

**Saw Mill River Audubon Society, Inc.**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Director and Chairmen of Standing Committees**  
**September 15, 1963**

[Transcribed from hand-written originals by Anne Swaim. Capitalizations as in original.]

The first regular meeting of the fall season of the Board of Directors, Officers and Chairmen of the Standing Committees was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Boyle at Finney Farm. The meeting was preceded by a field trip between the farm and Brinton Brook and cookout on the Boyle's estate, both of which were tremendously enjoyed.

Present at the meeting were Messrs. Nettleton, Boyle, Holmes, Frair, Moore and Spear and Mesdames Holmes, Forsythe and Coggeshall.

Minutes of the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and accepted.

The Treasurer's Report indicated a balance of \$346.61 in the general fund, \$671.44 in the sanctuary fund and \$183.93 in the scholarship and education fund, for a total bank balance of \$1201.98 as of August 31, 1963.

The membership chairman reported a total of 350 members and presented the rate of increase in membership the past three years as follows, ten for 1960-61, twenty-seven for 1961-62 and thirty-nine for 1962-63. The president congratulated the membership chairman for the accelerated rate of increase and the total increase.

Several letters were read as follows: From Scott Dearolf of Westmoreland Sanctuary expressing gratitude for the president and members for letters written on behalf of Westchester Sanctuary concerning Route 87; from Frank Gierisch of Tarrytown expressing appreciation for the scholarship awarded to him; and from Duryea Morton, Director of the Audubon Camp of Connecticut, giving a favorable report on Mr. Gierisch's activities at the camp and commending the Society for its award of the scholarship to Mr. Gierisch. The president reported having written a letter of thanks to Mr. Morton for his report.

The Board of Directors "commendation" of N. Y. State Thruway Authority for its work in destroying illegal signs near the Thruway as voted in the June meeting was expressed in a letter by the president to Mr. R. Burdell Bixby, Chairman of the Authority. Mr. Bixby replied with a letter of thanks a report on the survey which showed the greatest frequency of traffic accidents occurring in area where signs exceed the legal size and distance.

The co-chairmen of Brinton Brook were unable to attend the meeting but submitted a report on their work at the sanctuary for this past summer. The following items were covered: a modest survey of nesting birds of the area indicated about 19 species, a more thorough survey could be made, it was felt, with more volunteer help; trails were kept in good condition by the removal of fallen trees, mowing and painting of direction arrows and color blazes, a great deal of help was furthered by Mrs. Brinton's employees. Posts were replaced in nearly 90% of their locations where they had been destroyed by vandals. The pond-side cabin is in excellent condition due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie and Mr. Walton and his son Coby; picnickers did extensive damage at Split Rock Springs with axe slashes and initials on trees and by building fires. A survey of the geological features of the area was tentatively planned for September 22<sup>nd</sup> with the help of a local high school teacher who is conducting an adult education course in geology. The report also mentioned the chairmen's offer to Mrs. Brinton to reimburse her for the work her employees did on the sanctuary; mowing of the open field to be done in October by Dick Kamp; conservation department wardens again patrolling the area during the hunting season; recommendation that a single strand of heavy wire be run around the sanctuary boundary, erection of a new weatherproof trail sign at the sanctuary entrance and a second map prepared by Mrs. Forsythe to be located at some central location. Mrs. Forsythe presented the map to meeting.

Finally the report suggested that the proceeds from the fund raising meeting be devote to the scholarship fund alone and a second fund raising meeting be held for the three sanctuaries.

Several items in the Brinton Brook Report were discussed. They were as follows: Warden patrol during the hunting season: payments will be made in three installments with final payment being made after report is received; Heavy wire to be run around sanctuary: ask for estimate of cost and determine if it is a hazard to wildlife; Second Fund Raising Appeal for Sanctuaries: opposition expressed by no decision reached.

The Chernick property is reported to have signs erected identifying it as a sanctuary and that the insurance policy is corrected to include the Con Edison right of way and will be added to the society's safety deposit box.

Mr. Boyle gave a detailed report on fish population at the ice pond at Brinton Brook with special reference to bass and sunfish.

The handling of merchandise at the Christmas Tea was discussed and Mr. Holmes agreed to contact some members who might be interested. Also Mr. Fennell is to be consulted on the legal aspects of selling artists' work at the tea.

The Board approved the maximum sum of \$5.00 for the value of a prize presented for the best slide in accordance with the suggestion of the Color Camera Club of Westchester. The vote was [nothing followed this phrase in the minutes.]

The president repat a report from the program chairman, Dr Bligh summarizing meetings for the the coming year. The first meeting is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of October at 7:30 P.M. at the home of the Mrs. Jonathan Coggleshall.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. and Mrs. Boyle for their hospitality.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted  
Willis J. Messiah  
Recording Secretary