

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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

December 8, 1966

The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Lincoln. Present were Mesdames Anderson, Coggeshall, Forsyth, Holmes, Koste, and Spendelow, and Messrs. Ditterline, Holmes, Lincoln, Osborn, Schweitzer, Spendelow, and Walton. The meeting was called to order by the vice-president, Mr. Stanley Lincoln, at 8:30 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the previous meeting of November 10 were read and a correction noted as follows. The Water Qualities Act is itself an amendment to the Water Pollution Control Act. The minutes were approved as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The financial statement for the month of November, showing a balance of \$3,091.48 as of November 30, was read by Mrs. Holmes and placed on file.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program - Mr. Walton reported on the fundraising program which netted \$571, with more checks still to come in. It was decided that in the future such programs for the public should be reviewed in advance, and also that members should be asked for suggestions for new programs. Mr. Walton proposed that programs for the public be prefaced with an explanation of the work of the society, and an invitation to people to become members be made at each meeting. Owing to delays in mail delivery, it was suggested that notices of meetings be mailed out a week earlier than has been customary.

Conservation - Mrs. Coggeshall reported on the National

Audubon Society's Annual Dinner, which she attended as Smras' official delegate, owing to Mr. Lincoln's illness. She inquired about National's policy of not taking action in local matters. Its policy is to limit itself to national issues, for if it were to intercede in one area, it would have to give support all over the country, and cannot spread itself so thinly.

Mrs. Coggeshall wrote a letter to the newspapers about the killing of the swans on the reservoir, and read a commenting letter from Mr. Fennell. Suggestions were made as to how prevent similar crimes such as by laws requiring hunters to undergo instruction in the identification of game species.

Mrs. Wheeler and ^{Mrs.} Mrs. Lois Jessup have volunteered to work on the Conservation Committee.

Mrs. Coggeshall reported on the possibilities of more land offerings to Smras. Mr. and Mrs. Burnham Lewis have 25 acres near to but not contiguous with Chernick. Also there is an anonymous potential donor of funds for land acquisition and care, if the right piece of property, separate from anybody else's gift, were to come up for purchase.

Mr. Ditterline made a motion that Mrs. Coggeshall and Mr. Walton pursue the subject to the point of fully understanding the potential and possibilities of acquiring land, specifically the Burnham Lewis parcel of 25 acres and other nearby parcels, and also, explore the possibility of having, financed by the above-mentioned potential donor and report thereon to the board. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Holmes and carried without dissent.

Membership - Mr. Holmes announced an increase to 373 members.

Adjournment - Mrs. J. ...

Brinton Brook Sanctuary - Mr. Lincoln read a letter from Mr. Messiah concerning the sanctuary. There is still no chairman. Mr. Spendelow outlined Mr. Boyle's ideas, - that he felt that silt should be removed from the pond to cut down on the marsh which is encroaching on it. (The Chappaqua Duck Pond operation required \$9,000 to clear out an area one-third the size of the Brinton Brook Pond, using a dragline.)

Mr. Walton reviewed the requirements for repairing and rebuilding the dam as determined by investigators from Cornell. This would entail the crushing down of muskrat holes, building up the slope, covering the dam bank with a sheet of plastic, and hardware cloth to protect the plastic, and topping with mud.

Mr. Walton suggested Mr. Eric Haas as a possibility for Brinton's chairman.

Chernick - Mr. Ditterline stated that the scout troop from Dobbs Ferry found that the sanctuary was not a good area for camping activities, being too small and too wet.

New Sanctuary - now named "Gedney Brook Sanctuary." Mr. Spendelow said that Dr. and Mrs. Pruyn had demurred from being formal members of the committee in case their absence might prevent the obtaining of a quorum. Mr. Spendelow and sons were out the previous Sunday placing galvanized pipe as boundary markers and putting up sanctuary signs. Dr. Pruyn will give advice on which parts of the sanctuary are permanently wet and about topography for trails. Mr. Spendelow also mentioned the adjacent green space acreage owned by the village and reported the possibility of an additional two acres to be forth-coming from a neighbor hillside owner.

Following discussion of Smras' policies on sanctuaries and

responsibilities pertaining thereto, Mr. Lincoln asked if we should have a steering committee in relation to general policies dealing with sanctuaries. Mrs. Coggeshall said that correspondence with National Audubon had produced a two-page answer with no information.* Mrs. gorsyth said there appeared to be no national policy about local sanctuaries.*1/12/67 -changed wording to "discussion with no specific recommendation."

Mr. Holmes made a motion to ask our president to form a long range planning and policy committee. This motion was seconded by Mr. Ditterline with the addition by Mr. Walton that such a committee review work done by previous groups as brought to the attention of the board by Dr. Schweitzer. The motion was passed unanimously.

Education -Mrs. Holmes announced the organization of a new Junior Audubon Club in Pleasantville with Miss Gaudette as administrator and Tom Howe and Stewart gitzgibbon as leaders.

Dr. Schweitzer announced that members would meet at 8:00 a.m. at the junction of King Street and Route 22 for the annual Christmas Bird Count taking place on Monday, January 2. The 50¢ charge was only for those desiring to have their names put in the Field Notes and in the Greenwich Newsletter.

Mr. Lincoln read part of a report on the National Audubon Convention which is to take place September 29 to October 4 at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 by Mr. Lincoln.

Respectfully submitted

Ruth Spindelov

Recording Secretary