

Feb. 13, 1969

A meeting of the Board of Director's was held on Feb. 13, 1969 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Holmes. Members present were Messrs. Holmes, Kayser, Lober, Osborn, Messiah and Lincoln and Mesdames Holmes, Curnen, Koste, with Kaye Anderson and Grace Messiah also attending.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand in the regular fund of \$2,953.13 and in the Endowment Fund \$5,541.12 as of Jan. 31. Mrs. Holmes had looked into banks giving more interest and asked that the committee be authorized to make a decision on shifting the account. The executive committee was to have a short meeting after the regular meeting.

Kaye Anderson announced that Dot Kinamon had accepted the job of Publicity Chairman.

Mrs. Holmes gave compared costs for Thelma Smith regarding putting out the bulletin once and month and sending post cards. It was decided we should keep the bulletin every other month and have more human interest stories from members and also reports on field trips.

Membership: Mr. Holmes reported a total of 428 members.

Naturalist's report and program chairmen's reports are attached. Also Sanctuaries Director Report.

Conservation: The Conservation Committee met with a representative of the League of Women Voters of Mt. Pleasant to discuss the possibility of urging the Town to establishing a Conservation Advisory Council. We have consulted with Mary Forsyth, who is a member of the newly formed Council in New Castle and studied whatever information is available. We intend to try to get the support of other town organizations to join us in this effort. The Conservation Committee would like Board approval for this venture.

The Conservation Committee has been working with the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County in planning a meeting in March which will present the various conservation education activities conducted by organizations in Westchester County. The object is to inform the public in general, and teachers and scout leaders, etc. in particular, of what is available in this subject area.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is withholding a dredging permit for construction of the Hudson River Expressway because of court action instigated by the Sierra Club and the Citizens Committee for the Hudson Valley.

Mrs. Weiler had suggested getting out a brochure describing our activities to be dispensed with Welcome Wagon literature.

Chernick - Mr. Osborn reported that he, Kaye Anderson, Bob Ridgeway and Warren Balgooyen had visited Chernick on Jan. 12 to see what could be done there. It would be possible to attract wood ducks if we had a pond but seems expensive and dubious to do this. A raised crosswalk in certain parts was suggested, and Mr. Osborn will see about getting railroad ties. The Boy Scout who had been working there was given his Eagle award and the troop wants to present us with a duck box.

At this point Mr. Lincoln took over the meeting from Mr. Kayser, who had opened it in the interim. Mr. Lincoln announced that Ed Chasins had agreed to be our representative on the budget committee again this year. Regarding the Annual Meeting arrangements, he recommended the following to be considered for the nominating committee: Harold Bligh, Chairman, with Dot Kenney and Dot Kinamon. Mr. Holmes made a motion, seconded by Kay Koste, that these members be elected. For the Audit Committee, Mr. and Mrs. Vannini were suggested. Mr. Lincoln made a motion, seconded by Catherine Holmes that they be elected.

Mr. Lincoln announced that National Audubon had sent out a statement that hereafter we are to be called a Chapter instead of a Branch of National.

Mr. Lincoln had had a request from the Newcomers Club in Pleasantville for a member to address their March meeting with a talk on birds in your garden, and Kaye Anderson accepted the assignment.

With regard to the National Convention in St. Louis, Mrs. Holmes made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Curnen, that we send Mr. Lincoln as our delegate and give him \$50 towards expenses.

Mr. Lincoln had drafted a letter regarding the paid meeting in March. Mrs. Holmes will take care of the mailing, and the Vannini's will take tickets at the door.

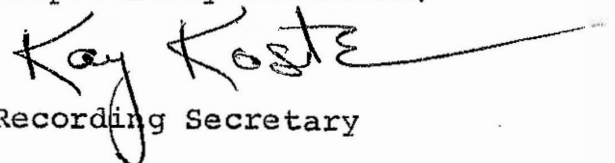
Mr. Kayser said they are working on the field trip to Chincoteague and plan to drive all the way down Friday night. Arrangements also will be made for the April trip to Montezuma and Sapsucker woods.

All committees should report to the budget committee with their own requirements.

Mr. Lincoln mentioned he planned to schedule a meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee and plan how we can take our fund drive to the general public. He asked that we all think about how we, as a society, can improve on our methods of operation and get more members to be active.

The next meeting will be at the home of the Lober's. With thanks to the Holmes for their hospitality, meeting adjourned at 10:10.

