

April 2, 1970

A meeting of the Board of Directors of SMRAS, Inc. was held on April 2, 1970 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Osborn. Also present were Messrs. Lincoln, Wecker, Ridgeway, Holmes, Nettleton and Kayser and Mesdames Wecker, Ridgeway Holmes, Kinaman, Smith, Curnen, Weiss, Anderson, Koste and Coyle.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand as of March 31 of \$2,853.96 and in the Endowment Fund \$5,610.45.

Mr. Lincoln brought up the matter of having a representative at the National Audubon Convention in Seattle, and that Mrs. Mack was planning to attend. Motion was made by Mrs. Holmes, seconded by Miss Smith that we contribute \$50 towards her expenses. In view of what amounts other organizations offer towards such activities, it was brought up that perhaps we should budget a greater amount in future years. Motion was made by Mr. Nettleton, seconded by Mrs. Ridgeway, that the Budget Committee consider a sum of \$100 or more starting next year for our representative at the National Convention.

Mr. Lincoln explained that our charter expires as of May 31, 1970 and we now have to be re-certified. He read a list of the necessary qualifications including running a membership campaign. Mr. Nettleton made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kinaman, that the necessary requirements were read to the Board and that the appropriate papers will be filled out.

Regarding the Allison property, Mr. Lincoln showed the Board where it is located on the map, and that it approximates 4 acres. He and Mr. Kayser with Mrs. Anderson had called on the Allisons to see how they felt about picking up the tab for transfer. They are definitely going to get rid of the property and the Land Conservancy is also interested in taking it but do not have the money to pick up the costs. There is a buyer who is interested in the land and it is valued at \$25,000. It can probably be handled without an on-site survey for about \$50. Mr. Lincoln pointed out that this property would bring us up to the Crystal Springs land, which we eventually hope to get and is an important parcel for us. Mr. Holmes mentioned that Mr. Brisson is also the lawyer for Crystal Springs. Mr. Kayser said since members make contributions annually we could earmark this amount of money for purchasing this land. Mrs. Holmes suggested seeing Mrs. Wallace of the Digest personally and thought a contribution from her might be forthcoming. Mr. Wecker said the Student Group is seeking funds also and have already approached Mrs. Wallace in the name of the Society.

Lester Holmes made a motion, seconded by Mary Curnen, that we will accept the property in the name of the Society as part of the Gedney Brook sanctuary and guarantee to the Allisons that the costs of surveying, assessing and recording of deeds will be paid through donations of individuals of the Society. Motion was carried. Mrs. Wecker said she would pledge to donate this money through the Readers Digest plan to allocate certain monies to selected employees.

Mr. Lincoln gave Mrs. Coyle a guide to writing news bulletins that had been issued by National.

Field Trips - Mr. Kayser said he has about 20 signed up for the overnight trip to Brigantine and Bivalve and we are to have Don Kunkel as a guide.

Membership Committee: Thelma Smith said she will go ahead to canvass 1000 people by letter and National is sending her folders. Members will pick out names from the phone book to send letters to. The membership drive letter should be approved by National before being sent out.

Scholarships: No final report as yet. Mrs. Arent has reapplied for Chappaqua Garden Club scholarship. We gave her one last year and she was not able to go. Motion was made by Mr. Nettleton, seconded by Mrs. Ridgeway that we award this scholarship. Mr. Nettleton also moved, seconded by Mrs. Curnen, that we empower Mrs. Messiah to award scholarships according to her judgement and act on behalf of the Board up to the amount provided in the budget.

Conservation: No report in Mrs. Coggeshall's absence. Mr. Lincoln reminded the Board we should take action in conservation matters but not to say "We as a society" as we could lose our tax-exempt status if our name is mentioned.

Publicity: Mrs. Kinaman reported everything up to date.

Sanctuaries: Mr. Nettleton gave a report on the sanctuaries, copy of which is attached. Mr. Lincoln thought we should consider Mr. Nettleton's recommendations for next year. He should meet with the Brinton Brook Sanctuary Committee to bring us their recommendations for patrol of the sanctuary before taking any action in the Fall.

Kaye Anderson reported re the May 2 sanctuary field trips, each chairman planning his own. She will do Thurber and photographers will be on hand at the others. She had had a phone call from Mr. Brown in charge of the Bronx Zoo who needs helpers three days a week. She is attending classes at Community College. She has made trips with the Teatown Council and Teatown will soon announce a fund drive to finance a naturalist.

