

The Board of Directors of the Sawmill River Audubon Society Inc. met on October 12, 1967 at the home of Mary Curnen. Present were Messrs. Spindelw, Kayser, Haas, Ditterline, Osborn, Lincoln, Holmes and Messiah, and Mesdames Ridgeway, Anderson, Coggeshall, Curnen, Holmes and Koste.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand as of September 30, 1967 of \$3,420.18.

**CONSERVATION:** Carol Coggeshall presented editorials from the Patent Trader and the Reporter Dispatch in favor of burying the power lines. She said she had mentioned to the Citizen's Committee for the Hudson Valley that SMRAS was one of the civic groups sympathetic to conservation ideas.

Will Osborn had written he was disturbed about the diverting of the Pocantico River where they want to put the road bed for Rt. 117, and that a large pipe would have been more beneficial to wildlife than the small pipe they had put in. However, the river is not going into this pipe as it is a temporary measure. Mrs. Coggeshall had called Warren McKeon who said he was asking Fish & Wildlife people to look into it. There is a possibility that some individual or the village of Briarcliff may buy this property and keep it as open parkland.

The Transportation bond issue is being publicized by the Council for Better Transportation Planning, whose aim is to defeat it. The Hudson Valley group has sent out information against it and many other groups are anxious to defeat it. Mr. Messiah thought we should make an open stand against it and asked for discussion. Mr. Holmes said they should do more about public rather than private transportation. Mr. Kayser felt we should make clear our criticism is based on lack of control. Will Osborn made a motion that SMRAS go on record as being opposed to the bond issue because of incomplete safeguards. Seconded by Ed Ditterline, the motion was passed. Mr. Messiah will prepare a draft of such a statement.

Carol Coggeshall reported she had spent some time in Albany this summer and had sent some telegrams in the name of SMRAS defending the Forever Wild clause and the Conservation Bill of Rights. There are possibilities for parts of the Hudson River Basin and the Adirondacks to become national parks.

**PROGRAM:** Mr. Messiah had talked with Harold Bligh, who said the program was in order. Mr. Manypenny is running the November benefit program, and Kaye Anderson is getting the facts for him from Mr. Shaughency, with plans to get the tickets out three weeks in advance.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Mr. Holmes announced a membership of 395.

**SANCTUARIES:**

**Gedney Brook:** Trails are becoming more passable, Mr. Spindelw reported.

**Brinton Brook:** Mr. Haas reported he had had a machine come in to cut the high weeds leading to the pond and the comfort station. Most trails are accessible, and mowing will be done. A wooden sign by the power line had been torn down, and more new signs will be ordered for the trees.

He asked that a group be organized and the new posters be put up along the boundary lines before the hunting season.

Although we had budgeted \$150 for patrolling, the members thought Mr. Haas' suggestion that we do the patrolling ourselves by having some one of our group visit the sanctuary on weekends was sufficient. The Unitarian group from Montrose plans to bring 25 young people there on Sunday.

Regarding the unpaid taxes, Mr. Messiah and Mrs. Holmes had visited Mr. Brinton in September and she had told them she fully intends to pay them, but the income comes from her father's estate and is involved with red tape. We can now tell George Porter to advise National they will just have to wait until it comes through. G.P.S. - 6\*

Thurber: Mrs. Ridgeway reported that progress has been made on some of the trails, and Boy Scouts are interested in making a project of a new trail. John Anderson still plans to visit it. Mrs. Ridgeway suggested we make up an emblem for our own society and print it on an arm band for sale at meetings.

Chernick: Two groups of scouts had done some work but are waiting till Ed they can get more wood sawed. Ditterline said they could use a wood duck house or two.

DIRECTORY: Leon Nettleton is going to put together the new directory.

JUNIOR AUDUBON: Miss Gaudette has had two meetings at the church. Mrs. Curnen has 32 in her group at school. Mr. Kayser is still trying to get something started in the school.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Mr. Messiah stated he had not yet appointed a replacement for Ed Walton. Mr. Lincoln says the committee hopes to meet before the next board meeting.

Mr. Messiah then spoke about the untimely death of Bill Fennell, and mentioned that he, Mr. and Mrs. Nettleton, Mrs. Mack and Miss Rose had attended the memorial services at Slabsides, where the John Burroughs Association is to erect a memorial for him. Mr. Messiah asked what the group wanted to do in the way of tribute since Mr. Fennell was the first president and the founder of the society. Mr. Holmes moved that the Sawmill River Audubon Society draw up a resolution in tribute to William Fennell and contribute \$25 to the John Burroughs Association. Seconded by Bea Ridgeway, motion was passed, and Mr. Messiah and Mrs. Koste were asked to work up the resolution.

Stan Lincoln was appointed to attend the National Audubon dinner in New York on November 15.

The next board meeting will be at the home of Carol Coggeshall. With appreciation of thanks to Mrs. Curnen for her hospitality, the meeting adjourned at 10:40.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Koste, Recording Secretary