

Sept. 1967

SAWMILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

A meeting of the Sawmill River Audubon Society's Board of Directors was held on September 14, 1967 at the home of Harold Bligh. Members present were Messrs. Holmes, Ditterline, Bligh, Spendelow, Messiah, Osborn, Lincoln and Kayser, and Mesdames Holmes, Curner, Miller, Ridgeway, Forsyth and Koste.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$3,278.42 as of Aug. 31. There had been a bill for approximately \$295 for school tax on the Gedney Brook property, but Dr. Pruyn had given his check for \$500 and Catherine Holmes has paid the last tax on it.

PROGRAM - Harold Bligh announced that he and Leon Nettleton as co-chairmen had arranged the program for the year. The first meeting will be September 22 and will be preceded by a social coffee hour and there will also be an exhibit of stuffed birds, which Carol Coggeshall and Kaye Anderson will arrange for. He stated he did not yet have a chairman for the paid meeting, which will be held at Westlake High School this year. The group chose Schaugency's lecture on Mexico to be presented, and Mr. Bligh is still working on possibilities for the program for the Christmas Tea.

FIELD TRIPS - Howard Spendelow reported that his committee had met and presented the plan for field trips this year, which he announced to the group. Stan Lincoln is to put out a special bulletin to the membership listing the field trips for the year.

DIRECTORY - Bill Fennell has been ill but is well enough to work on the directory. Discussion ensued as to the advisability of putting out the directory every two years instead of one.

CONSERVATION - Will Osborn reported that the rerouting of Rt. 117 will not affect Chernick Sanctuary. On Rt. 117, the judge had ruled that the Transportation Department had not given sufficient reason for wanting to change the route. Ed Ditterline announced that the Cornwall project is not dead, and that the new chairman of Consolidated Edison has started a campaign to win over the people to change Con Ed's image from ugly to beautiful.

MEMBERSHIP - Lester Holmes announced a membership of 389.

GEDNEY BROOK - Howard Spendelow announced that he had not sent out the letter that was proposed, but had instead talked with the neighbors and thought this was a better way to handle it. Signs have been made by Mr. Balgoodian and read in a welcoming tone. Dave Kayser and Howard Spendelow have made plans for a parking lot for about 5 cars, and this will be the main project for the Fall.

BRINTON BROOK - Mary Forsythe reported there was still an outstanding debt on taxes of about \$400. Mrs. Brinton had promised to send the check in July but it had not come in. National is in a spot to pay this money. Catherine Holmes and Willis Messiah are to go to see Mrs. Brinton to try to collect this money and set a tentative date of September 24. Mr. Messiah announced that Mr. Haas had promised to get the place mowed and hire a warden. Nothing has been said about the pond. Mr. Spindelow stated that Dr. Pruyn had mentioned it would cost \$3000 to fix the small pond at Gedney Brook and that Brinton's dam would be much more expensive.

THURBER - Mr. Messiah had sent the Society's condolences to the family of Mr. Thurber and had received a letter of appreciation. Bea Ridgeway said the open ditch problem had been presented to the County of Westchester. There was discussion on whether we want to continue with Thurber, and Stan Lincoln said we have not yet contacted Nature Conservancy

CHERNICK - Will Orborn reported that some of the boy scouts in Pleasantville had used a saw on July 8 and cut some more wood and worked at the sanctuary. The Mr. Anderson who was interested in helping had not answered the letter sent him to come down to look it over. Ed Ditterline stated they had gotten the martin house up too late and that it has been taken over by sparrows.

JUNIOR AUDUBON - Miss Gaudette has her program made out for this year for the Pleasantville group. Mr. Messiah thought we should offer some donation to the church for the use of their facilities. Catherine Holmes moved that we donate \$10 to St. John's Episcopal Church as a gesture of appreciation. Seconded by Bea Ridgeway, motion was passed. David Kayser said his group has not yet been able to move. Bea Ridgeway hopes to start a club with her girl scouts, and Mary Curven said perhaps she could start one in her class at St. Joseph's School.

LONG RANGE - Stan Lincoln reported that the committee has received a request from Ed Walton to be relieved of his serving on the committee because of business reasons. Mr. Messiah is to appoint a replacement. Mr. Lincoln thought perhaps the spring would be a good time to launch our fund drive for the endowment, and asked for suggestions as to how we should approach it.

CONVENTION - Catherine Holmes will send a check for \$50 to Priscilla Gelffert toward her expenses at the Audubon Convention.

Mr. Messiah had a letter from a person in Freedonia connected with the NY State Federation of Bird Clubs announcing a payment of \$25 for the study of red tailed and red shouldered hawks found nesting in our territory. Stan Lincoln read a letter of appreciation from Mrs. Van Nierop, one of our scholarship winners, and a report had been received also from Mrs. Burleigh.

The next meeting will be at the home of Mary Curnen. After a vote of thanks to the Blighs for their hospitality, meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Kostz