

6/10/65

A regular meeting of the Sawmill River Audubon Society, Inc. was held on June 10, 1965 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ditterline. Members present were Hugh Moore, Willis Mesiah, Howard Spendelow, Wayne Frair, Jim Ritchie, Ed Ditterline, Leon Nettleton, Harold Bligh, Catherine Holmes, Carol Coggeshall, Kay Anderson, Mary Forsythe and Kay Koste.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$2162.49.

Membership report showed a total of 359 members.

President Moore commented on the June 5 Field Day at Chernick Sanctuary and said that Sawmill River Audubon will support another such venture in the future. Ed Ditterline felt it had been successful and served its purpose in pointing out what a small sanctuary can mean to a community and showed what Audubon can do. Mr. Moore expressed appreciation for all the work the Ditterlines and the Junior Audubon had done.

Mr. Ditterline reported that Pound Ridge Reservation had asked us for listings of any birds seen there, and the group felt we should be of assistance to them if and when we could.

It was reported that Mr. Thurber had offered us the opportunity of taking wild flowers from his property for our sanctuaries.

Mr. Nettleton announced that there is a bill that plans to put the Hudson Expressway going right through Chernick Sanctuary, and that Senator Cabot has introduced a bill to repeal this one. Bill Fennell suggested we get in touch with the speaker of the Assembly to get behind the latest bill to repeal the other and that we write letters to Anthony Travia. Mr. Nettleton also announced there is a bill in the Assembly to repeal the bill that permits the Ruppert Brewery to take water from the Hudson.

Kay Anderson reported the planning board had received a letter from the people who bought property from Chernick. She said the bond had expired and they would have to put up a new bond in order to build a road.

Ed Ditterline stated there would be more boy scouts laying corduroy trail near the trestle at Chernick on the following Saturday. Many trees and flowers have been marked and there is a temporary sign at the entrance.

On Brinton, Mr. Ritchie said he had found people walking through the trails that were marked "resting". He had also a group of 20 members of the Appalachian Mountain Club on a walk through the sanctuary.

President Moore said he had received a letter from George Porter saying the tax exemption will not become effective until 1966, and that tax bill in the amount of \$810.14 has been rendered for 1965 taxes. We have no choice but to pay this or tax lien will be assessed against the sanctuary. Since Sawmill River Audubon only promised care and maintenance for Brinton Brook, nevertheless we feel we should help National absorb some of this tax. Bill Fennell said legally SNRAS was not responsible

but morally we are. There was question as to whether Mrs. Brinton herself had been advised of this by her lawyers, but the board decided it was better not to approach her. It was felt that Mrs. Brinton has been amply generous in giving us this property and the tax bill becomes the responsibility of the Audubon Society.

The President then read the following resolution written up by Bill Fennell:

"The President referred to a letter dated May 18, 1965, received by him from George Porter, Assistant Treasurer of National Audubon Society, advising that it had paid the 1965 tax bill on the Brinton Sanctuary property in the amount of \$810.14. He reminded the Board that Mrs. Brinton had conveyed the final 1/10th interest in the property to National Audubon Society on December 28, 1964, and that National Audubon Society had applied for a tax exemption for the property which, however, could not become effective except with respect to 1966 taxes and thereafter. He further reported that as a result of telephone calls and correspondence which he and/or Mr. Fennell, the Society's counsel, had had with Mr. Porter, it appears that since the final conveyance by Mrs. Brinton occurred after the 1965 taxes had been assessed, such taxes had to be paid and that National Audubon Society could not be exempted therefrom, that National Audubon Society had negotiated through its attorneys with Mrs. Brinton's attorney as to the 1965 taxes and was informed by Mrs. Brinton's attorney that he felt that Mrs. Brinton should not pay the 1965 taxes, and accordingly that National Audubon Society had paid them to prevent them from becoming a lien on the property. The President referred to the arrangements between this Society and National Audubon Society with respect to the Brinton Sanctuary as reflected in the minutes of the meeting of this Board of Directors held on June 5, 1958, by which this Society assumed "responsibility for the supervision and management of such property and (undertook) to raise the sums of money needed for maintenance purposes." He further stated that he had been advised by Mr. Fennell that this Society's undertaking to bear the costs of maintenance of the property did not include taxes. However, in view of all of the circumstances it was felt that it would be unfair to National Audubon Society to require it to bear the full burden of the 1965 tax bill and that if, after informal discussions with Mrs. Brinton which it was suggested be conducted in behalf of the Society by Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Brinton felt that she should not reimburse National Audubon Society for the 1965 tax bill, then that this Society should offer to reimburse National Audubon Society for up to one-half the amount paid by it, namely, \$405.07.

