

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOVEMBER 10, 1960

The regular meeting of the SAW MILL RIVER AUDTTBON SOCIETY was held at the home of Mr. William G. Fennell, and was called to order by Dr. Robert D. Schweitzer, President, at 8:30 PM on Thursday, November 10, 1960.

The Treasurer's report was read: General Fund \$504.82; Sanctuary Fund 407.36; Scholarship and Education Fund 506.86 making a Total Balance on October 31, 1960 of \$1,419.04.

The New York State Conservation Council has published a pamphlet on the Hunter, New York project. SMRAS has 200 copies of the pamphlet. A motion was passed that we send them a check for \$3.30 to help defray the Council's expenses.

The Field Notes Subscription is due. It was decided to continue the subscription and a check is to be sent.

Mrs. Mildred Indorf will guide the Junior Audubon with Mr. Fennell.

Dr. Schweitzer offered to go up to National to pick up a supply of note paper to be sold at the Christmas Tea, but the Board felt that it is too late in the season to be really worthwhile.

Education — There was a general discussion of the Education Committee. Mr. Fennell mentioned that Mr. McGuire has done a fine job on the scholarships, sending out about 200 letters to the schools, etc.

Mrs. Coggeshall asked Mr. Fennell if the program is being continued at Millbank Home. Mr. Fennell replied that no cooperation had been received from the Home. Dr. Schweitzer discussed the work Mr. Fennell is doing in Junior Audubon, also asked what is being done by other Junior Audubon. Dr. Schweitzer is to telephone Mr. McGuire. Mr. Fennell suggested that Dr. Schweitzer meet with Mr. McGuire.

Mr. Holmes suggested we send a complimentary ticket to Marshall Howe from tickets returned and paid for. Mr. Every suggested instead that Marshall be put on the ticket committee at the door and offer him a ticket then. Marshall leads some of the trips on his own.

Mrs. Coggeshall had chats with several of the candidates up for re-election. She is sorry to say that the only candidate interested in conservation was the defeated Democratic candidate. The resolution was passed unanimously in the Assembly; in the Senate the vote was 34. - 20 in favor of the resolution,

Mr. Fennell to watch the Constitutional Convention re putting a provision regarding the Wilderness Areas in the Constitution. Dr. Schweitzer mentioned that the conservation of the future will also have to be the protection of wilderness areas for people - so persons can find places of rest, solitude and a return to nature. Mrs. Coggeshall sent letters on conservation to the local papers.

If private corporations can get into the Forest Preserve with a commercial project, it can mean the opening of motels, etc.

Flag Hill is being spoiled by cars going up and by shooting. Mrs. Forsyth asked Mrs. Coggeshall if someone at Consolidated Edison could be contacted, not from the conservation but from the trespassing angle.

Membership - 279 members

Publicity - Mr. Fennell announced that publicity regarding our paid program was in the Patent Trader. Bulletin is ready.

The Scrap Book is very useful. From it we learn that 39 scholarships have been awarded; \$1,500.00 has been raised by benefits, \$2,000 received from the Reader's Digest. The largest number of scholarships awarded was in 1960 -eight scholarships.

Dr. Schweitzer is to send copies of the Bulletin to the Digest.

The Christmas Tea is to be held on Sunday December 11 at All Saints Episcopal Church, Scarborough Road, Briarcliff. Mrs. Forsyth is to show slides on Alaska, which when shown to the Sierra Club - Eastern Branch, were very favorably received.

No date has yet been set for the Christmas Bird count.

It has been agreed to have the mowing done at Brinton Brook. However, Mrs. Brinton has voiced opposition to a road or mowing too close to the power line. This is so there will be no cause to say there is a road from that area and thus discourage trespassing.

In view of the discussion at the last Board meeting regarding the Tommy Thurber Memorial Sanctuary, the President asked Mr. Fennell to explain the present situation regarding that Sanctuary. Mr. Fennell outlined the developments which eventuated in the Society undertaking the custodianship of that Sanctuary for Nature Conservancy, to which Mr. Thurber is donating an undivided one-tenth interest in the property annually over a ten-year period. Mr. Fennell explained the present status of the property as respects local real estate taxes and stated that he thought it was doubtful that the property would be fully exempted from such taxes until the entire fee has been conveyed to Nature Conservancy by Mr. Thurber, Mr. Fennell recommended that he be authorized by the Board to advise Mr. Thurber that the Society did not consider that it should be liable to pay real estate taxes on the property and that it believed that Mr. Thurber should pay them until such time as an exemption is obtained.

