

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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

April 13, 1967

The meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Ridgeway. Present were Mesdames Anderson, Coggeshall, Holmes, Koste, Laire, Ridgeway, and Spindelow, and Messrs. Ditterline, Haas, Holmes, Lincoln, Messiah, Osborn, Ridgeway, and Spindelow. The meeting was called to order by the president, Mr. Willis Messiah, at 8:33 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the previous meeting of March 9 were read. Mr. Messiah asked for a resolution to be made as to the wording of the motion made at the previous board meeting concerning the gift of money from the Ottinger Family Fund. It was proposed by Mr. Ditterline and seconded by Mr. Holmes that the wording remain as in the minutes read by the recording secretary. The minutes were then approved as read.

Mrs. H. Townsend Laire, past president, and Mr. Eric Haas, the new chairman of the Brinton Brook Sanctuary Committee, were introduced to the members present.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The financial statement for the month of March, indicating a balance on hand of \$3,178.31, as of the 31st, was read and placed on file. The sum of \$5,000 has been deposited in the bank by the treasurer. This sum represents the gift from the Ottinger Family Fund, which is being held for transferral later to the Sleepy Hollow Valley Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating - Mr. Messiah stated that Mr. Spear had reported a full slate of officers and board members for presentation at the annual meeting.

Conservation - Mrs. Coggeshall announced the receipt of a letter from the Citizens Committee on Natural Resources urging support for the Highway Beautification Act, which will expire in June 1967, unless it is renewed.

A letter from the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club urged support for an effort to keep the old Putnam Railroad bed from being part of highway realignment. It was hoped that it could be brought under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Conservation, and kept for hiking. Those desiring it preserved should write to Charles Pound.

Mrs. Coggeshall made known that there is now to be a program for control of water in the Everglades of Florida.

The Hudson River Valley Commission is presently holding hear-ings at different localities, as it must, by law, hold such hear-ings to establish procedures before it can review proceedings on any specific project. The Commission has jurisdiction within one mile of the Hudson River, or two miles if the area is within visual view.

Mrs. Coggeshall had recommended that tributaries of the Hudson and their valleys, such as Pocantico, be included in the areas to be under its jurisdiction. Secondly, she had urged that it should take a stand on the matter of Con Edison. The commission has since taken a stand, although it has not as yet established its review procedures. There should be a subsequent interest in the hearings in Washington. Thirdly, Mrs. Coggeshall had pointed out that the Pocantico River Valley is part of the Hudson watershed, and is a natural green area. The two hundred million dollar bond issue to establish and preserve natural areas is contradicted by the destruction of such a valuable river valley as that of the Pocantico.

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Mrs. Coggeshall wrote a letter to Mr. Aldredge in which she described Chernick Sanctuary and related what we feel is the problem of Route 117 and the Pocantico Valley. In reply she had a telephone call from L.L. Baumgartner, whom Mr. Aldredge had asked to investigate. This was followed by a visit from Mr. Baumgartner to see maps of the area and to see where the road went. Mrs. Coggeshall gave him a lot of material to take back to Mr. Aldredge.

Following discussion of last month's tabled proposal to send a representative to the new non-partisan Town Development Committee of Mount Pleasant, it was moved by Mrs. Anderson and seconded that we appoint a member to attend as representative of Smras, and that Mr. Messiah inform Mr. Resnick of this. The motion was passed by a vote of 9 to 1. Mr. William Osborn will be our representative.

Membership - Mr. Holmes reported that the membership total stood at 398.

Brinton Brook Sanctuary - Mr. Haas inquired as to the short and long-range basic plans and policies for Brinton Brook. Mr. Messiah said that Mr. Boyle reported that the most serious problem is the dam. So far the only repair work done has been patchwork. Mr. Boyle doesn't think the low level is result of dam leakage, but of drought, - that it needs water from melting snow. He had recommended that in late August or September, to take advantage of low water conditions which usually exist at that time of year, that an area 100 by 100 by 15 feet deep be dredged to make a deep pool. At present the pond is only 5 feet deep, and

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weed control is a problem.

Mr. Holmes felt after a recent visit that the pond level could be higher, - that a lot of water was going through the dam.

The sum of \$250 is budgeted annually for repairs at Brinton. \$150 is budgeted for a warden, but it was felt that this need not be an annual expense, because of the deterrent effect of having had a warden there in the past.