Respectfully submitted,


Recording Secretary

- Jan. 12: To Chernick with Mr. Osborn, Mr. Ridgeway and Warren Balgooyen to consider possibilities of creating better habitat for ducks.
- Jan. 14: Program for Brownie Troop 108, Thornwood, Bird slides and wintering insects, using galls, gypsy moth eggs, etc., to illustrate.
- Jan. 16: Two hours at Brinton. Picked up a few branches; trails in general are in excellent shape, as usual.
- Jan. 18: Mr. & Mrs. John Cox of West Orchard Rd., Chappaqua, with 10 neighborhood children, for tour of Gedney Brook. They are very interested and anxious to have a program for the children.

Mrs. Cox gave us a book, Wings at My Window, by Ada C. Govan, for the SMRAS library. Also suggested that we contact Eugene Mittelgluck, head of the Westchester Libraries System, for possible donations of nature books when we have a place to keep them.

- Jan. 22: Audited the conservation course being given by the Federated Conservationists, BOCES & Westchester Community College to hear Dr. Fisher from Cornell. Very inspiring.
- Jan. 26: Wrote the 5 neighborhood of the Taconic Girl Scout Council, offering tours and programs.

Jan. 27: Went to the Federated Conservationists office, White Plains, with Carol Coggeshall and others, to discuss a get-together of agencies involved in conservation education for March 22, to be called "Creative Conservation: Let's Exchange Ideas." They would like to have SMRAS prepare an exhibit of our activities and I volunteered to help with letters of invitation.

Feb. 2: Went to see Dr. and Mrs. Pruyn to discuss my ideas about a course for neighborhood children. They seemed pleased with the suggestion. Mrs. Pruyn is very anxious that people do not use the trail on their side of the pond. I think this is a delicate situation and "private" signs should be put up as soon as possible.

Also discussed this children's program with the Spindelows. Peter will demonstrate bird banding for us. I have developed a tentative letter and application for which I will pass around for suggestions.

Kaye Anderson

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

SMRAS INC. 2/13/69

A very successful, well-attended and much enjoyed January program consisting of supper as well as presentations at the Presbyterian Church, White Plains, followed by Mr. & Mrs. Powell's fine presentation at Westlake H.S. Letters of thanks sent to the speakers and to President of the Adult Fellowship, our W.P. host group. Mr. & Mrs. Powell very generously donated their honorarium to our Sanctuary Fund, for which please accept our further thanks.

Plans complete for February program, Member Participation Night, speakers Mr. Osborn, Mrs. Ryan and Dr. Engelbrektsen at Bell School Feb. 28.

Despite prior warnings of expenses that might total \$30 a meeting, each Westlake session so far has been billed at a "10 charge.

K. K. & L. N.

SANCTUARIES DIRECTOR REPORT

SMRAS INC. 2/13/69

Mrs. Anderson's report speaks for itself and is presented separately. Not included are plans that I approve organizing a young naturalists program she plans to conduct at Gedney Brook. If time allows tonight, I hope you will hear her read tentative versions of letters to parents, application blanks for children to complete, and her detailed plans for the course, including rewards to the graduates.

Brinton Brook. Mr. Mahon has been ill with serious back trouble that could entail surgery. Altho reported improved, he was not available to report by letter or phone this week and I secured the following informal report from Robert Buecker, one of his Deputies:

During the past couple of months a total of about fifteen hunters have been apprehended and warned by the wardens in the Brinton Brook Sanctuary, none with game and none for a second time. The increase over previous times may be due to our lack of patrolling last year and immediately preceding but certainly resulting from the increase in number of hunters anywhere. Most of those the wardens met were "from the city" with a few from the Groton area. Their names and addresses are recorded and kept on file by Mr. Mahon. Probably any second offender would be arrested. I recommend as our permanent policy the hiring of officers to patrol this sanctuary during hunting seasons in the future.

Fruyn Property. Regarding Dr. Fruyn's suggestion, a few weeks ago, to attempt a "test case" or "gift of future interest", it may not require further immediate discussion on our part. Dr. Fruyn told me Saturday that he is now considering a different tack toward the same end, perhaps resorting to a Land Trust being organized by Mr. Carl Schmidt. If he decides on this new course, it will entail no change in the eventual transfer of the tract to our Society and will relieve us of some detailed paperwork right now, procedures for which we are not organized, such as handling a temporary lien. Should you read anything in the papers about the Schmidt organization with reference to Dr. & Mrs. Fruyn's property, have no fear that it signifies any change in our relationship and present agreement.

Leon