

Meeting of Board of Directors  
Sawmill River Audubon Society, Inc.  
May 11, 1967

A meeting of the Sawmill River Audubon Society Inc. was held May 11 at the home of Mrs. Alfred Forsyth. Members present were Messrs. Messiah, Spindelov, Ridgeway, Holmes, Lincoln and Kayser, and Mesdames Ridgeway, Holmes, Miller, Curnen, Anderson, Coggeshall, Koste and Forsyth.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$3,016.85 as of April 31, 1967. Mrs. Holmes also reported a contribution of \$25.00 from Peter Spindelov's group from the sale of birdhouses.

Conservation: Mrs. Coggeshall reported that the Constitutional Convention is now going on and that we should write to our three representatives. She stated that the volume of mail regarding the "Forever Wild" clause has been larger than that of any other issue in the convention.

Mrs. Coggeshall attended the Middle Atlantic Resources Council at which there were many different groups representing other parts of New York. <sup>and other local regions</sup> They have come up with a Conservation Bill of Rights which they are having sent up to the Convention and want to have signed by convention groups. She had a draft of the statement from the group which she urged us to read. They are recommending and suggesting Parks for Hudson Valley. Mrs. Coggeshall wanted to know if we would approve the name of SMRAS being used as approving the policies of the group. Mr. Messiah brought up the fact that we have to look into these things carefully before we support everything. We must come in with recommendations for what we really believe in and consider many things that come to us for approval, only signing what we will support for conservation reasons.

Mrs. Coggeshall presented the project of the eggs of whooping cranes being sent from Northern Canada to the Southern states for hatching, and that the project has the full cooperation of Mr. Udall. Mr. Lincoln said this has been done before and there is a lot of research being done on it to see if it will work.

Mrs. Coggeshall has written to Mr. Aldredge about our concern about the Pocantico River and he had Dr. Baumgartner come to see her re the 26 acre park in Pocantico. She is in favor of our trying to get the money to buy the Burnham Lewis place which is right across the river from Chernick. The mysterious donor is also interested in Turkey Mountain in Yorktown and may give money to this rather than to us, so we should make up our minds right away and should have the area surveyed.

Several letters have been received from Amos Horst, Executive Director of Wildlife Restoration Foundation, Inc. concerning the swans that were killed. He had called on the family from Poland, who seemed anxious to make amends by buying more swans. Mr. Holmes suggested we turn over the whole correspondence to Bedford group since this is in their territory.

Mrs. Coggeshall had had a call from Mrs. Ruth Rush regarding McGregor Pond and having the swamp land preserved. Possibly the Van Cortland group can have this arranged, as it was felt to be beyond our area. A law has been

passed stating the town boards are authorized to appoint a Conservation Advisory Council. Mt. Pleasant could have town development committees to approve town planning. They are permitted to budget for this. She thought every township should be written to and made aware of this so that they can act on it. Mr. Holmes moved that the president be empowered to bring to the attention of town governments the existence of legislation for the creation of a conservation advisory council. Seconded by Bee Ridgeway, the motion was passed.

The Middle Atlantic Resources Council also disclosed the fact that Pelham Bay had marched in protest against dumping similar to that at Croton Point, since Pelham Bay is a city park. If anyone wants to write to Mayor Lindsey or other city officials it would be very helpful.

It was brought out that Bob Boyle is taking a four months' leave of absence to write a book about the Hudson River. There is a possibility of a housing development going up near Brinton Brook and we should go to housing meetings and make sure that they will put up a buffer zone. Mr. Holmes suggested that Mr. Haas attend these meetings. Carol Coggeshall and Kaye Anderson had taken a group of girl scout leaders through Brinton Brook and they had seemed very interested. They were accompanied by Joan Seacord, one of the recipients of an Audubon scholarship.

Mrs. Coggeshall stated the rerouting of Rt. 117 is going to fill in a part of Opperman's Pond, which is a town recreation area. It was decided we table taking a stand on opposing this until the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: Mr. Holmes reported 396 members.

