

May 9, 1968

A meeting of the Board of Directors of SMRAS, Inc. was held on May 9, 1968 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ridgeway. Members present were Messrs. Lincoln, Ridgeway, Powell, Cotter, Holmes, Lober, Kayser, Haas, Nettleton and Osborn, and Mesdames Ridgeway, Forsythe, Holmes, Coggeshall, Curnen and Koste.

Secretary's minutes for the previous meeting were read and approved as amended.

Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand as of April 30 of \$3,059.26 and in the Sanctuary Endowment fund \$1,789.08. Mrs. Holmes read the resolution requiring signatures of members for signing checks.

President Lincoln announced the following committee chairmen appointments:

Catherine Holmes, budget chairman for the year.
Carol Coggeshall, Conservation chairman, with James Lober assisting.
Dave Kayser, Field Trip chairman, with Jackie Coyle and Thelma Smith assisting with notices and reservations.

Hugh Moore, Fund Raising Chairman

Lester Holmes, Membership Chairman

Leon Nettleton and ~~Ed Chaisens~~, co-chairmen for Program arrangements.

Kaye Anderson, Publicity Chairman

Brinton Brook, Eric Haas, with Bea and Bob Ridgeway as co-chairmen.

Chernick - Will Osborn

Gedney Brook - Dave Kayser

Leon Nettleton has accepted the position of Sanctuary Director.

Stan Lincoln will act as chairman of the Long Range Planning committee with Hugh Moore heading up the Sanctuary Fund Drive.

Mr. Lincoln mentioned that the by-laws have not been reviewed for about 5 years. Harold Bligh will be chairman of a committee to study the by-laws and bring before the Board any recommendations they may have for changes.

Mr. Nettleton as Sanctuary Director will act as a coordinating point for our total sanctuary program and will be a member of the Long Range Planning Committee to work with them on future activities.

Leon Nettleton gave a report of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs Convention.

Membership - Lester Holmes reported a total of 413 members.

Thurber - Mrs. Ridgeway stated that the Eagle Scout had finished his work, having built a trail down the East Side and put up a bridge, and on the West side had built part of a corduroy trail. Mr. Lincoln is to get in touch with Nature Conservancy and invite Dan Smiley to determine what is the best use for this piece of property.

Mr. Lober and Mr. Powell were introduced as new members of the Board. Copies of the by-laws were distributed with the request that members of the Board think about whether they are adequate for us.

has been and they
Gedney Brook - A Scout/working with the Spendelow boys/have laid
20 more feet of trail. Mr. Kayser said a pileated woodpecker had
been seen nearby. Mr. Lincoln announced that the Benedict property is
now officially a part of the sanctuary.

Discussion ensued as to some acknowledgement of appreciation for those
who have helped develop the sanctuaries, such as Ed Ditterline and the
Spendelow boys, as well as the Spendelows. Carol Coggeshall made a motion
seconded by Mary Curnen that before the next Board meeting a resolution
should be prepared. Leon Nettleton is to draw up resolutions thanking
Mr. Ditterline and Mr. and Mrs. Spendelow for their many contributions
to the society, and that ~~xxx~~ Peter and Jeff Spendelow should apply for
and we should approve scholarships to Audubon camps when they chose to
use them.

Conservation - Carol Coggeshall announced the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
sent SMRAS a Public Notice asking for comments on the proposal of the
Dept. of Transportation of N. Y. State to dredge and fill the Hudson for
the purpose of constructing the Hudson River Expressway. The Conservation
Committee asked Board approval to protest on the basis of the present
studies being made for a comprehensive plan for the Hudson by the Hudson
River Valley Commission of New York, the Dept. of the Interior, and also
the studies which would be authorized by the Estuary Bill.

Mayor Lindsey has proposed an alternate route for a highway on Staten
Island which would not destroy the greenbelt area. SMRAS was represented
at a march last January which protested the highway as proposed by the
Dept. of Transportation.

A report from the bulletin of the Teatown Lake Reservation of the
Brooklyn Botanic Garden included a report of some of the nature programs
offered there.

A Conservation Bill of Rights has been prepared for introduction into
Congress which is similar to the N. Y. State one which was presented
last year at the Constitutional Convention and which has been introduced
again this year.

A follow-up meeting to the Marymount College meeting in March on water
pollution and the progress of the State Pure Waters Program was held with
speakers from the County and State Health Departments.

Both the Assembly and Senate passed a bill protecting the kingfisher. It
is hoped it will be signed by the Governor.

The pilgrimage to Sunfish Pond in the Delaware Water Gap is planned for
May 25 and 26 to protest the destruction of Sunfish Pond by a private
power company for a pumped storage power plant.

Mary Forsyth read a memorandum from Senator Whitney North Seymour, Jr. explaining the practical steps to aid in getting a bill passed.

Mary Curnen reported the bird chart is still being used in her classroom.

Brinton Brook - Mr. Haas reported that people are coming from different places to see the rock formation. Mr. Lincoln stated he had no further word from Mr. Kaufman concerning his nearby property.

Chernick - Mr. Osborn said there had been no great advance in trail building, although another Boy Scout will be working on it.

Sanctuary Inspection Tour - On Sat., April 20, Lee Pierson of Greenwich joined the Long Range Planning Committee and sanctuary committee members for a tour of our sanctuaries. He thanked us for being able to spend the day with us and was tremendously impressed. He believes Brinton Brook should be kept the way it is, that Gedney Brook serves us at the moment as a nature center. He recognizes that Thurber could cost us a great deal of money, but potential is there, as well as at Chernick, where a wood duck type of pond is a possibility. Mary Forsyth stated we should remember the original planning that went into the Brinton Brook area.

