

May 7, 1970

A meeting of the Sawmill River Audubon Society, Inc. was held on May 7, 1970 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Messiah. Present were: Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Messiah, Dr. and Mrs. Wecker, Messrs. Ridgeway, Osborn, Kayser, Abb and Mesdames Kinaman, Weiss, Curnen, Anderson, Koste, Coyle and Coggeshall.

President Kayser welcomed Donald Abb as a new member of the Board. Mr. Lincoln was unable to attend but Mr. Kayser said the Allison property deal still needs no further action on our part at this time.

Mrs. Messiah reported the following recipients of Audubon scholarships for summer camp: for Maine Camp: Mrs. Harriet C. Arant, for Chappaqua Garden Club; Mrs. Gwen Plaeger, teacher at Austin Road Elementary School in Mahopac; Mr. Peter McHugh, teacher in White Plains. For Greenwich - Mrs. Marijean Arnold, volunteer at Teatown Lake Reservation.

Mr. Kayser reported for Mr. Lincoln that our 30% tax situation has been cleared and Dr. Pruyn has been advised. Also we have received our new charter. He thought we should respond to Mr. Buckley's request for assistance on his study of the Hudson River. Mr. Buckley is a botanist at Boyce Thompson Institute. Mr. Kayser thought perhaps we should invite him to a Board meeting.

President Kayser announced the following changes in chairmanships: Kaye Anderson will assume chairmanship of Gedney Brook Sanctuary in place of Mr. Kayser. Mr. Nettleton will now devote his efforts to being Historian and Mr. Lincoln will take over the position of Chairman of Sanctuaries. This leaves open the area of fund raising and Mr. Lincoln will be active on that. Mrs. Stanley Wecker will be the new Program Chairman.

Treasurer's report: Mrs. Weiss presented the Treasurer's Report showing a balance on hand as of April 30, 1970 of \$2,952.45 and in the Sanctuary Endowment Fund \$5,614.45. Mrs. Wecker presented the Treasurer with two checks totaling \$150 which had been given toward ecological activities.

Program: Mrs. Wecker offered her suggestions for future programs and the Board was asked for its opinion. Everyone seemed enthusiastic about the scope of the outline and there was some discussion about a Fair which is set for October. Mr. Osborn had suggested Sunday afternoon meetings, one of which was included in the plans.

A letter had been received from Blanche Mack, thanking us for asking her to be our delegate at the National Convention in Seattle.

Mrs. Anderson reported the bird counts at the sanctuaries on May 2 and 3 had included 18 species at Chernick, 13 at Thurber, 37 at Brinton, and Gedney not known as yet. She reported putting in 69 hours of work since the last Board meeting. She is to prepare a report for Mrs. Pruyn, who wishes to know how we are spending some of the money she is giving each year. Gedney Brook has been included in the listing of the 1970-71 Directory of Natural Service Centers for Youth. Copies of the trail guide for Gedney are now ready. The hawk had been released at Croton Point and the ranger and superintendent there had promised to keep an eye open for her.

Brinton Brook: Mr. Ridgeway announced that Mrs. Brinton will be 95 in a few days, and Mrs. Perrera had telephoned to ask us not to come as a group, although cards would be welcome.

Mr. Kayser had received a letter from the League of Women Voters of Mt. Pleasant who have been studying the needs for recreation in the Town of Mt. Pleasant and would welcome any of our comments. We agreed the letter should be answered, stating that we approve of their study but recreation is not our specific course of action. Mrs. Coggeshall made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Coyle, that we answer the letter and that we recognize the recreational needs of the town but we do not feel that there is any particular action we can take as a conservation measure.

Conservation: Mrs. Coggeshall reported she had received a copy of public and private pump-out facilities as of March 1, 1970 for boats in the State of New York which must now be equipped with holding tanks.

Response to our Guidelines has been most enthusiastic. So far she had had calls for additional copies from 32 people requesting over 3800 copies. This included Stanley Grierson, Naturalist for the Lewisboro Conservation Advisory Council, for 2000 copies for the Town of Lewisboro, 500 copies from a high school student in Katonah, Mrs. Wohl from the magazine Westchester, 500 copies for the Teatown Lake Reservation Fair, 1100 copies for Fox Lane Middle School, 175 copies for Bedford Hills School, 300 copies for the Presbyterian Church, Pleasantville, a Mrs. Frey in Mt. Kisco for copies for libraries and schools, and a Scarsdale high school student. One recipient had sent a check to cover postage, and the Town of Lewisboro was willing to pay. Teatown Lake Reservation had asked for books, sources of good nature books and other literature for their Fair.

The PTA of the Thomas Jefferson School, Lakeland School District of Yorktown, had asked if SMRAS would put on an exhibition at their fair on June 6.

Regarding Pocantico River, court action has stopped the northern route and the County has plans to make this a pilot project and plans a recreation park there. Mrs. Coggeshall had had a letter from Mr. Osborn, who had reservations about this, and wondered if the Board had any feelings about the county taking this over and whether there are things we should be aware of and get written into the final contracts.

The Board decided she should ask the Town of Lewisboro to pay \$82.00, which was the cost of printing the 2000 copies. Mrs. Wecker had gotten prices from Higham Press and it was \$115 for 5000 and \$199 for 10,000. Through contacts at the Digest she had gotten 15,000 printed free.

Dr. Wecker brought up the subject of disposing of pesticides and the separation of waste material. Mrs. Coggeshall mentioned the separation of waste will have to begin in the home. Croton Point can only be used for five years more, and the County will be signing contracts for waste and rail hauling compacting. Dr. Wecker stated the Patent Trader has been sympathetic towards this situation and they wish some group would look into this issue, mentioning SMRAS. Irvington has initiated this sort of pickup to re-salvage the use of wastepaper and he thought we should use the Irvington study and set up groups to assign people to provide figures and convince people that there is a solution, and Mrs. Coggeshall offered to help on this. She also thought the Bulletin issues once a month should have enough space to put in legislation news on the Federal, State and County levels. Mrs. Coyle offered putting an extra page in, but reminded us of the higher cost. Mr. Kayser thought we should pay heed to conservation issues, particularly in our area, but the broader aspects should not

be short-changed. Any activities that the group engages in such as Dr. Wecker's should be reported. Mr. Osborn thought we should also get more into the newspapers with by-line credits given to us.

Mr. Kayser read a letter received from Stanley Quickmire which had been sent to 14 Chapter Presidents, requesting a donation of \$20 towards a gift of a framed print to be presented to Representative Edward Mason for his efforts in behalf of getting the wild life bill protecting endangered species passed. Motion was made by Mrs. Holmes, seconded by Mrs. Coyle that we ignore this. Mr. Kayser thought we should give him some public recognition showing that we appreciate his work in our cause. Dr. Wecker suggested we adopt a resolution to show Stan Lincoln appreciation for his work towards the society. Mrs. Curnen mentioned appreciation should also be given to Mrs. Messiah for her work on the Scholarship program.

Mr. Lincoln had advised that we had been contacted by the Scenic Hudson Commission and the Environmental Defense Fund, both asking for money. The Board was reminded that such requests fall under the policy drawn up last year to handle them, and Mrs. Coggeshall asked that this be tabled for the next meeting.

Mr. Osborn reported 17 badges left and wondered whether we should order more. Mr. Kayser suggested if we get a call for more badges we could order them at a later date.

With thanks to the Messiahs for their hospitality, meeting adjourned at 11:05.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kay Kost*

Recording Secretary