GEDNEY BROOK: Mr. Spendelow reported that the Gedney Brook property is now officially tax exempt. Mrs. Pruyn had stated at the Annual Meeting that they were committed to give \$500 per year and Dr. Pruyn stated it did not necessarily have to be earmarked for the sanctuary fund. The boundaries have been staked with iron pipes, some trails have been cut and logs put down, but we should wait now for the survey to be made by National Audubon before doing anything more.

BRINTON BROOK: Mrs. Forsyth announced that the 18th of May would be Mrs. Brinton's 93rd birthday as well as the 10th anniversary of Brinton Brook, and that Mrs. Brinton had expressed the wish that people come to see her. It was decided to plan this on Sunday, May 21 in the afternoon after our scheduled field trips to Elmsford Ridge and Brinton Brook. The Society is to furnish refreshments and Mrs. Ridgeway offered to make a terrarium as a gift for Mrs. Brinton. Mrs. Forsyth also mentioned a Mr. Hensen of Chappaqua as being interested in the sanctuary.

THURBER: Mrs. Ridgeway reported that they had placed 18 signs covered with chicken wire, furnished by the Nature Conservancy and cut a trail through the property. They are planning to have a petition signed by the neighbors and Mr. Ottinger which they hope will get some results from the Board of Health doing something about the open ditch.

JUNIOR AUDUBON: Catherine Holmes announced that Miss Gaudette's group is meeting regularly. Mr. Kayser said his group in Chappaqua has not gotten answer from the principal of Roaring Brook although there are several teachers who are interested. Peter Spendelow has nine members in his group. Mrs. Ridgeway has also begun a Junior Audubon club through Cub Scouts and has ten members.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Mr. Lincoln, along with committee members Ditterline, Moore and Walton have met four times to discuss sanctuary operation and some of the problems we have. They plan to have another meeting this spring and reactivate in the fall and put before the Board in December a formal set of policies and procedures for sanctuary use, management, procurement, etc. He passed around a progress report for further perusal by members of the Board for consideration at the June meeting. He recommended we take action now on the Board asking John M. Anderson, Director of the Sanctuary Department of National Audubon and director of Miles Sanctuary to visit our sanctuaries. Such a motion was made by Stan Lincoln. Seconded by Lester Holmes, motion was passed.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Mr. Lincoln has officially notified Mrs. Burleigh who will attend Greenwich. All three others presented last time have been rejected. Since then we have received one application (suitable for Chappaqua Garden Club) from a Mrs. Alice Van Nierop, teacher in Grafflin School for one week at Greenwich. Motion was made by Mr. Lincoln to offer her a scholarship. Seconded by Mrs. Ridgeway, motion was passed. Kaye Anderson made a motion seconded by Carol Coggeshall that we award them a one-year membership to keep them interested, providing they are not presently members of SMRAS.

NATIONAL AUDUBON FUND DRIVE: This concerns efforts to purchase property in Corkscrew Swamp territory. They have a commitment from Ford Foundation for \$232,000 if they can raise \$464,000 for 2,640 acres at a total cost of \$696,000. The Society has a deadline from Ford Foundation for Aug. 30. Letters have been sent to all branch presidents to bring before the membership to try to raise this money. Mr. Lincoln said he would put this appeal in the next bulletin and we are to decide at the next board meeting on the amount our treasury can afford. Lester Holmes suggested we take \$2.50 instead of \$3.00 from the magazine and let the extra money go to the magazine.

CONVENTIONS: Mr. Lincoln recommended that we do not send a delegate this year to the Federated Bird Clubs convention at Deposit, but to only send one to the National Audubon Convention in Atlantic City in September. Kay Koste made a motion to send Priscilla Geiffert as our delegate. Seconded by Stan Lincoln, motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 with thanks expressed to Mrs. Forsyth for her hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kay Koste*

Recording Secretary