

November 5, 1970

A meeting of the Board of Directors of SMRAS Inc. was held on November 5, 1970 at the home of Mrs. Anderson. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, Dr. and Mrs. Wecker, Messrs. Kayser, Osborn, Lincoln, and Mesdames Weiss, Anderson, Curnen, Coggeshall, Coyle, Koste and Smith.

Minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand as of October 31 of \$8,055.50. Mrs. Weiss did not have the Sanctuary fund report. She gave a brief sum-up of expenses and receipts of the Earth Fair, and gave a temporary net profit of \$3,201.76 since all accounts are not yet settled. Mr. Holmes thought the Earth Fair should be written up in National Audubon Magazine, not only to give us recognition but to stimulate other groups. Mrs. Wecker said all of our publicity had been sent to the editor, but nothing had been heard from them. Stan Wecker reported on the recycling drive - they had filled about a quarter of a large trailer truck. The collection of tin cans and bottles had not been too great. However, 400 lbs. of pesticides had been collected and would be shipped to Massachusetts to be stored and disposed of.

Membership: Mr. Holmes reported a total of 915 members.

On the Pete Seeger - Bob Boyle meeting, Mrs. Weiss said \$1404 had been taken in. 702 tickets were sold, and our expenses came to \$131.00. \$100 was given to the Hudson River Sloop Association and Bob Boyle's services were gratis. Mr. Kayser will write letters of thanks to both.

Mr. Kayser stated that we will continue to use 433 Manville Road as the legal address for the Society.

Stan Lincoln reported that he and Bob Ridgeway had decided that we will not hire a warden for Brinton Brook this year. He reminded the group that any time we take property the tax rolls close on June 1 for the next following year and the current year closed on June 1 a year ago, so we are going to be liable for a year's tax. Rita Wecker will send in a check for \$250 for the remainder of the taxes on the Allison property as a gift from Reader's Digest.

Catherine Holmes has heard from an anonymous donor that he wishes to contribute \$500 towards fixing the dam at Brinton Brook should we decide to do so. Kaye Anderson thought Robert Jones, a government soil and water man, should be consulted and Jackie Coyle offered a contact in Connecticut who had fixed their pond. Messrs. Lincoln and Ridgeway are to follow up.

Program: Mrs. Wecker has changed the site for the Christmas Tea to the Methodist Church in Pleasantville at a fee of \$25. Mr. Kayser is to write the pastor of the All Saints Church in Briarcliff to thank him and apologize for our changing the location. The official title of the Jean George program is "Jolly Ecology of the Yuletide." A committee is needed to arrange the Tea and secure cookies, etc. Mrs. Buchanan will be contacted, and if she does not want to do it again, Kaye Anderson is to contact Mrs. Curtis.

A site for the March Sunday afternoon meeting for Roman Vishniak's program has not yet been settled as the Croton High School was not deemed a good meeting place and would cost twice as much on Sunday afternoon. Other places are to be explored. The February meeting will be the dinner meeting with the Presbyterian Church in White Plains, with the program of Dr. Copeland to be shown at Westlake High School.

Conservation: Mrs. Coggeshall has prepared a directory for the bulletin of the new elected and appointed officials. The pesticides study committee has met several times and is continuing to study all aspects of the proposed spray program by Westchester County. Guest speaker last Friday was Nicholas Shoumatoff, Curator of the Nature Museum at Pound Ridge. Friday, November 6 Charles Pound, County Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation will be the guest. The committee has been invited to present a panel discussion on Dec. 2 at a meeting sponsored by the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County. Scarsdale Audubon is also attending but is working on its own study.

A new group is being formed in Westchester called Westchester Scientists for Environmental Information. The group hopes to study environmental problems, stimulate research and environmental education. The group hopes to become affiliated with the Scientists' Institute for Public Information (SIPI) which is a national body. John McLaughlin of the Calder Ecology Study Center in Armonk is coordinating efforts to organize the group. The Conservation Committee of SMRAS has been invited to participate. Curtis Williams is the real founder of this group. The Board authorized Carol to write them a letter in the name of SMRAS to encourage their work.