The Fennell Collection - Leon Nettleton announced he had disposed of a garden book to the Chappaqua Garden Club. Mt. Pleasant Library has no room for the John Burroughs books and we may lend them to the Library at Greenwich and recall them later. He suggested we have some one person responsible for all the records, and Mr. Lincoln offered to look into this.

Mr. Lincoln mentioned the property in Armonk owned by Herb Nichols which some of us had gone over to see, adjacent to route 287 near #22. Nature Conservancy had been contacted on this but have shown no interest and Mr. Nichols is interested in deeding it to us.

With thanks to the Ridgeways, the meeting adjourned at 10:40. The next meeting will be at the home of the Spendelows.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Koste
Recording Secretary

Important actions: 1 Voted to affiliate with N.Y. State Conservation Council (a sportsmen's group) and with National Audubon Society, Inc. 1968-69 officers elected.

2 Conservation committee report, including recommended & unfavorable bills before Congress & NY Legislature; published "Conservation Now", sent to affiliated clubs' officers, recommended organizing area sub-chairmen, opposition to S-5508 State bill (hunting mourning dove on L.I.), needs for concerted actions, trend towards conservation groups uniting. Threat to Eldorado, Lake Erie East shore birding area.

3 Publicity committee report--post cards distributed during camp season with conservation message to accompany boy & girl campers' notes/home; also, warning that red-tailed hawk may remove young from nest if disturbed. King Bird editor reported 633 copies mailed.

4 Evidences of wish to strengthen the Federation--committee to be appointed examining by-law & recommend changes next year; talk of need for additional meeting, each year; excellent Conservation committee report, active Publicity committee for first time. 28 clubs represented.

SMRAS Inc. contributions: --included in membership list with officers' names & addresses.*

--delegate welcomed by program Chairman & wife who said "Saw Mill River Audubon Society?"

That's the one with the nice news letter we always enjoy!"

--your delegate spoke at business meeting supporting #3 actions, above.

--comment by a Scarsdale delegate: "Whenever I hear Saw Mill River Audubon Society mentioned, it's always something pleasant."

*names of newly-elected officers supplied to Secretary

Format of Conference:

FRIDAY--registration, supper, evening meeting with talks by Mrs. Constance Cook of Ithaca, NYS

Legislator from Ithaca active in promoting Conservation bills, and by Acting President Dr.

David B. Peakall (chemist) of Syracuse on pesticides (Rochester Museum of Arts & Sciences)

SATURDAY--a.m., 6 & 8 o'clock bird walks, business meeting--only official business session (Museum afternoon--Pape's section, reports of recent wildlife research:

1 "Remarks on Ecology of Bird Fleas", Dr. Allen H. Benton of SUC Fredonia (research so far has found almost all on swallows, but they probably exist to some extent in all birds)

2 "Wetland evaluation & appraisal", Allan Konick, an appraiser, who related procedures when private land is threatened; mentioned that State Thruway & similar highways are impromptu sanctuaries, automatically maintaining habitats of a kind, forbidding inroads

3 "Present status of the State Bird Book", John Bull. 200 breeding species, 70,000 samples; problems of identifying sites reported (duplicate names); help welcomed, photos of bird nests or habitats with names of county, town, date, sender's name & address; book a 2-year job

4 "Use of Birds in Poetry", recited excerpts from U.S. poets, very entertaining change of pace by Maxwell Wheat, Jr., Conservation chairman

5 "Maintenance behavior of the black-crowned night heron", Dr. Georgell Maxwell III, Director of Rice Creek Biostation, SUC Oswego. Fascinating speed photos of feeding procedures. 2-year doctorate project planned, but birds did not reappear second year

6 "Cassau County Museum of Natural History", Robert G. Wolk, Curator. One of best-planned & liveliest nature centers. I have maps showing location & facilities

7 "Vocalizations & Life Histories of the Common Crow & Northern Raven", Knight R. Chamberlain, Va. Polytechnic Institute & Un. of Md.--recordings of crow calls with interpretations, live raven with him. (Rochester Museum)

Hastings

evening--dinner (20 present) with tribute to late President ~~xxxxxx~~ by newly-elected President Falkall; Mrs. ~~xxxxxx~~ present. Speaker, Dr. Tom J. Cado, Research Director of Cornell U. Laboratory of Ornithology, on "Peregrines & Pesticides" with views & statistics showing relationship; peregrines, once living on all continents, now largely exterminated by pesticides in U.S., found most in Alaska & Asia (Sheraton Hotel)

SUNDAY--5 a.m. breakfast at Bausch & Lomb cafeteria followed by bird walks to Hawk Lookout

Recommended: 1 SMRAS Inc. continue affiliation with Federation, send delegate next year

2 We protest State Senate bill S-4508 (mourning dove would be game bird on L.I.) & in U.S. Congress S-2951 (Senators Alan Bible, Howard Cannon, Frank Church, series of bills), giving fish & wildlife jurisdiction on Federal lands to States--could endanger bald eagle, might allow hunting in National Parks

3 Write NY Legislature supporting Wilderness Bill of Rights, Assemblyman Stockmeister

Thank you for sending me. It was an inspiring & worthwhile meeting. Leon D. Kottler