Mr. Carruth pointed out that at the last meeting, in addition to criticism regarding the tax problem, certain directors had questioned whether the property was suitable for a sanctuary. Mr. Fennell and Miss Cypher mentioned that these six acres are in the heart of a heavily populated area in Ossining and that they foresaw a real future for the tract as a vital "open spaces" nearby where residents, scout and youth groups could walk and gain an appreciation of nature. Moreover, it was emphasized that Nature Conservancy would not have been willing to take the title to the property unless it was satisfied that the property would be suitable for sanctuary purposes.

Mr. Fennell stated that Miss Cypher and he had an appointment to meet with Mr. Paul Bruce Dowling, Assistant to the Director of Nature Conservancy, next Sunday morning, November 13th, to show him the sanctuary, and that Mr. Dowling had arranged to come up from Washington at our Society's request to discuss our problems regarding the sanctuary.

It was the consensus that Mr. Fennell be authorized to dispose of the real estate tax problem directly with Mr. Thurber, and the president requested Mr. Fennell to report to the next Board meeting regarding that matter and as to the results of his and Miss Cypher's meeting with Mr. Dowling.

Dr. Schweitzer explained why it was mentioned that we get out of the Thurber property. It can not be used because it is land-locked. Miss Cypher wondered if we could add the 2 acres adjacent and perhaps use them as a center for our meetings. Miss Cypher said we should value the property; that she has seen lots of birds there. Mr. Fennell feels we can obtain a right of way thru the park lands which are adjoining to the six acres.

Mr. Fennell said it will be interesting to see the reaction of Mr. Dowling when he sees the land. It has marsh, woodland, etc. a bit of open land next to a heavy population. If the 2 acres came up for sale in a tax lien and we could find a donor, it would be very nice. Mrs. Coggeshall emphasized we should try to save every open land area we can.

Mr. Fennell mentioned that to keep such a property just as open land without maintenance or trails is fine, (but to develop it is too much for our Society to handle.)

Regarding additional parcels of land, Mr. Fennell said we must review each one as it comes up.

To receive a tax abatement, it must be made clear that we have a trail, and it is being used.

Dr. Schweitzer asked Mr. Fennell to talk with Mr. Charles Pound re ingress and egress onto the six acres.

Mrs. Coggeshall is not in favor of a motion to limit our tax.

The 75-million dollar bond issue must be used on 50 acres or more, then towns and villages will receive help.

Mr. Fennell suggested to Mrs. Coggeshall that she contact Mr. Hugh Pomeroy re our open spaces.

Dr. Schweitzer expressed his approval and thanks for the excellent letter being used for our paid program. We have to raise around \$225.00 to break even.

Mr. Barmettler will organize the Door Committee and Mr. Malone will telephone Marshall Howe.

Mr. Leon Nettleton will check the screen, custodian, chairs, etc.

Dr. Schweitzer recommended the giving of a gratuity to the custodian, and a \$5 gratuity was approved.

Mr. Malone will get change and be at the door by 7:30 PM.

The December meeting will be held at Mrs. MacDonald's home. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Pauline Boury,
Corresponding Secretary

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SCOCITY
 Financial Statement
 For the month of October 1960

GENERAL FUND

<u>BALANCE</u>	October 1, 1960.....	479.36	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	NAS dues.....	55.75	
	Sale of books.....	8.10	
	Bulletin advertisements.....	33.75	
			576.96
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	Program - Lecture Fee - 50.00		
	Hall rental - 15.04.....	65.04	
	Postage.....	7.10	
			72.14
<u>BALANCE</u>	October 31, 1960.....		504.82

SANCTUARY FUND

<u>BALANCE</u>	October 1, 1960.....	407.36	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	None		
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	None		
<u>BALANCE</u>	October 31, 1960.....		407.36

SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATION FUND

<u>BALANCE</u>	October 1, 1960.....	506.86	
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	None		
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	None		
<u>BALANCE</u>	October 31, 1960.....		506.86
<u>TOTAL BANK BALANCE</u>	October 31, 1960.....		1419.04

Catharine D. Holmes
 Treasurer