After discussion the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED that the President, Treasurer and any other member of the Sawmill River Audubon Society, Inc. so designated by the President and Treasurer if this Society be and they hereby are authorized to negotiate with National Audubon Society a settlement of the taxes on the Brinton Sanctuary property heretofore paid by National Audubon Society in the total amount of \$810.14, and for and in behalf of this Society, to pay out of this Society's funds not more than one-half of such amount in a lump sum or in installments to be determined by the President and the Treasurer if the President and the Treasurer determine that installment payments are desirable.

It was the sense of the meeting that the Program Chairman be requested to arrange a fund-raising program during the 1965-1966 season with the specific purpose of raising funds for paying this Society's share of the taxes on the Brinton Sanctuary property."

Mr. Nettleton suggested that in any negotiations we make to take care of this that we not include the penalties. In view of the fact that there may be another school tax, Mr. Bligh suggested we leave it open until we get more information and then make a choice as to what we could pay. Mrs. Forsyth thought we should assume the responsibility and if in the future Mrs. Brinton wanted us to be reimbursed then it would be acceptable to us. Leon Nettleton made a motion, seconded by Ed Ditterline that we adopt Mr. Fennell's resolution and in any negotiation with National we work hard to escape the payment of any penalties. The vote was 11 to 2 in favor of adopting the resolution.

On the Joe Malone memorial, Mrs. Forsyth said she had talked to Win dy and she would go along with whatever we decided. Mrs. Forsyth had not had a chance to meet with her committee but felt they would accept the same wording for the plaques and that they should be ready to be put up in the Fall. The wordings are:

For the plaque for Balanced Rock: "A tribute to Joseph A. Malone, 1905-1964, in recognition of his concern for Man and Nature through leadership and service to Brinton Brook Wildlife Sanctuary and the Saw Mill River Audubon Society."

For the plaque for the stone bench at Split Rock Spring: "Placed by the Saw Mill River Audubon Society in tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Willard Cope Brinton for their gift of Brinton Brook Wildlife Sanctuary to the National Audubon Society - 1957."

Kay Anderson reported the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs had asked us for an increase in membership contributions from 10¢ to 15¢ per member. After discussion Kay Anderson made a motion, seconded by Leon Nettleton that we stay with the Federation another year since they work for legislation for conservation. It was noted 8 to 5 in favor of keeping our dues at the 10¢ per member level. President Moore mentioned that we had found no delegate who was free to go to the convention this year.

On conservation, Carol Coggeshall reported that at the meeting for the Federation for Conservation that is being formed in Westchester, that various groups such as the Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and League of Women Voters felt they cannot give 10¢ per member. Lou Bowen feels we should support the movement, even though many organizations are waiting to see how it will go. Art Spear made a motion, seconded by Leon Nettleton that we pay the \$10 registration fee to join this organization, and motion was carried.

Carol Coggeshall said she had answered the County Center that we will be glad to take part in their exhibit in September. She has had no news on the right-of-way at Chernick from Ed Walton. She also stated there is a new bill being introduced in Washington that concerns preservation of wild life in the development of highways.

Concerning the relocation of Route 117, Ed Ditterline said they have not found out exactly where the road is going. Ed Walton had suggested we write a letter with Bill Fennell's help to Park Commissioner Pound to keep the road from going through Chernick.

The secretary was asked to send a get-well card to Mrs. Brinton on behalf of the group. Mrs. Forsyth had arranged to send flowers from the society to Mrs. Brinton on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Leon Nettleton mentioned the National Audubon Convention would be held in Mass. in October, and that a member of the Mass. Audubon had won the prize at the Color Camera Club exhibit.

President Moore appointed an executive committee consisting of Willis Messiah, Ed Ditterline, Harold Bligh and Carol Coggeshall to handle any communications that arose in his absence during the summer months. He then thanked the Ditterlines for their hospitality and said the next meeting would be held at the home of Willis Messiah in September.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Koetz

Recording Secretary

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Financial Statement

For the month of May 1965

<u>BALANCE</u> May 1, 1965		\$ 2278.12
<u>RECEIPTS</u> - N. A. S. dues	83.00	
Sale of merchandise	<u>41.00</u>	<u>124.00</u>
		2402.12
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u> - Cost of merchandise	28.93	
Postage	9.45	
Program	8.49	
Conservation	17.51	
Scholarships	175.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>.25</u>	<u>239.63</u>
<u>BALANCE</u> May 31, 1965		<u>2162.49</u>

Catherine D. Holmes
Treasurer