

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Minutes of Regular Meeting of Officers, Board of Directors,
and Chairmen of Standing Committees

June 9, 1966

The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Forsyth. Present were Mesdames Anderson, Coggeshall, Forsyth, and Spendelow, and Messrs. Bligh, Boyle, Ditterline, Holmes, Lincoln, Messiah, Moore, Nettleton, Osborn, and Spendelow. The meeting was called to order by the president, Mr. Willis Messiah.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the previous meeting of May 5 were read and corrections noted as follows. Mrs. Coggeshall clarified for the secretary that there were two pieces of property, not one, under discussion in connection with the Chernick Sanctuary at the previous meeting. Secondly, Eunice Ditterline's talk to the PTA was pinpointed as being in Briarcliff. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Mr. Messiah next called the Board's attention to a memorandum which had been mailed to members of the Board. This memorandum contained recommendations of the Open Space Action Committee, made at the request of Dr. and Mrs. Morgan Pruyn, on the title transfer, management, and use of the property owned by Dr. and Mrs. Pruyn on the Mt. Kisco-Millwood Road. In its summary the Open Space Action Committee stated it believed the best use of the property would be as a sanctuary and nature study area, and recommended that a private, non-profit organization based in the area be given title with restrictions, and furthermore, although it had no favored recipient, felt that the Saw Mill River Audubon Society would be ideally suited as such.

Mr. Messiah introduced a guest, Mr. Ned Smith of the Open Space Action Committee, who came to explain the possibilities of

Smras' inheriting this piece of property and to answer any questions concerning it. Mr. Spendelow and Mr. Smith gave a description of the 34 acres involved. Mr. Smith offered to speak to Dr. and Mrs. Pruyn about a visit by Mrs. Coggeshall and her committee of Mr. Ditterline and Mr. Lincoln to view the property on Saturday, June 18, at 2 p.m.

Thereafter followed a discussion of opportunities and responsibilities in regard to Smras' possible future relationship to the property.

A motion was made by Mrs. Coggeshall that Smras express its gratitude both to Dr. and Mrs. Pruyn, and to the Open Space Action Committee for their consideration of Smras as a suitable recipient for this very generous gift, and also that the Board state its very definite interest in this proposition, and that it has appointed a committee to study it, and has set up a schedule of action so a decision might be made as soon as possible. It was requested that the president write a letter to Dr. and Mrs. Pruyn expressing such interest and gratitude. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spendelow and carried unanimously.

Mr. Messiah expressed his appreciation to Mr. Smith for his help, and Mr. Smith thanked the Board for their interest.

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was called for Friday, June 24, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Spendelow.

An Executive Board was set up for the summer months to handle any business coming before the Society during the summer months.

The executive Board members will be Mrs. Coggeshall, and Messrs. Ditterline, Lincoln, Messiah, Osborn, and Spendelow.

TREASURER' S REPORT: A balance of \$2,079.71 was reported as of May 31, 1966. The financial statement is included as a part of these minutes.

Mr. Messiah displayed a Charter of Membership from the National Audubon Society, and read Sn accompanying letter. Motions were made and passed to have it framed and presented to the president.

Mr. Lincoln reported on the Conference of the Federated Bird Clubs of New York State held at Lido Beach, Long Island. Dr. Bligh moved that the Smras continue its membership in this organization for one more year by the paying of dues of \$54.60. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boyle and carried.

Mr. Lincoln recommended that SMRAS contribute to the collection of bird population statistics and other material which is garnered by the Kingbird staff and also support the organization in its undertaking of a New York State Bird Book by John Bull, Mr. Lincoln volunteered to organize the Society's response.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership - Mr. Holmes reported that membership in Smras still stands at 364.

Conservation - Mrs. Coggeshall reported a reply to the question of the status of the mourning dove, -that it is not endangered in this area. Where it is hunted, it seems to increase. She also reported that there is now a good and strong new Wild Rivers Bill in Congress. Regarding her numerous letters concerning the relocation of Route 117, she has had very poor response. An item will be placed in the Bulletin urging all Smras members to write also.

Brinton Brook Sanctuary - Mr. Boyle reported meeting with the builder, Mr. Bastius, who has scaled his plans for units for 1500

people down to 500. Mr. Bastius has offered to put in a separating chain-link fence at his own expense, and to leave a 200 to 500 foot buffer zone bordering the sanctuary. Mr. Moore moved that the Treasurer recompense Mr. Boyle in the amount of \$18 for the advertising of the adjoining Hoibrook property for sale to a private buyer, not a developer. Mrs. Forsyth offered to put a similar ad in the Wall Street Journal.

Mrs. Coggeshall moved that we accept the offer of Mr. Balgooyen to make for Brinton Brook Sanctuary a new sign out of redwood for \$40.

Chernick - Mr. Ditterline reported that there were no new developments at the sanctuary, but that if the full troop of 40 Boy Scouts who had volunteered to work at the Thurber Sanctuary were not needed there, he would be able to use them well at Chernick.

Thurber - Mr. Lincoln volunteered to answer a letter from Dr. Ciemmons in Ossining commenting on the condition of the sanctuary.

Program - Dr. Bligh reported on the progress of the planning of the program for the coming year.

Mrs. Forsyth displayed a gift of dragonfly lures made by Mr. Boyle to be presented to Jim Ritchie, and read a letter to Jim and Alice.

Mr. Messiah expressed thanks to Mrs. Forsyth for her hospitality and adjourned the meeting at 11:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ruth Spencelov

Recording Secretary