_ | Box 304, Pleasantville, N. Y.

|_ | Rte. 2, 88 Weskora Avenue, Pleasantville, N. Y.