

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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

March 9, 1967

The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Spendelow. Present were Mesdames Anderson, Coggeshall, Holmes, Koste, and Spendelow, and Messrs. Bligh, Ditterline, Holmes, Lincoln, Messiah, Osborn, Spendelow, and Walton.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the previous meeting of February 9 were read and a correction noted as follows. Mr. Holmes' name, omitted in error by the secretary, was restored to the list of the Brinton Brook Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The financial statement for the month of February, indicating a balance on hand of \$3,100.23 as of February 28, was read by Mrs. Holmes and placed on file.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation - Mrs. Coggeshall quoted from a letter from Mr. Thurber which followed up his earlier urging of Smras' support for legislation permanently protecting sanctuary lands from condemnation. In it he stated that it was necessary "to get support of a great many organizations with considerable membership interested one way or another in conservation."

Mr. Thurber sent Mrs. Coggeshall a copy of his letter to the Federated Conservationists in which he pressed for a law stating clearly that any lands held as nature preserves or natural open spaces are thereby in public use and may not be condemned for other purposes. In his accompanying letter to Mrs. Coggeshall, Mr. Thurber expressed the belief that unless such a law is put on the statute books in the near future, it would be hard to get people to donate

land, because they would not be assured that it would remain devoted to the purposes they intended.

Mrs. Coggeshall attended a meeting of the Middle Atlantic Resources Conference as a representative of Smras. This was on the order of the Federated Conservationists, but much larger, representing a great many organizations. It was concerned with planning to control the orderly development of the Hudson River Valley area. It was also reported as feeling that the jet strip airport situation in New Jersey was now under control.

Mrs. Coggeshall attended a meeting of the Pleasantville Home Owners Association about Route 117. She announced that highway planning hearings on road projects are to be conducted by legislators Ottinger and McInery on April 6 at Sleepy Hollow High School in North Tarrytown.

Mr. Messiah read a letter of resignation from the Federated Conservationists from Mr. Moore to Dr. Leonard. A suggestion was made to ask Mrs. Winslow Wheeler of Irvington to be our representative in the Federated Conservationists.

A letter from the Mount Pleasant Democratic Committee to Hugh Moore expressed the desire to gather many individuals and organizations together to develop a non-partisan master plan for the town, and asked that a representative be appointed from Smras. After discussion of the advisability of sending an observer to the meetings, which appeared to have a political background, and as to whether Smras should be involved with this organization, a motion was called for the tabling of this proposal and was passed by a majority vote of eight to four.

Membership -Mr. Holmes announced an increase in membership to 397.

Brinton Brook Sanctuary - Mr. Haas, the new chairman, wrote to Mr. Messiah thanking him for his letter and Mr. Boyle's report. He will be away for the March meeting, but will look forward to meeting the directors at the ^{board} meeting in April. He will canvass his committee members right after Easter and keep Mr. Messiah informed of any developments.

Chernick - Mr. Ditterline reported that no one had been down to the sanctuary. A few trees and limbs were down across some of the trails and some work will be required to get them back in shape. A short-eared owl was spotted down in the river valley. (There were also reports of a snowy owl up near Reader's Digest the week before the Board Meeting.)

Gedney Brook and Thunber Sanctuaries had no new developments to report.

Program - Dr. Bligh announced that the members participation night program was all set for the following night. A movie will be shown at the Roselle Avenue School on the evening of the annual meeting and election and the Camera Club program will be given at the Robert E. Bell School in Chappaqua in May.

Mrs. Coggeshall mentioned that Mrs. Stout had offered to display her husband's collection of stuffed birds. Proposals were discussed for re instituting a members' tea at the first fall meeting in September. It was recommended to have it held at the Pleasantville Junior High School. Mr. Ditterline suggested that we have Mrs. Stout's birds on display and a good program as well.

Junior Audubon Club - Mrs. Holmes declared there had been a good response to the letters to the schools, and membership had risen from four to fourteen. Another leader will be needed in

addition to Miss Gaudette. Mrs. Anderson is going to do some publicity on the Junior Audubon Clubs and Mrs. Geiffert's work.

Mr. Lincoln suggested that perhaps the O'Neils might be persuaded to start a Junior Audubon Club in Ossining. The need for a Chairman of Education to get more Audubon clubs started was mentioned.

Long Range Planning - Mr. Lincoln announced that the committee will try to meet once a month. They had a useful and productive first meeting, and will be having their second meeting on the 13th.

Following explanations of the circumstances and details of the proposed gift of money from the Ottinger Family Fund through Smras as intermediary to the Sleepy Hollow Association, Mrs. Holmes moved that we ratify the action taken by the ten Board Members by telephone accepting the sum of \$5,000 from the Ottinger Family Fund to be transferred to the Sleepy Hollow Valley Committee. This motion was seconded by Mr. Osborn and passed unanimously by vote of the board.

Budget - The proposed budget for 1967-1968 was read by Mrs. Holmes and discussed. Mr. Spendelow felt that \$300 would cover the cost of a bulletin board and shelter and redwood signs for Gedney Brook Sanctuary, and corresponding reductions of estimated income and expense were therefore made in the budget.

Mr. Ditterline made a motion that the board accept the proposed budget as submitted with the two changes outlined above. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Koste and passed unanimously.

Scholarship - Mr. Lincoln recommended that we allow for three scholarships, providing we have three good applicants. The appli-

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cations are out, and he will have a report for the April meeting. If we have more applicants, we can vote on them at that time.

Mr. Ditterline moved that the board officially approve the participation of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society in the Middle Atlantic Resources Conference, with Mrs. Coggeshall as its representative.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 p.m. with thanks to the Spendelows for their hospitality.

Respectfully submitted

Ruth Spendelow

Recording Secretary