

SMRAS Inc. new sanctuary committee meeting Nov. 20, '66, at home of Dr. & Mrs. Pruyn, Millwood

Present: Howard Spendelow, Chairman, presiding, Dr. & Mrs. Pruyn, Mrs. Coggeshall, Leon Nettleton; President Messiah, ex officio; Mrs. Nettleton, guest.

Prior to the committee's convening, Ned Smith, now Field Director of the Open Spaces group, appeared with Charles Little, its Executive Secretary and a photographer who took photos of Dr. & Mrs. Pruyn, Mr. Messiah, Mr. Smith and Mr. Spendelow to accompany an early press release announcing the Pruyn gift of sanctuary land to SMRAS Inc.

Agreed to name the new sanctuary the Godney Brook Sanctuary, adopting a name associated with the area for at least 80 years, Mr. Spendelow reported.

Mrs. Pruyn commented that neighbors of the sanctuary land were pleased with news of the impending change, which would benefit them with some protection.

It was agreed that Dr. Pruyn and Howard Spendelow would tour the sanctuary boundaries at Dr. Pruyn's convenience and mark them, also take steps to continue and perhaps extend the present trail built by Dr. Pruyn. Regarding the Pruyn property across the brook from the six acres now owned by the Society, it was agreed that it would continue to be treated as private property, so marked and maintained. Any permission for certain individuals to explore it would be given by Dr. Pruyn.

Dr. Pruyn will give Howard Spendelow the key to the lock on the chain blocking the sanctuary entrance to cars, needed in order to prevent ingress by vehicles and also the disposal of garbage there. Dr. Pruyn also mentioned and emphasized the necessity for keeping available an emergency route in case of fire.

There was mention of a powered sickle bar, useful for cutting trails, that Dr. & Mrs. Pruyn might offer the Society, one which Howard Spendelow agreed to house. Dr. Pruyn offered to speak to at least one neighboring land owner, promoting interest in SMRAS Inc. and keeping an eye on the sanctuary property.

Long range plans include developing trails, erecting signs, designating parking areas, and publishing a trail map. President Messiah furnished a professional architectural map of the property with the sanctuary section shaded separately.

Rules for the sanctuary, Mr. Spendelow said, would for the most part be the same as those in our other sanctuaries, notably the one at Brinton Brook, which prohibits picnicking, hunting, smoking, dogs, vehicles and fires. It was agreed that visits by science classes accompanied by teachers, suggested by Chairman of the Board Hugh More, be encouraged.

Precautions will be taken to prevent trespassing on the Pruyn property by those approaching the pond to state. Sanctuary property gives access to the pond.

Scott Dearolf, resident naturalist at Westmoreland Sanctuary, is to be invited to become a member of the Godney Brook Sanctuary Committee. Mr. Dearolf recently joined our Society and at the same time expressed special interest in assisting with the new sanctuary.

Mrs. Coggeshall offered services of our Society, acting from a background of experience in maintaining other sanctuaries, to assist Dr. & Mrs. Pruyn at any time regarding problems that arise from the status of the new sanctuary and its relations with adjoining properties.

Times for further meetings of the committee will be announced as needed, the Chairman said.

Dr. Pruyn presented Mr. Messiah with a \$500 check for upkeep of the new sanctuary, to be an annual gift. Mrs. Pruyn mentioned that this would be a yearly contribution by Dr. Pruyn but one that she would not be expected to continue, since her role is that of a joint donor of property.

The committee members expressed to Dr. & Mrs. Pruyn their sincere appreciation for the Pruyns' generosity, and interest in conservation.

Meeting adjourned before 5 p.m.

Leon Nettleton