

March 13, 1969

A meeting of the Board of Directors of SMRAS Inc. was held March 13, 1969 at the home of Mr. James Lober. Members present were Messrs. Holmes, Lober, Nettleton, Messiah, Lincoln, Osborn and Ridgeway and Mesdames Holmes, Ridgeway, Coggeshall, Curnen, Koste and Smith. Also in attendance were Mrs. Kaye Anderson, Mrs. Dorothy Kinamon and Mrs. Grace Messiah.

Reports of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand as of Feb. 28, 1969 of \$3057.21 and in the Sanctuary Endowment Fund \$5556.12. Mrs. Holmes reported that after discussion with the executive committee it had been decided to purchase bonds through the National Bank of Westchester at 5%. She made a motion, seconded by Mr. Nettleton that we transfer \$166.00 from the endowment fund to the working fund to pay the expense of putting on the fund drive. The budget was then presented to the board and discussed. Mrs. Holmes moved that the budget be adopted as presented. Seconded by Thelma Smith, motion was carried.

Mr. Lincoln announced he had had a letter of resignation from the Board from Mr. William Cotter due to the impossibility of attending meetings.

Mr. Lincoln brought up the subject of needing some equipment such as a file that would lock, and the possibility of obtaining a public address system for our meetings. Mr. Nettleton mentioned a system that is run by batteries which is very efficient and was to look into prices.

Membership: Mr. Holmes announced a total of 431 members.

Reports from Program Committee, Sanctuary Director and Naturalist's report were circulated and are attached.

Conservation: At the request of Bob Boyle, a letter was sent to the State Commissioner of Conservation protesting the permit given to the Croton Realty Corp. to remove 20,000 cubic yards of gravel from the Croton River about 2 miles above the mouth. Bob feels this will prevent the spawning of striped bass and herring in this area and could smother aquatic insects. It is a state stocked stream. Letters were also sent to the Town Board of Cortland, Mr. Robert Jonas, Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County.

The Federated Conservationists are sponsoring a Forum on March 22 at the County Center with an exhibit and speakers and discussion on conservation education. The purpose is to inform teachers and scout leaders, etc. of the various programs and aids available in the County. SMRAS will be one of the exhibitors.

On March 26 at a meeting of the Mt. Pleasant Community Service Committee, the Conservation Advisory Council will be discussed by Ned Smith of the Open Space Action Institute. The Conservation Committee of SMRAS is trying to get community interest and support for a Council before asking the Town Board to appoint a council.

On March 14 SMRAS Conservation Committee will present a statement at a hearing on thermal discharge standards conducted by the New York State Water Resources Commission. This is the fourth and last hearing held in the State. At the other hearings industry has objected to the proposed criteria as being too expensive and restrictive, so it seems important

for conservation groups to be heard also.

A plan was presented to the County Board of Supervisors for solid waste disposal and the eventual elimination of dumping at Croton Point. Full details will be in the bulletin.

The Council for Emergency Transportation Action has been instrumental in having a Joint Resolution and legislation introduced in the State legislature. The resolution resolves that there be a moratorium on all new road, bridge and auxiliary airport construction until a full study is made of the transportation systems which will service the States major urban areas in the future.

Mr. Lincoln suggested that we appoint Dorothy Kinamon and Leon Nettleton as a subcommittee to take care of the Camera Club prize.

Mr. Messiah made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Ridgeway, that we invite Mr. Engelbrekton as our paid meeting speaker for next year.

Brinton Brook: Mr. Nettleton reported signs up and everything in good order. Regarding the foxes Mr. Mahon had seen, the feeling of the board was unanimously against the use of traps. It was suggested Mr. Mahon be invited to one of our board meetings and perhaps show some films.

Regarding possibility of encroaching development adjacent to Brinton Brook, Mr. Lincoln said they were thinking of asking National Audubon for protection and he would contact George Porter concerning such a letter.

Kaye Anderson asked for volunteers to help lead field trips at Pound Ridge, and Lois Lober and Mary Curnen offered to take some of these. She has also purchased magnifying glasses for the use of the children at the price of 89¢ for two.

Chernick: Will Osborn had looked into the matter of securing railroad ties for use on the trails. Jim Lober made a motion, seconded by Leon Nettleton that we authorize \$60 for the purchase of these.

Scholarship: Mrs. Messiah reported she has sent out about 33 pieces of mail to schools and newspapers.

Harold Bligh of the By-Laws committee has been contacted and he is going to work on this.

With appreciation to the Lobers for their hospitality, meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Koste
Recording Secretary

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Details are complete for tomorrow's annual fund-raising meeting that will feature Mr. & Mrs. (C) [redacted] [redacted], thanks to initiative and services of Mr. & Mrs. Powell. PHS Auditorium, 8.15.

Next month's program, Monday, April 21, will be provided by the Color Camera Club of Westchester, its annual presentation on our behalf, at the Church Street School, White Plains. Tonight probably we should discuss our annual presentation of a prize to the winning photographer.

K. Koste & L. Nettleton

SANCTUARIES DIRECTOR

The hunting season is over, our Conservation Officer, Mr. Mahon, and his deputies have completed their duties and have received our final \$50 stipend for services. Mr. Mahon's final report, dated February 26, says with regard to Brinton Brook:

"The reports are that everything is well in the vicinity of the sanctuary. Gun shots were heard and persons were checked; however, no violations occurred on the Sanctuary.

"One of the deputies reported seeing a red fox on the property at approximately 7.00 a.m. on January 26, '69. I certainly hope there are no more than a couple, as this could be hazardous to the bird crop in the spring. Advise your people and if they see many foxes, please advise me, and I will have to take steps to eliminate them.

"The season as a whole was quite successful. No actual violations, and no great problems."

One of the "steps" Mr. Mahon recommends is setting traps. What is the Board's consensus regarding setting traps at Brinton Brook?

Mr. Mahon concluded with the hope that he might attend some future gathering to show a film and answer questions. Could we invite him to a Board meeting?

Leon Nettleton

URALIST'S REPORT

February 13: To Ossining neighborhood of Taconic Girl Scout Council to give a brief talk on what Saw Hill River Audubon Society has to offer, indoor and outdoor programs. Have since had calls from two of their Brownie leaders. At this meeting I was asked to participate in a program conference of Taconic Council on March 24, as part of a panel on community resources available to Scouts.

March 4: Gave indoor program for Brownie troop 244, Hawthorne. Mailed out 19 invitations to children of Gedney Brook neighborhood for spring program. To date (March 10) have had six affirmative replies.

March 6: To Brinton Brook, checking trails. Saw two pileated woodpeckers.

In addition, some time has been spent on sign work, and a good deal of time helping with the Federated Conservativists' meeting planned for March 22. The Ossining High School and Science Club finished some labels, which we will get together and put up on an early week-end.

Many calls from Scout groups have been received for April activities, schools will be contacted for [redacted] class field trips, and among new equipment ordered for early use are some inexpensive magnifying glasses and a new, child level, book on Ecology.

Kaye Anderson

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