

Saw Mill River Audubon Society, Inc.
Minute of Regular Meeting of the Board of Director and Chairmen of Standing Committees
April 14, 1964

[Transcribed from hand-written originals by Anne Swaim. Capitalization/Punctuation as in original.]

The regular meeting of the Board of the Directors, Officers and Chairmen of the Standing Committees was held that Mr. and Mrs. Ray Youmans.

Present at the meeting were Messrs. Nettleton, Holmes, Malone, Ritchie, Ditterline, Youmans, Spear, Messiah and Bligh and Mrs. Overocker.

The first order of business was the scholarship committee report given by Mrs. D. J. Overocker. The Committee received twenty requests for scholarship applications. Two scholarships are to be awarded this year. The committee recommended the awards to be as follows:

Mrs. Charlotte Davenport – a girl scout leaders from Chappaqua,
Mrs. Vincent Furfaro – a science teacher at Claremont School, Ossining.

The Secretary's report of the March 10th meeting was read and approved with minor corrections.

The Treasurer's Report indicated a balance of \$398.86 in the general fund, \$587.67 in the sanctuary fund and \$319.33 in the scholarship and education fund, for a total bank balance as of March 31, 1964 in the amount of \$1305.96.

Mr. Holmes, membership committee chairman, reported a total of 366 members.

Mr. Malone reported on a meeting of Brinton Brook committee with Mrs. Brinton at the sanctuary. Plans for the repair of the dam and work on the brook were discussed and are ready for execution. A written report by Mr. Robert H. Boyle, member of the Board of Directors, on his investigation of the fish population of Brinton Brook Sanctuary Pond was presented. A copy of the report is attached herein. The report is the first of what is hoped will be a detailed study of the flora and fauna of the sanctuary which will server to furnish material for a guide to Brinton Brook Sanctuary in book form. Remainder of field trips for the season was also outlined by Mr. Malone.

Mr. Ditterline reported on Chernick Sanctuary as follows. A work meeting was held on the property, new trails were made including footpaths from the entrance to the railroad trestle. Among birds sighted were American Bittern, Blue-gray gnatcatcher, and Canada Geese.

The president's report included the news that young Marshall Howe is to have a naturalist job for the summer. His report also included plans for the annual meeting. Among these were treasurer's report for the first time would include a report on the real property of the Corporation; the president's annual report; a nominating committee report and election of officers and a Movie entitled "World in a Marsh."

Plans for a Membership participation night schedule for May 22nd were discussed. Miss Eunice Ditterline will show slides and Mr. Spear will submit a report. The scholarship winners will also be announced.

The subject of spraying by the East Hudson Park Authority in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State Conservation Department was discussed. The president was instructed by the board to contact Mr. Charles Pound, County Commissioner of Parks, concerning out letter of Mary 24, 1963, which

opposed the spray program engaged in by the county. The president suggested a concerted effort by members being engaged in writing letters to state officials protesting spraying.

The news of the death of Rachel Carson was met with express of sorrow by Board Members. The president was instructed to write a letter to Mrs. Carson's family expressing the condolences of its members.

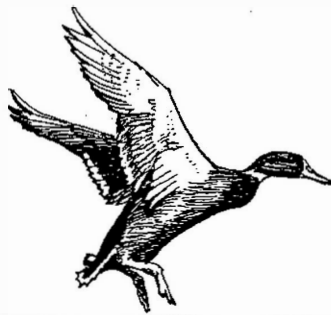
A motion was presented nominating Mr. Ray Youmans as historian effective upon completion of his duties as nominating committee chairman. The motion was passed unanimously.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. and Mrs. Youmans for their hospitality. Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

The next meeting will be at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Howard Bligh.

Respectfully submitted
Willis J. Messiah
Recording Secretary

Saw Mill River



Audubon Society
INC.

FOUNDED IN 1895 AND DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

31 Saratoga Avenue, Pleasantville
April 17, 1964

Board of Directors
SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY Inc.

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Pursuant to your instructions of Tuesday evening, April 14, I telephoned Mr. Charles Pound, Westchester County Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and also, at his suggestion, Mr. Ernest Perkins, Executive Director of the Taconic Parkway Commission, Pleasantville, both regarding the proposed spraying of the Taconic Parkway area with pesticides this year.

Mr. Pound, whom I reached Tuesday, said that this is a controversial matter concern-ing which there is as yet no settled conclusion. He mentioned the need for pesticides in order to achieve successful cultivation of certain crops, as is well know, but also result-ing are detrimental side effects which call for some restraint in their use.

Mr. Perkins is one of those to whom our protest resolution of May 24, 1963, was sent concerning the spraying of the parkway last year. In reply to my questions Mr. Perkins said today:

- 1) since our protest letter his department has been in consultation with experts in-cluding some from Cornell University, and such consultations are continuing;
- 2) as a result of these talks his department has discontinued the use of DDT but is using instead the chemical sevin, which the experts said is not harmful to wild-life. (comment: this is the chemical about which we protested last year)
- 3) as already reported, there will be spraying of the parkway next month; one spraying already has occurred, on Friday, April 10;
- 4) with regard to the finding of a film on a branch of the Pocantico river towards the parkway, Sunday morning, he is firmly convinced that such did not result from last week's parkway spraying.

May I now call the attention of Board members to the editorial on Miss Carson and a column-long article reporting findings and action by the Dept. of Agriculture, reported by Secretary Freeman concerning the pesticides killing of fish in the Mississippi River, both in the N.Y. Times of yesterday, April 16.

Attached is a copy of my letter to Miss Carson's brother, also resulting from your instructions at the April 14 meeting.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leon D. Nettleton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Leon D. Nettleton, President

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