Mrs. Coggeshall had had a call from the County Council of Social Agencies, who are having a discussion meeting on "Is Pollution the Issue?" on November 10 at the Jewish Center in White Plains. Al Forsythe will be the dinner speaker. The cost is \$8.50 for the afternoon session and the dinner. Carol is to act as recorder. Motion was made by Jackie Coyle, seconded by Catherine Holmes, to send Kaye Anderson as part of her naturalist activities. We are to supply a table with display of facts sheets and Audubon materials as an example of what Audubon is doing.

The Federated Conservationists of Westchester are taking over the study of solid waste disposal from the New York Environmental Action group and will have an open meeting on the subject.

Mrs. Coggeshall has spoken at several local groups on "Womens' Role in Environmental Problems". The Scarsdale and Dobbs Ferry groups have requested to receive our bulletins. The Road Review League also wants our address for their mailing list.

Stan Wecker talked about the pesticide study report and would like to have it printed and passed around to conservation groups and get it out by December 2. It runs to 15 to 30 pages and they want to print at least 150 copies, which will probably cost around \$75. Motion was made by Thelma Smith, seconded by Jackie Coyle, that the Board permit those participating in the publishing of this paper to speak for the Board. Motion was made by Jackie Coyle, seconded by Will Osborne, that adequate printing funds be made available.

President Kayser announced a resignation from Leon Nettleton as Historian and asked for suggestions for his replacement. He reported a letter from the Bedford Group complimenting us on the Fair, and a letter from the American Legion prior to Pete Seeger's performance voicing dissent. He has thanked them for their communication and told them we would take it under advisement.

Dave then stressed that in view of our changing membership and the magnitude of our activities, we should look on some of the things we are encouraged in and the form and thought beyond our news letter, which is vitally important. We should form a committee to review the entire news aspect of our bulletin, its format, the amount we are willing to spend, distribution, mailings, notices of field trips, etc. and the policies we have to follow. We must take stands on issues only, as it can affect our tax exempt status.

We also need stronger committees to give us group action, and all committees should be brought up to 5 members. Possibly we need a speaker's bureau for those people to have been speaking for different groups.

The field trip on December 12 to Hempstead will be led by Stan Wecker.

Stan Wecker proposed the following: now that we have some more money and more student members, we need to reach more young people and help crystallize their activities and get them involved in environmental issues. He serves as a consultant for Northern Westchester BOCES and said BOCES serves as a collection point and clearing house for educational material. They would like to develop a curriculum for kids from kindergarten through High School to provide them with education permeated with ecological flavor. We have very little information on our own environment, lakes, streams, etc. and their changes as results of human pressures. The Health Department gathers this information but has low manpower and low budgets. Could we have monitoring stations to test air and water, bacterial counts, oxygen and phosphates with test kits, which would cost about \$350. They could ask the schools to raise this money and could we match what the school district puts up. Could we consider Chappaqua Middle School and High School where the teachers are active and because they were our host school for the Fair. Could we purchase for the High School one complete set of this equipment. We had appropriated \$200 for this and have a \$100 donation. We might also consider those schools who do not have a matching fund from BOCES and give them \$175.

Stan Lincoln would like to see it done in a more businesslike way. We should express our intention to Greeley and let them come back to us with what sort of program they intend to carry on over a long range period of time.

Dave Kayser thought they should develop something in written form with ways they intend to raise money, and present it to us at a Board meeting which they could attend with some of the teachers.

Mary Curnen made a motion that we entertain the application of Chappaqua High School Environmental Group for funds to finance a complete water monitoring kit which will cost \$350. Seconded by Will Osborne, motion was carried.

Kaye Anderson announced a Tailgate Sale on November 21 at Westlake with a parking charge of \$1.50.

With thanks to Mrs. Anderson for her hospitality, meeting adjourned at 11:10.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kay Koste*  
Recording Secretary