

December 3, 1970

A meeting of the Directors of Saw Mill River Audubon Society, Inc. was held on December 3, 1970 at the home of Mrs. Jacqueline Coyle. The President, David L. Kayser, presided; and others present were Mr. and Mrs. Lester Holmes, Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Wecker, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ridgeway; Mesdames Jacqueline Coyle, Jonathan Coggeshall, Paul Anderson, Mary Curnen, Dorothy Kinamen, Fred Weiss and Miss Thelma Smith; Messrs. William Osborn, Donald Abb.

Minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved as corrected: Under Page 1, paragraph 8, Government soil and water man mentioned in November minutes should read Robert Jonas; and on Page 3, paragraph 5, should read, "At some future Board meeting, Dave Kayser suggested students, and some of the teachers involved, present a written report describing their experiment, and what they expect to accomplish."

Mrs. Fred Weiss read the treasurer's report, reflecting balances on hand as follows: General fund--\$7650.23; the Sanctuary Endowment Fund--\$5720.51; and the latest report on the profits from the recent Earth Fair--\$3397.33.

Funds for the tax on the recently acquired Allison property have been provided through two generous gifts: \$250.00 from Reader's Digest (kindness of Rita Wecker), and \$250.00 from an anonymous donor.

Membership: Mr. Lester Holmes reported a total of 969 members.

Naturalist's Report: Mrs. Kaye Anderson reported on the aluminum posting signs for future use in our Sanctuaries. Presented for the Board's consideration, sample signs were printed black on orange or black on silver aluminum. They would cost 25 cents each, and guaranteed to last 10 years. They would be 11 x 11"---the standard size. Bob Ridgeway was especially interested, as he had found at Brinton Brook Sanctuary, our posting signs of paper disintegrate rapidly. The durable signs would be a great saving in labor. Mrs. Anderson also reported that she gave a workshop for 14 teachers at Rye; and that she had several Youth Groups at Gedney Brook Sanctuary where 10 hemlocks were recently planted.

Brinton Brook Sanctuary: Lester Holmes and Bob Ridgeway repaired the damage at the dam, where horseback riders had gone through near the northeast corner of the pond. There was also evidence the equestrians had been in the area of Split Rock Spring.

A Committee for the study of our Bulletin (SMRAS) composed of Mesdames Coggeshall, Coyle, Anderson and Mr. Willis Messiah has been appointed by President David Kayser. In making the announcement, Mr. Kayser suggested that others may feel free to volunteer their help for a complete study of this matter.

Conservation Report: Mrs. Carol Coggeshall announced she has had a tremendous number of requests for the Guide Lines. Stan Wecker had with him 4000 additional copies, and Catherine Holmes had 100 copies. Mrs. Coggeshall stated she sent Guidelines and a list of materials and where they may be obtained for school use to the Board of Education, City of N.Y. the Bronx.

Conservation Report Continued:

Mrs. Coggeshall announced the Junior League of Northern Westchester wish to know if we would co-operate with them in their project-- 'KICK A HABIT A MONTH'. The Scarsdale and Larchmont Junior Leagues are joining them in this effort. They will work with PTA organizations and other groups. The thought behind this project is that while many people will not refrain from all acts harmful to the environment--perhaps they would attempt to improve their habits, in turn--one each month. They would like to use the name of SMRAS as a reference. They plan to distribute monthly fact sheets. A discussion followed--Dave Kayser noted that, at present, a car cannot operate on totally lead-free gasoline. Dr. Wecker thought the Junior League idea a good one, providing they check with us monthly, since our name would be used in their publicity, and environmental information constantly changes. Their understanding of ecology may be limited. Mrs. Coggeshall noted many environmental ^{issues} are not black or white, but must be weighed carefully. She will check with them.

The Federated Conservationists of Westchester County have conducted a study of the possibilities for recycling collection depots in the county and are planning to coordinate their findings. Mrs. Jane Olsen met with a group in the Yorktown area when 30 committee members made plans for recycling and collection, recently. The Briarcliff group have a trailer for collection of aluminum cans and newspapers.

Dr. Wecker reported on his work with the County schools for the County Council for Ecology: He has visited each school, where a survey of the newspapers read and discarded will be made to learn how many tons of paper are available for collection each week. Dr. Wecker will then report to County Executive Edwin Michaelian for Westchester. Truckers are co-operative, and will collect on a regular basis when depots are set up. They might set up a plant for shredding and compacting. Mrs. Coggeshall met with Mr. Michaelian and the committee on recycling.

