

Board of Directors' Meeting
SAWMILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.
June 9, 1967

A meeting of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society Inc. was held on Thursday, June 9, 1967 at the home of Mrs. Paul Anderson. Present were Messrs. Messiah, Holmes, Spendelow, Bligh, Nettleton, Ridgeway Lincoln and Kayser, and Mesdames Kerven, Miller, Holmes, Anderson, Coggeshall and Koste.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved with one correction.

TREASURER's Report showed a balance on hand as of May 31 of \$2,929.87. Mrs. Holmes also reported receiving some contributions of money for the Brinton Brook Memorial Fund in honor of Jim Jutte who recently passed away. Mr. Spendelow presented a check for \$37.50 from the sale of birdhouses by Peter Spendelow and his group. Catherine Holmes felt this should be officially acknowledged to Peter since this brought up his contributions to a total of \$62.50. Carol Coggeshall stated she felt the James Jutte fund should be discussed some time, but Catherine Holmes explained that there was a special memorial fund that was not earmarked for any special sanctuary.

CONSERVATION: Mrs. Coggeshall reported on the tea at Brinton Brook and expressed thanks to Bee Ridgeway and Kaye Anderson for their help.

Mrs. Coggeshall reported that \$450 million dollars has been authorized for water pollution efforts, and she has written to Senator Javitz and our representatives. She inquired whether anything was ever done about Mr. Thurber's letter about the legislation he wanted. Mr. Messiah said Bill Fennell had advised Mr. Messiah to write Mr. Thurber a letter, but Mr. Fennell did not want to get involved.

Regarding conservation committees to the town boards, Mr. Messiah said he had written to Cortlandt, New Castle, Greenburgh, Mt. Pleasant and Ossining, and had only had a reply from Mr. Collyer in Ossining. Mrs. Coggeshall announced that Briarcliff Manor has established such an advisory committee and Ed Walton is on it.

Concerning the Pocantico River area, she has prepared a portfolio on the river and will present it to the possible donor. She called Burnham Lewis and what we are waiting for now is a copy of the deed and until we get that we cannot get any kind of estimate. He sold 15 acres to the Butlers and asked someone to go to the Briarcliff office to get some idea of the taxes.

MEMBERSHIP: Lester Holmes announced a total of 390 members.

GEDNEY BROOK SANCTUARY: Howard Spendelow reported that they had laid more trail. Jackie Coyle had visited the sanctuary and identified many wild flowers. Signs are being smashed and markers pulled up and broken. Mrs. Pruyn had called up and was very upset about it. Mr. Spendelow wondered whether we should try personal visits to the neighbors or write a letter in the name of the society to put in mailboxes of people living in the vicinity. He read the draft of a letter composed by

the Gedney Brook Committee and asked the boards approval of the tenor of it. Mrs. Kernen made a motion that Mr. Spendelow and his committee write this letter with necessary corrections and additions. Seconded by Mrs. Ridgeway, motion was passed.

Mr. Spendelow has ordered signs from Mr. Balgoodian that say visitors are welcome, but there are to be no fires, dogs, hunters, etc. He feels the vandalism at the property is a situation stemming from deep-rooted experience. Leon Nettleton mentioned the violence of vandalism at the Appalachian Trail Center at Bear Mountain and at Greenwich Center, and suggested that the numbers be taken on cars which are there of people believed to be violating the premises and given to the police. Also a letter could be written to the newspapers to try to get a reaction.

BRENTON BROOK: Mrs. Haas had held a meeting at Brinton Brook and requested the presence of other sanctuary committee members, which had included Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Ridgeway and Mr. and Mrs. Spendelow, also George Porter. Mr. Haas has been evaluating the possibilities of the sanctuary and discussed the dam and what could be done. He asked Carol Coggeshall to try to get an estimate of what it would cost to correct the dam, and the committee should get in touch with Warren McKeon. There had been some discussion about putting up a hemlock barrier for the shelter of animals. The mowing will be done this fall, and the cost of a warden would be about \$170.00.

No reports on THURBER and CHERNICK.

JUNIOR AUDUBON: Miss Gaudette's class has had its last meeting for the season. Mr. Kayser said they were still having a hard time getting it started in Chappaqua. Mrs. Ridgeway had met again with her Cub Scout group.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Mr. Lincoln brought up Recommendation A of the Committee report which has to do with the setting up of an endowment fund, having possibly a contribution drive among our paid membership next year. Recommendation B regarding a sanctuary paid director position should be done at the beginning of the year. Recommendation C regarding Thurber Sanctuary, and whether we should delete the address from our directory at the next printing. He stated someone should be empowered to get in touch with the Nature Conservancy and get the business of the 1/10% which is not yet deeded to them settled. Stan' Lincoln made a motion that his committee be authorized to contact Nature Conservancy for a review of the current situation with their thinking and ours for future plans for the use of the Thurber Sanctuary. Seconded by Catherine Holmes, motion was passed.

Mr. Lincoln made a motion that Recommendation A concerning plans for establishing an endowment fund be adopted by the Board. Seconded by Kaye Anderson, motion was passed. This is to be begun with an initial fund of \$300 and the machinery of finances would be discussed later.

Harold Bligh moved

On Recommendation B, that the president be empowered to appoint a member of the society as a Society Sanctuary Director to coordinate the society's overall sanctuary program. Seconded by Mrs. Holmes, motion was passed. Mr. Messiah said he would set up a meeting with the long range planning committee and sanctuary chairmen to appoint such a person.

MISCELLANEOUS: Stan Lincoln made a motion, seconded by Mary Kernen that the president act for the Board in sending an appropriate note of condolence to the family of James Jutte.

NATIONAL AUDUBON FUND DRIVE: Mrs. Holmes stated that in view of the fact that we still have an uncleared matter of \$400 or more in taxes due on Brinton Brook we should not commit ourselves to any amount that would deplete our funds. The consensus of the board was that we do not take any further action on any additional funds towards purchasing swampland in Florida.

SUMMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: To cover the policies of the Board and to take action on any emergency situations, the President appointed the following to act as a governing body: Willis Messiah, Stan Lincoln, Catherine Holmes, Kay Koste, Harold Bligh and Carol Coggeshall.

Mr. Messiah announced that Mr. Fennell had requested to be released from the duties of putting together the new directory, and that he had a prospect of a replacement in mind.

The September meeting will be at the home of Harold Bligh. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Anderson for her hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Koste

Kay Koste
Recording Secretary