

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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

February 9, 1967

The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Holmes. Present were Mesdames Anderson, Coggeshall, Holmes, Ridgeway, and Spindelow, and Messrs. Ditterline, Holmes, Lincoln, Messiah, Osborn, Ridgeway, and Spindelow. Awaiting the late arrival of the secretary, Mr. Messiah called for the

\* TREASURER'S REPORT: Mrs. Holmes reported a balance of \$3,252.71 as of January 31. There is some adjustment to be made in connection with an error by the National Audubon Society on their Christmas order.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation - Mrs. Coggeshall referred to Mr. Thurber's request for aid on legislation to prevent private lands being taken over by school districts. Sportsmen and sporting goods companies might write to Senator Gordon was one of the Thurber suggestions. The chairman in turn wrote to Mr. Thurber suggesting that he contact interested societies such as Federated Conservationists.

Mrs. Coggeshall reported that she had appeared before the Federated Conservationists, requesting they take a stand on Route 117 such as that taken by the Sierra Club in saving the Grand Canyon. They indicated it was a touchy subject just then, because they were in the process of applying for tax-exempt status. Instead they preferred to take a stand on the jet strip in New Jersey. Our conservation chairman also learned that each member group of the Federated Conservationists does not have representation on its board of directors.\*\* - Adapted from notes taken by Mrs. Ridgeway before late arrival of recording secretary.

The plans to build two dams in the Grand Canyon have been dropped.

Mrs. Coggeshall read a statement that she made at the County Public Works Committee hearings on future plans for Croton Point. The Malcolm Furney Report recommended action on solid waste disposal, -the building of a large incinerator on Croton Point and dumping on marshlands there. Mrs. Coggeshall expressed the hope for development of Croton Point as a true recreational area and gave Smras' recommendation for further study of the area for water-based recreation as against the building of a large incinerator.

The Conservation Committee of Mrs. Coggeshall, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Jessup, and Mrs. Wheeler is meeting in the morning of the third Monday of each month. Among its concerns will be the study of legislation about conservation, and the writing of a conservation column for the bulletin. This will cover national and state conservation subjects, but planning to emphasize local problems, the committee is anxious to acquire members from representative areas covered by Smras membership, and currently needs a committee member from the Ossining-Croton area. There is a Croton Conservation group outside of Smras which is very active and keeping an eye on legislation affecting local affairs. It is also in charge of programs at Kitchawan.

The members of the Smras Conservation Committee intend to make themselves available as field trip leaders for groups wishing to go through our sanctuaries. and have arranged for a meeting with

Miss Sykes of the Greenwich Audubon Center to learn how to lead such groups. In the line of nature education, Miss Sykes is

planning a four day workshop, May 15 to May 19, for those who can't attend for a whole week.

The committee would like to have its role and degree of authorization to be on the agenda of the Long Range Planning Committee.

Secretary's Report - Following the Conservation Committee report, the minutes of the previous meeting of January 12 were read and a correction noted as follows. The committee for longrange planning will consist of Messrs. Ditterline, Lincoln, and Walton.

Membership - Mr. Holmes announced a membership total now up to 390. \_\_\_\_\_

Brinton Brook Sanctuary - Mr. Messiah reported that Mr. Eric Haas of Croton-on-Hudson is the new chairman of the sanctuary committee, whose other members are Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Winkler,

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Mr. Boyle, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Porter. Mr. Boyle sent a report about Brinton Brook to Mr. Messiah. It was felt that the matter of getting help for the problems of the pond should now be turned over to the sanctuary committee.

Chernick - Mr. Osborn and Mr. Ditterline stated there were no further developments at this sanctuary.

Gedney Brook - Mr. Spindelow stated that Mrs. Pruyn wanted it made clear that she would not be bound to continue to make available the sum of \$500 annually for support of the sanctuary, should her husband predecease her, as financial support will be provided through endowment by terms of his will.

Mr. Holmes declared that the sanctuary is covered by accident liability insurance.

\* 3/9/67 - correction of minutes - Mr. Holmes' name was inadvertently left out by the secretary in the original minutes.

Thurber - Mr. Fennell is to be asked to write to Mr. Thurber expressing appreciation for his offer of the last tenth of the property, but stating the belief that it would be better for practical purposes to have Nature Conservancy take it.

The Conservation Committee felt that some sort of fence should be erected around the property, but such action should be taken by the board and not by any one individual.

Education - Miss Jane Secor's name was suggested as candidate for chairman of the Education Committee for the coming election.

Junior Audubon - Mrs. Holmes reported on the progress of the Junior Audubon Club of Pleasantville. Mr. Nettleton sent out letters to school principals and later to students, and there are presently four children enrolled from the Roselle Avenue School. Miss Catherine Gaudette is supervisor, and the group meets in the undercroft of St. John's Church every other Saturday morning. Tom Howe and Stewart Fitzgibbon will be asked for help, ideas, and leadership of field trips.

National Audubon Convention - Mrs. Holmes read a letter from Mrs. Mack expressing thanks for the check for \$25 for expenses.

Long Range Planning - Mr. Lincoln said that the committee is planning for a meeting on February 20, and that the members were looking for advice and counsel.

On motion made and duly seconded, the date of the annual meeting of members of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society for election of officers and directors was reaffirmed for April 21. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

President Messiah announced the following committees as re-

quired by the society's constitution:-

Auditing - Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Vannini

Budget - Mr. Edward Chasins as member's representative

Nominating - Mr. Arthur Spear as chairman, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brewster.

On motion duly made and seconded, the appointments were approved as read by the president, and the motion passed unanimously by vote of the board.

Nest Record Card Program - Mr. Ditterline thanked the members for past participation in the program and asked if they desired to continue for a third year of the program. It was agreed that the society should continue in this effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 with a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Holmes.

Respectfully submitted

*Ruth Spindelou*

Recording Secretary