

COUNTY COMMISSION ROOM - COURT HOUSE

November 11, 1954

President Woody Upthegrove called the meeting of the Air Boat Conservation Club of Palm Beach County to order at 8:00 p.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Truman Padgett, seconded by Harry Higbee moved to accept the minutes as read. The motion carried.

Ernest Palmer, Sr., was called upon to explain the condition of his eye - which was bandaged. He said that while at work a piece of steel lodged in his eye, that it was removed by a doctor who said that although it was critical, with proper care and treatment it would be all right in a matter of time. Expressions of sympathy were made and he was advised to follow the doctor's orders.

A report on sickness and distress was called for by the President.

Alfred Henschel related the circumstances of the terrible accident which caused the death of John Stirpak, fellow member. A boat, owned by Mr. Willits, of Ft. Lauderdale, collided with his boat on a blind curve about one-half mile out from the landing.

Mr. Henschel also spoke on a meeting of twenty-two officers and members of the Air Boat Association of Florida; Miami, Broward County Air Boat Association of Ft. Lauderdale and the Air Boat Conservation Club of Palm Beach County, at Andy Town on November 4th at 8:00 p.m. H told of the movement for a safety program for air boats; a law to license them, and other measures for rules of the road, etc. He reported on action taken there for the Club to donate \$25.00 to cut a trail out in the Glades from Andy Town. He said that the other two clubs had put up \$25.00 each and that the trail way was

to be named in memory of Johnnie Stirpak. Others speaking of the meeting were Woody, DeWitt, Rotenberger, Drowe, Palmer, Sr., and Frank Pole, stressing in particular the harmony and good fellowship of those present.

Motion was made by DeWitt Upthegrove, seconded by Norman Padgett to pay the \$25.00 for the trail and to add to the minutes the names of those attending the meeting. The motion carried.

Special committeemen elected at Andy Town to work up the safety legislation of air boats were named and the President appointed those Club members of this Club officially to that Committee: DeWitt Upthegrove, chairman; Alfred Henschel and Ernest Palmer, Sr., and ordered the whole committee to be recorded in the minutes.

Jim Ramsey said that he had talked with John Lamb, manager of the Delray Conservation Area for the Federal Government, about rules of the road such as carrying a red flag on a tall pole; a red light on boat sterns at night and other signaling devices when running a trail with one or more boats following. It was suggested that the pilot of an approaching boat hold up one or more fingers to indicate to the pilot of an advancing boat the number of boats following. Also discussed was safe motor mounts, guards for propellers and other measures.

Mr. Henschel informed the Club that Mrs. Stirpak was in financial need due to the loss of her husband and Albert Windham moved to request that all members who could, make whatever donation was possible for Mrs. Stirpak and to create a Stirpak Fund. This was seconded by Robert Ahrens and carried unanimously.

On a motion by Jim Ramsey, seconded by Truman Padgett, the Club unanimously passed a resolution of condolence in the death of John Stirpak, brother Club member, voted to make the resolution

a part of the minutes and to send Mrs. Stirpak a copy. The President ordered Thomas Johnson and the secretary to draw up the resolution. The president requested the secretary to write all members in regard to the Stirpak fund and ask for their donations. The hat was passed around and \$111.00 was collected to start the Stirpak fund.

Treasurer Ramsey reported a balance on hand of \$314.39. Robert Ahrens moved that the \$10.10 bill for flowers that the secretary had ordered for Johnnie Stirpak's funeral, be paid, seconded by Jimmie Land and carried.

The secretary read letters from Dr. Wilber, President of the Florida Wildlife Federation on the appointment of DeWitt Upthegrove as chairman of the Air Boat Committee. Reaction was favorable to continue to work on having the Federation hold its next annual meeting in Palm Beach County as guest of the Club.

There being no further business, Ronald Black moved for adjournment, seconded by Harry Higbee. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

There were 23 members present.

Respectfully submitted,

DeWitt Upthegrove
Secretary

APPROVED

December 9, 1954