

February 5, 1970

A meeting of the Board of Directors of SMRAS, Inc. was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Holmes. Members and officers present were Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Messiah, Messrs. Kayser, Ridgeway, Osborn, Wecker, Powell and Nettleton, and Mesdames Smith, Kinaman, Anderson, Weiss, Koste, Coggeshall and Curnen.

In the absence of Mr. Lincoln, Vice President Kayser presided. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand as of Jan. 31, 1970 of \$3,364.37 and in the Sanctuary Endowment Fund \$5,610.45.

Membership report: Mr. Holmes said we are up to 485 members.

Conservation: Mrs. Coggeshall announced that a series of nature talks with film programs will be presented at the County Center sponsored by the County of Westchester Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Conservation in cooperation with the Federated Conservationists of Westchester.

She presented a folder describing a course to be given for/school elementary teachers, pertaining to nature and ecology, sponsored by the Federated Conservationists of Westchester. With the help of a grant given by Con Edison, the fee will be only \$25.00. Motion was made by Mrs. Holmes, seconded by Mrs. Kinaman, to give Kaye Anderson \$25.00 to take this course if she is accepted.

Mr. Holmes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Messiah, that we pay the \$15.00 to continue our membership in the Federated Conservationists of Westchester.

Mrs. Coggeshall mentioned that seven industrial firms were taken to Court in January for pollution. Also, the legislature is ready to pass a compromise bill requiring holding tanks on boats so that they do not dump sewage into the river. The State has completed some dumping stations but not enough. They are trying to pass a macerater-chlorinator type of thing that would grind up waste and dump it and the amendment seems likely to be passed. Mr. Nettleton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Osborn, that we authorize Mrs. Coggeshall to write the legislature protesting against the amendment and in favor of the present law being maintained.

Mrs. Anderson presented a trail guide folder in rough that she has worked up for Gedney Brook and had gotten costs for having it printed. She reported two new Junior clubs. Duryea Morton, Education Director for National, is working on material for student members.

Mr. Kayser reported the pancake supper had been a great success and we had made a profit of \$112.50. Originally we had promised the Methodist Church \$25, but Mr. Lincoln had felt we should give the church from \$75 to \$100 to keep our good relationship. Mr. Holmes mentioned that we only pay the All Saints Episcopal Church \$15 for the use of their building each year for the Christmas Tea.

Motion was made by Thelma Smith, seconded by Mary Curnen, that we give the church \$50 instead of \$25 for the pancake supper.

Mrs. Holmes reported a profit of \$50.00 on books sold for Bob Boyle.

Mr. Kayser suggested that a nominating committee be appointed with Jim Lober as Chairman, with Mrs. Powell and Dr. Fisher. Motion was made by Mr. Ridgeway, seconded by Mr. Osborn.

Motion was made by Mrs. Curnen, seconded by Miss Smith, that Mr. and Mrs. Vannini again be appointed as our Auditing Committee.

Mr. Kayser reminded us that a member was needed to serve on the Budget Committee. Mr. Vogeley was suggested by Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Lincoln had suggested Mr. Chasins. Mrs. Coggeshall suggested using Mr. Vogeley as an alternate in the event that Mr. Chasins could not serve. Mr. Holmes made this into a motion, seconded by Mr. Ridgeway. Mrs. Weiss will schedule a budget committee meeting before the March meeting, with Mr. Kayser, Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Messiah and Mr. Chasins.

Mr. Kayser expressed the gratitude of the Board to the Powells for showing their fine film after the pancake supper.

On the fund drive, which will probably be undertaken in the Fall rather than the Spring, Mr. Kayser suggested a meeting of the committee and suggested Mr. Messiah, Mrs. Weiss, Mr. Powell and Mr. Curtis work this up, since organizational time is required to get it rolling. This will be reported on at the next meeting.

Mr. Wecker had received a letter from Mr. E. H. Buckley at the Boyce Thompson Institute saying they are promoting an ecological study of the Hudson River from New York to Poughkeepsie. They want to amass enough information to help guide local government units in zoning, etc. for the best possible use of land from an ecological point of view and what wild animals would suffer from changing land use.

Mr. Kayser noted a conflict with Easter in the next scheduled overnight field trip, and the date was changed to April 4 and 5.

Mr. Wecker spoke about the young people's group that had been organized in Greeley High School with 55 people signing up. He introduced Betsy Woodland, Julie Ward, Jim McKean and faculty advisor Roberta Hamblen. Mr. McKean told about what they are planning to do in this pilot group - to find out what the situation is in Chappaqua, checking streams to see if they are polluted, and seeing what can be done about it, getting involved politically if necessary. They are also going to study what percentage is wet land and wood land, also working through state agencies. Mr. Holmes gave them a brief history of SMRAS Inc. and Mrs. Anderson reported on her activities and the use of our sanctuaries. Mr. Wecker said sampling and testing equipment would require money, but they would try local sources such as the Readers Digest. A special fund will have to be earmarked for this purpose, but could be administered by the society, and Mr. Holmes suggested a meeting of the executive committee to take this under advisement. Miss Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Osborn that the society accept the responsibility of administering whatever funds are raised by the Student Environment Group for their studies and endeavors.

A Mr. Tice of the Biology Department has also agreed to serve as an advisor. Mr. Wecker reminded us that student membership carries full voting privileges, and Mr. Kayser suggested that as they become sufficiently organized a representative should be invited to attend Board meetings.

Thelma Smith reported that the Membership Drive Committee had met and updated a handout that had previously been used. She asked for approval to have 1000 printed to use at the entrance to meetings, at sanctuaries, libraries, etc. and mailing to members to get other members, and give to the Welcome Wagon lady with pamphlets or cards to give with them.

Program: Mr. Wecker said the Member Participation night will be Feb. 20. He suggested getting leaders from Sawmill and Bedford chapters together to plan one night when they could get a top speaker on environmental problems. It was also suggested we should have one meeting a year at Ossining and one at Croton. Mr. Wecker is also working with Hugh Moore to get interest generated at the Bell School through young people. A poster contest was suggested, and Mr. Nettleton made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kinaman, that we offer a cash prize of \$5.00.

With thanks to the Holmes's for their hospitality, meeting adjourned at 11:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Koster

Recording Secretary