The second question is that of a policy for reforestation for more wildlife. It was felt that this was covered in the formal statement of policy for Brinton Brook, and an inquiry was made if copies could be furnished to board and committee members, and one for the cabin at Brinton.

Mr. Haas made known a third problem, that of a large dog population which was chasing deer within the sanctuary boundaries.

Chernick - Mr. Ditterline reported for the Committee that the martin house from Mr. Fennell had been erected on a 20 foot locust pole. Mr. Ditterline, being worried about the problems of all the sanctuaries, had written to Mr. W. B. Miller of the Washington Irving Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which had resulted in a memo of March 14 to all scout troops and explorer posts in this general area. This memo stated that Audubon again needs help and asked for volunteers from those boys who wished to work on community service and conservation projects. Other sanctuary committees should let Mr. Ditterline know of work to be done so the leaders can be notified. Transportation should be provided for the boys. So far Mr. Ditterline has had one contact with a Mr. Hederman. Five boys from his Hawthorne Troop who are working for Eagle rank will

be at Chernick on April 16. Each of the five will have a group of three or more boys working under him. The scouts will be finishing a trail, extending another, and labelling trees, shrubs, and flowers with permanent labels.

Mr. Ditterline also gave details on a widespread bird survey to be made on one day in June. This will be to determine the number of breeding birds in an area, and what the effect of insecticides has been.

\* Please read the reports on Gedney Brook and Thayer at this point

Junior Audubon Clubs - Mrs. Holmes reported that Miss Gaudette has been holding meetings. Mr. and Mrs. Kayser are the new chairmen for the Education Committee and have agreed to lead an Audubon group. They are working to get more Junior Audubon Club leaders.

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Mrs. Anderson has been working on publicity for the Junior Audubon groups and is going to try and compile a history of the Junior Audubon work. Mrs. Ridgeway has had one Audubon group of ~~grades~~ <sup>grades</sup> through the 12th grade, and now has one going in fifth

Junkin

Mr. Lincoln stated that David ~~Junkin~~, resident at Ward Pound Ridge has a nature program for older boys. He has also taken over the compiling of the bird census reports.

Long Range Planning - M. Lincoln reported that four committee members will have a working session with John Anderson, who is National Chairman of Sanctuaries, for two hours up at Sharon, Connecticut, on Saturday, April 15. The committee will meet again in May and then give a status report.

Scholarship - Mr. Lincoln made known that the Committee needs a new chairman. Mrs. Truckess has been doing the work, but would not take the title.

Gednev Brook - A tax bill of \$114.95 having been rendered to the treasurer, Mrs. Holmes had ascertained that it was for the New Castle Town Tax, in toto. The previous bill was for the first half of the School Tax, and there would be another bill for the second half after July 1. According to the tax assessor's assurance, the property is now off the tax rolls, although we have yet to be informed of this officially.

Thurber - Mrs. Ridgeway reported a conversation with a man whose property adjoins the sanctuary. He felt that he should go to the Board of Health about the terrible condition of the open ditches.

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Junior Audubon Club

The Chappaqua Garden Club will again sponsor one applicant for the Audubon summer camp program. They prefer that this scholarship go to a Chappaqua teacher.

Applicants for scholarships are Mrs. Burleigh, a 5th grade teacher in the Thornwood school, Miss Susan Clepham, Miss Susan and Mrs. Carolyn Smart. After discussion of their eligibility, it was Mr. Lincoln's suggestion that Mrs. Burleigh be accepted as a candidate and the others held in abeyance, awaiting further candidates.

*Handwritten notes:*  
Susan Clepham  
Susan  
Carolyn Smart

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Greenwich Audubon Center's four-day program scheduled for May 14-19 had been postponed. The Conservation Committee has gone twice to Greenwich to learn how to lead groups through our own sanctuaries.

Members of the board were urged by Mr. Messiah to write to their congressmen to make sure that the Highway Beautification

Bill not be allowed to die. It was decided that the president should also write for the society, and the matter be brought up at a general membership meeting. The bill number is H.R. 4137.

The board voted the amount of \$12.50 to be spent by Mr. Moore on a prize for the Westchester Camera Club.

Mr. Messiah reported he had received a letter from Mr. Fennell concerning the passing on of the sum of \$5000 from the Ottinger Family fund to the Sleepy Hollow Valley Committee, and it was decided to follow the letter's recommendations.

Mr. Messiah expressed thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ridgeway for their hospitality, and adjourned the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

*Ruth Spindeloro*

Recording secretary