

SMRAS Board Meeting

June 1, 1978

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 p.m. by Rita Wecker at the home of Carol Coggeshall. The following members were present: Anderson, Coggeshall, Jacoby, Jamieson, Metzler, Panko, Smith, Rita Wecker, Wiltse and Young.

The minutes of the May 4, 1978, meeting were read. Carol Coggeshall moved that they be accepted as corrected. Seconded and approved. Treasurer's report: The balance of SMRAS was \$16,662.57. The Sanctuary Endowment Fund - \$24,258.74. The Laura M. Brinton Memorial Fund - \$756.90.

We have received certification from National through March, 1979.

A letter has been received from Elvis Stahr agreeing with our position on the key-holders sent to some of our Board members. Also a letter on raising dues and changing the amount of dues sharing.

Carol Coggeshall moved that we write to National that we recognize their problems but urge them to consider carefully what this will do to membership. The drop in membership will be both on National and Local level. Seconded and approved.

Thelma Smith moved that the summer committee be: Frank Gillette, Rita Wecker, Phyllis Jacoby, Lloyd Jamieson and Dottie Metzler. Seconded and approved.

A message from Frank Gillette concerning the roll of the Historian asks that each of us put together and give the Historian what we think he should have.

Frank has received a lot of feedback on Brinton Brook. The feeling is that we don't need such a big project on the parking lot. Kaye and Nancy are trying to get other bids for less work.

Carol Coggeshall moved that we defer action on Brinton Brook proposal for improving the parking until further investigation is made and a modified plan accepted. Seconded and approved.

Kaye reported that the drive in to Gedney is in bad shape and may need gravel. Also maps should show assembly instead of parking.

The Eagle Scout at Chernick is working very well. A raccoon-proof house for a woodduck is being made to be placed at Brinton Brook.

Membership - 799

Carol Coggeshall wrote a letter on solid waste to the County Board of Legislators.

We have been asked to prepare a resolution for the County Board of Legislators on the Hudson River Skimming Project. As an environmental group we don't want it. The third tunnel is needed, but not the whole project.

Lloyd Jamieson will get stickers for the fund raising brochures showing the new dues.

Carol Coggeshall suggested that we have two people from the membership be responsible for hospitality at general meetings.

She also reported that the Town of New Castle has been questioned about the new assessments. Our point is - who is going to buy wetland. It has no market value. We have asked for a fair assessment. No reply to date.

The Treasurer reported that the cost of liability insurance on the sanctuaries has risen dramatically. Three years ago the bill was \$43. Today it is \$900 for one year. However, the former policy did not include Brinton Brook or Thurber. Lloyd Jamieson will find out if they are covered by the owners.

The September Board Meeting will be held at the home of Frank Gillette.

Rita expressed thanks to Carol for all the pleasant meetings we have had at her home.

Carol Coggeshall moved that we adjourn at 10:23 p.m.

Elizabeth Wiltse  
Recording Secretary