Brinton Brook: Mrs. Ridgeway asked whether we are supposed to put signs in certain places in the area. Mr. Lincoln thinks we should ask Mr. Brisson just how they should be legally displayed.

Mr. Wecker said the pesticide booklets printed by New Castle had cost more than our \$25 donation. He promised to bring some to the Annual Meeting and mentioned that DDT is not banned by the entire nation so we have an uphill fight here. We have agreed to be the administrators of what monies the young people make but it will not be owned by the Society. Mrs. Curnen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Holmes, that the Society agrees to accept and administer in its name the funds for student activities.

Mr. Wecker will be giving a talk on general environmental problems before the Lions' Club and would try to get members for the society and donations for the environmental fund. He showed booklets entitled "Guidelines for Citizen Action" on Environmental Problems" and thought we should have this type of literature available, suggesting we print up 3000 or more. Motion was made by Mr. Ridgeway seconded by Mrs. Curnen that we purchase approximately \$100 worth of these booklets. Mr. Wecker thinks we should sponsor something countywise next fall and get big name speakers to give us a more aggressive image in the community. Mr. Lincoln suggested he talk to Carol Coggeshall and her committee on these lines.

With thanks to the Osborns for their hospitality, meeting adjourned at 11:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary

1. As directed by the Board last month, I asked Mr. Mahon for a final report on patrolling at Brinton Brook preliminary to paying Mr. Donecker the final \$50 agreed upon. (his letter read)

After consulting President Stan I replied, enclosing check for \$50 made out to Mr. Donecker (letter read)

Mrs. Anderson reports, after checking the Sanctuary register, that "N.Y. State Conservation" was written there on 5 different occasions in each of the past two years, the second year with dates and both times only in October and November. As mentioned last month, I do not know of any member's having seen a Conservation Officer there since the time Mary Forsyth was Sanctuary Chairman and had to be very forceful in withholding permission for Mr. Mahon to drive his boat to the pond.

I recommend the following procedures for the coming year:

- different patrolling arrangements that do not involve either Mr. Mahon or Mr. Donecker
- working if possible thru Mr. Kurka, Mr. Mahon's successor, or with George Odell at New Paltz, regional conservation officer
- our not renewing honorary membership to Mr. Mahon when the present membership expires.

2. Saturday, May 2, is the date both for field trips to our Sanctuaries and for a combined bird count at all four sanctuaries, details of which Mrs. Anderson will report.
3. Earth Day plans for April 22 have involved me as a member of the Society in requests for information, either a speaker or sources of films and filmstrips, from the following:
  - Pleasantville High School, where its assembly will be addressed by our own ecology authority and program director, Dr. Wecker,
  - Pleasantville Middle School 7th grade science teacher, whose students are making up a group report on environmental threats,
  - Pleasantville Middle School 8th grade students,
  - Dr. Sune Engelb rektson, one of our members, probably on behalf of the Port Chester Schools.

Leon Nettleton

Sec'y's copy, with cc. of Mr. Mahon's and my letters

(on SMRAS Inc. stationery)

31 Saratoga Avenue  
Pleasantville, New York 10570  
March 18, 1970

Mr. Robert Mahon  
197 Huntville Road  
Katonah, N.Y. 10536

Dear Mr. Mahon:

Thank you for your final report of the year on Briston Brook, dated March 15. Regarding Bob Denecker's having shot at a fox, I am certainly sorry that our instructions were not made clear. No one is allowed to hunt or have firearms in the Sanctuary, and all wildlife there is protected--birds, animals, insects, snakes, trees, flowers. The reason we have the Sanctuary patrolled is to enforce that regulation.

Enclosed is our \$25 check to Bob Denecker, completing payments for the 1969-70 season.

I shall pass along to our Board of Directors your thanks for membership in the Society.

Sincerely yours,

Leon D. Battleton,  
Director of Sanctuaries

c. for Mr. Denecker

(on SMRAS Inc. stationery)

Enclosures (2)

STATE OF NEW YORK  
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME  
Bureau of Law Enforcement

Mar 13/70

From: *Robt Mahon*

To: *Leon D. Mattleton*

*Report of Patrol on the Rinton Brook property*

*I am advised by officer Dorecker that things in general on the Sanctuary are very good for the past several months. No reports of illegal hunting or trespassing. Things appear to be well under control, Bob stated that he shot at a Coy noted several Hawks, other than that things are fine. This will wind up this year's patrol. Thanks again for membership in the Society.*

*Best Regards  
R. Mahon C.O.*