

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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

January 12, 1967

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Catherine Koste. Present were Mesdames Anderson, Coggeshall, Koste, Ridgeway, and Spendelow, and Messrs. Bligh, Ditterline, Lincoln, Messiah, Osborn, Ridgeway, Spendelow, and Thurber.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the previous meeting of December 8 were read and a change of wording made as noted on page four of the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The financial statement for the month of December, indicating a balance on hand of \$3,277.69 as of the 31st, was read by Mr. Spendelow in the absence of Mrs. Holmes, and placed on file.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation - Mrs. Coggeshall read a letter to Mrs. Holmes from Lew Bowen stating that he had sent a check for \$37.50 as a contribution to the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County as annual dues for Smras. Mr. Messiah will write an expression of appreciation of Mr. Bowen's gift in our behalf. Mr. Bowen had resigned from the Board of Federated Conservationists owing to two other time-consuming chairmanships, but ^{he} expressed the hope that another delegate from Smras would join the Federated Conservationists. Mrs. Coggeshall read a resume of their semi-annual report, and it was decided to learn how often and where they meet. Mr. Moore is also a delegate.

Mrs. Coggeshall had suggested to Mrs. Bowler that as the

January 1967 -

Federated Conservationists were writing to Governor Rockefeller about route 87, they might also take up the question of route 117, and Mrs. Coggeshall asked if Mrs. Bowler would please take this matter up with the Federated Conservationists Board.

Since Mrs. Coggeshall's letter about the killing of the swans, a Mr. Amos Horst of the Wildlife Federation had telephoned to ask if Smras would work with it on protective legislation. Connecticut has a \$100 fine for the killing of protected wildlife. New York's is only \$25, and Wildlife Federation would like Smras and other groups to push legislation raising the fine.

Mrs. Coggeshall also referred to a New York Times article about a company wanting to build a gypsum-mining development in a gorge upon the Hudson which should be parkland. The governor is asking a study of the site near Little Stoney Mountain just above Cold Spring.

Brinton Brook Sanctuary -Mr. Messiah made known that Mr. Warren Balgocyen had been paid for the Brinton Brook redwood sign, and that Mr. Boyle reported that the sanctuary appeared to be in good shape. Mrs. Coggeshall suggested a check of names of visitors for someone interested enough in the sanctuary to visit frequently, who might be a candidate for chairman. Mr. Messiah had had no reply from Mr. Haas as yet. (pronounced hawz)

Mr. Lincoln brought up the problem of funds for repair of the dam. Mrs. Coggeshall volunteered to write to Mr. McKeon to learn if there might be a federal aid program that would give help, and also to inquire about Mr. Ditterline's suggestion of aid from the State Conservation Commission. Mr. Thurber thought that there was

an agency of the commission that would do the actual work.

Chernick - Mr. Osborn and Mr. Ditterline reported that all was quiet at the sanctuary since the last meeting - no tracks, no visitors.

Gedney Brook - Mr. Spendelow stated that all remaining surveyor's points had been located with the help of Dr. Pruyn and two-thirds of his signs had been replaced by those of Smras. Some old trails are already in existence, but it will be necessary to wait until spring to tell whether areas are dry or not, before laying new trails. Several hundred pounds of trash had been removed from the area by Jeffrey and Peter Spendelow.

Thurber - Mrs. Ridgeway said that Mr. Ridgeway had visited the sanctuary and done some work there since her illness. Mr. Ridgeway reported he had started a trail and built a bridge across one of the ditches. Two weeks later the bridge was upside down, which had to have been the work of a group. Two small signs that he put up were torn down. Neighbors were again throwing trash in on the property. Mr. Thurber proposed that a big sign be erected adjacent to the highway, and that the property be re-surveyed and re-staked. He offered to put up a chain link fence around the property as its boundaries have been encroached upon by various adjoining property owners.

Mr. Thurber also reported on the status of the sanctuary. It is presently nine-tenths deeded to Nature Conservancy, the last tenth to be deeded this December. At the time this was initiated, Smras was not incorporated and not empowered to own property.

Mr. Lincoln suggested that the question of joint ownership of the property with Nature Conservancy should be first on the agenda of the new policy committee. Mr. Spendelow asked if Nature

Conservancy might be questioned to see if they would like to turn back ownership of the other nine-tenths, and suggested that Mr. Fennell be consulted because of the legal questions.

National Audubon Convention Mr. Messiah announced that Mrs. Mack had just returned from her trip and would write a report on the convention for the bulletin.

Junior Audubon Club - The Junior Audubon Club of Pleasantville is just about under way. It is to meet in the undercroft of St. John's church under the leadership of Tom Howe and Stewart Fitzgibbon, with the supervision of Miss Gaudette and help of Mrs. Holmes. Mr. Nettleton had reported spending \$7 for booklets and badges.

Program - Dr. Bligh announced that the programs for January and February were set, and that Mr. Moore would show slides of his trip to Hawaii for Membership Night in March.

Dr. Schweitzer had offered his stipend for the Christmas Tea program to Smras to use where appropriate. Several letters of thanks had been received for the fine program.

Dr. Bligh had several suggestions for future Paid Programs. He recommended that they be the responsibility of the Program Committee rather than of the Fund-Raising Committee, that the program be selected early in the year, that costs be considered, as some of the free programs had been very good, such as the Ratsfords' wild flower slides, and that other sources such as the National Audubon Screen Tours be considered. Mrs. Anderson proposed that an inquiry be made as to whether the Greenwich Audubon Centre had any suitable programs available.

Long Range Planning - Mr. Messiah officially appointed a committee for long range planning, consisting of Mrs. Coggeshall,* (Mrs. Coggeshall's name was included by error of secretary - corrected in minutes of February 9.)

and Messrs. Ditterline, Lincoln, and Walton.

Membership - Mr. Spendelow made known for Mr. Holmes an increase of enrollment to 380.

Mrs. Anderson detailed her investigation of the procedure for mailing of notices. It was decided to make a cross check of membership and mailing lists for the address graph cards.

Mr. Thurber offered the use of 400 acres outside of Brewster for field trips, and volunteered to show the trails. He also described 110 acres and cabin available for rent by year or season to individuals.

Mr. Thurber then brought up the subject of the attempted condemnation by public schools of land belonging to tax-exempt institutions. He urged that conservationists get together and ask that legislation be passed that lands owned by hospitals, schools, etc., or existing as sanctuaries, be defined as being in public use and therefore not subject to condemnation by school boards or in jeopardy from highways passing through them.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02. Expressions of thanks for her hospitality were made to Mrs. Koste.

Respectfully submitted

Ruth Spendelow

Recording Secretary