

June 4, 1970

A meeting of the Board of Directors of SMRAS, Inc. was held on June 4, 1970 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Coggeshall with a "bring your own" supper prior to the meeting. Present were: Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, Dr. and Mrs. Wecker, Mr. and Mrs. Osborn, Messrs. Kayser, Abb, and Mesdames Coggeshall, Curnen, Koste, Coyle and Anderson.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report: In the absence of Mrs. Weiss, Mrs. Holmes gave the report. Balance on hand as of May 31, 1970 was \$2,475.16 and in the Sanctuary Endowment Fund \$5,614.45. Mrs. Weiss had sent a recap of the amount of money which has been spent on Gedney Brook Sanctuary, approximately \$200, which did not include insurance. Mr. Kayser relayed a request from the Post Office that we should not put circulars into mail boxes, as they are only to be used for United States mail. He also read some communications from people who had sent in congratulations for the Guidelines sheet.

Mrs. Wecker had looked into the possibility of a telephone listing in the Westchester directory for our Chapter and had called Mr. Boardman at National and found out it would be all right for us to list the New York number and be billed for it at \$7.20 per year. Mrs. Coyle made a motion, seconded by Mr. Osborn, that we implement this listing of Audubon Society in the Westchester Directory. Dr. Wecker offered to talk to people in Scarsdale and Bedford groups to see if they would be willing to share the cost.

Membership: Mr. Holmes announced a total of 655 members. A vote of thanks was given to the Weckers for their efforts.

Stan Wecker announced that he thought we were ready to move on a pesticide campaign -- DDT and other highly injurious chemicals and their disposal. He had called the Massachusetts Audubon and learned that the State of Mass. has built a large incinerator with very high temperatures, and had held a pickup campaign. They are willing to dispose of ours if we take it over the state border. If we could collect all over Northern Westchester we need a central point for storing it. He had called BOCES because they are interested in ecology for the schools and wanted projects. They offered to store pesticides in their storage area until we are ready to dispose of them. We need people at central points to store it until it could be taken to Yorktown, and we are now ready to publicize the campaign on radio and in the news-papers. Discussion ensued as to various storage areas, such as police stations or fire company locations. Mrs. Curnen and Mr. Kayser offered to store some. Dr. Wecker will check with the Patent Trader to see what they can suggest. Mrs. Coyle suggested two Saturday pickups and will check with a friend who is a fireman to get his reaction.

Dr. Wecker had also visited the Piermont plant which recycles newspapers. The distributor will send a truck to pick up 10 tons at a special point. He advocated a questionnaire asking people to weigh their garbage and paper and bringing percentages to the Patent Trader and to the Town Board of New Castle, explaining how much this will save Croton Point. Irvington now has an ordinance which mandates householders to separate paper and this is picked up once a month.

Conservation: Mrs. Coggeshall reported a new organization is being formed to deal with the environment of the Hudson River, the Hudson River Environmental Society, Inc. It will promote and coordinate research on the Hudson. An organizational meeting will be held at Vassar College on June 17. There is a \$10 membership fee, and since Mr. Buckley is a member, Carol will keep in touch to see how this develops. Mr. Buckley wants a bird census taken of the Hudson area. Billy Howe was suggested as Chairman, and Mrs. Curnen offered to call Mr. Buckley to find out what it is he really wants.

Mrs. Coggeshall read a letter received from a trustee of the village of Croton-on-Hudson stating his objection to the County plan for solid waste compacting and rail haul in Croton. He asks our support in urging alternate methods. The Federated Conservationists of Westchester County have formed a committee to study the problem and send out information to member organizations. Carol will write a letter to our County legislator indicating our support.

She had received a request from the Lakeland School for us to put on a display at their Fair on June 6. It was decided to urge the young people in the school to do it themselves since there is an active group there that is interested in environment.

Mrs. Coggeshall passed around a list of names of people and organizations that had requested copies of Guidelines. To date a total of 26,000 have been printed. Stan Wecker suggested we try to get the Welcome Wagon lady to give them out.

Since we are going to make a push for student membership in the Fall, Mrs. Curnen made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Coyle, that we order 200 more Saw Mill River patches, and Will Osborn will take care of this.

Mr. Nettleton had attended the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs Convention.

Mrs. Anderson reported a request for helpers at the Children's Zoo in the Bronx. She reminded the members that the Teatown Fair would be held June 13. She had put in 69 hours of work this month with youngsters from Kindergarten age to 7th grade. No report on the bird count at Gedney.

Program: A vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Wecker and Mr. Nettleton for their work on programs. The new program chairman, Mrs. Wecker, asked for pros and cons regarding the outline she had submitted for next year's programs, and there was some disapproval voiced over having Margaret Mead for a paid program. She then announced the groundwork of plans for the Sawmill Audubon Fair, with a possible date of October 18 at the gym and grounds of Horace Greeley School in Chappaqua. She announced her co-chairman would be Mrs. Peter Gass of Chappaqua who organized the distribution of Guidelines and has had a lot of experience with this sort of thing. She suggested having our paid meeting in the Spring and charge a donation for admission to the Fair. The Fair should have three purposes: (1) Educational, a revival of Earth Day and ecological activities; (2) Fun; and (3) Fund raising - to cover our expenses and to attract new members. She explained the breakdown of committees and urged everyone to help on something. Particular chairmen already lined up were: Mr. Will Osborn, Publicity; Mrs. Carol Coggeshall, Conservation and Garden Chairman; Kaye Anderson, School and Church activities; Mrs. Stanley Yarish, Merchandise; Mr. Peter Gass, Speakers; Mrs. McCaffrey and Mrs. Schultz, Entertainment, and Mrs. Smiley and Mrs. Wecker, Planning and Cleanup.

The Board voiced strong approval and confidence to Mrs. Wecker for her plans. Mr. Kayser thought we should make a strong pull in the Bulletin for anyone who would like to help. Mrs. Coggeshall suggested we wait until we get costs before settling upon a specific admission fee. Motion was made by Mrs. Curnen, seconded by Mrs. Coyle, that we give the Committee the power to decide on organizing the Fair. We will also check into insurance coverage and whether the school will be covered or not.

The Board was of the opinion that at least one meeting should be held in Ossining next year. A new location for the Christmas Tea was discussed, and it was decided to retain the All Saints Church for another year and see how it goes with the increase in membership, since we only have to give them \$15. It was decided to serve refreshments before the first meeting in September.

Mrs. Coyle informed the Board that Hugh Moore has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant for astronomy, and she will write it up in the Bulletin.

Motion was made by Mrs. Holmes, seconded by Mr. Abb, that a summertime emergency executive committee be appointed, consisting of Chairman of the Board, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, a majority of which could act for the Chapter on any important matters that may come up in the summer months, with either the President or Vice President consulting with as many members of the Board as possible.

President Kayser announced that Gedney Brook Sanctuary is now four acres larger and there are plans for further acquisition of more land. The only cost for the Allison property so far has been \$7.00 to register the deed. He and other members will take the annual walk through Gedney easement area on northeast boundary to keep our position legal.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Kay Koster*  
Recording Secretary