Dr. Wecker reported there have been five meetings on pesticides and the Elm Spanworm and the Gypsy Moth Infestations. Committee members gathered and compiled information on research completed on the Elm Spanworm and the Gypsy Moth. Commissioner Pound attended and entered the discussion. A Union Carbide Associate Scientist was present. The results of this Committee's study was printed in a 24 page report, drafted by Dr. Stanley C. Wecker. The report of this study was presented at the December 2nd Board of Directors meeting of the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County. Commissioner Pound was present, but remained unconvinced that the problem is not serious enough to require massive sprays. Trees along roadsides might endanger lives, and perhaps require spot sprays. Sevin does produce some birth defects in animals. The benefits do not justify the risks involved. SMRAS recommends Bacillus Thuringiensis for spot treatment of effected areas. We must generate enough opposition, so the County will not spray large areas with Sevin. With education, the public will come to realize the dangers. Will Osborn made the engraving for this report with our SMRAS emblem (Note cardinal's bill holds Gypsy Moth larvae). We should be prepared for the County Budget Hearing, when we will ask that Bacillus Thuringiensis be used for necessary spot spraying; and that money should be allocated in the budget for pesticides.

Dr. Wecker reported that the new spray Bacillus thuringiensis is now available and sold under the commercial names of Bictrol,

Thuricide, and Amdal. Public opinion will halt the spraying.

~~News paper the Board should consider taking a one-half page~~

suggested post cards and phone calls may help.

Mrs. Coggeshall asked for a SMRAS Board member to attend the Budget

Hearing; and Dr. Wecker volunteered to attend for Mrs. Coggeshall ~~and President, Study Report, make a statement before the~~ thanks to the Chairman, Mrs. Coggeshall and the committee for their excellent work on this study; and to Dr. Wecker for his fine drafting of the report and his ability to remain unruffled and to rebut County officials.

In reference to the proposal at our November Board meeting that we give money for the purchase of test kits for use at Horace Greeley School, Dr. Stanley Wecker announced that he has contacted two Science teachers at the Bell School. He learned they have equipment and have already begun testing water. He also learned

Northern Westchester BOCES has money. He suggests the matter be ~~Meld Kayser be a candidate for the students vote from Donahoe Financial Aidist.~~ Mr. Moss attended the Peter Seeger-Bob Boyle Program, and was

duly impressed. He would like to present a painting to SMRAS for ~~night on the used log cabins, nice paper illustration featuring animals~~ and the out-of-doors. Mrs. Wecker suggested his original design. Mr. Kayser noted that some conservationists wish to eliminate all

nuclear power plants, which he believes is not realistic. One such group plan to hire a lawyer to oppose all nuclear plants, ~~and they have suggested to be a matter in their lawsuit, they believe~~ with proper cooling towers, nuclear power plants may reduce the thermal pollution for which they are responsible.

Dr Wecker commented that new committees will need to be formed

for each new issue, requiring appropriate research and study. The coming Field Trip to Hempstead Reservoir and Jones Beach was announced by Dr. Wecker, when we will meet at Pleasantville ~~Christmas Eve~~ ~~8:30 PM~~ ~~December 12th~~ held December 27th.

Christmas Tea will be held at the Pleasantville Methodist Church with Mrs. Curtis, Hospitality Chairman assisted by Kaye Anderson. Will Osborn will bring his loud speaker equipment.

Discussion of the policy of National Audubon relative to forming new Chapters, and whether they will give area names to such groups. Some members feel there is a need for a new Chapter in Yorktown area.

Dr. Wecker received a phone call from Scarsdale Chapter of Audubon,

suggesting we bring in experts to testify at the County Budget Hear- ~~ing~~ ~~Mrs. Gagnon has prepared this material for the date opportunity~~

will have to present our case before all the County officials. Mrs. Jacqueline Coyle moved that the Board of SMRAS rely on the ^tjudgment of Mrs. Cogges^hall and Dr. Wecker; ^tgiving them power ^tto ~~make a statement with Will Osborn, and carried.~~ the coming County hearing.

Bee Ridgeway reported she attended the excellent Ecology Course given by Dr. Wecker for Adult classes at the Chappaqua school this term.

With thanks to Jacqueline Coyle for her hospitality, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 P.M.:

Respectfully submitted,

Beatrice M. B. Ridgeway
Secretary Pro-tem.