

Clarks' Creek Watershed Preservation Association

Minutes of the May 7, 2010 meeting

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY MAY 25, 7:00 PM.

The third meeting of the Clark's Creek Watershed Preservation Association was held on May 7, 2010, at 7:00 pm at the Dauphin County Agricultural building. Gene Stilp called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The attendees went around the room to introduce themselves. The minutes of the April 25 meeting were distributed and read by all; Larry Hochendoner moved and Brett Zankel seconded that they be approved as read.

Treasurer's report: Karen Stilp, the ad-hoc treasurer, checked with both Mid-Penn Bank and Susquehanna Bank about their checking policy. Both have free checking, but we will need to provide additional information to the banks before we can open an account, i.e. officers, bylaws, tax status, etc. The group has funds of \$60 in donations at this time.

Old business:

Gene Stilp recused himself from being an officer of the group to eliminate any conflicts of interest during his upcoming political campaign for the Legislature. Larry Hochendoner wanted to understand why Gene thought that this would be an issue, but the group understood Gene's decision. He will continue to be a member of the group.

Paula Zankel read the minutes of the April 7 initial meeting to the attendees so that they would understand how the group came to be formed.

Larry Hochendoner raised some additional potential issues relating to the increased truck traffic from the Quality Stone Veneer trucks which speed down route 325.

The group began to discuss what type of organization that we should form. There are lobbying restrictions related to various types of organizations. A 501 c(3) group requires an accountant and an attorney and must file a tax return, which can be expensive unless the services are donated. Paula Zankel asked why the group can't function as a neighborhood organization. Larry Hochendoner asked the reason that we are all really forming this organization.

Mission Statement: Gene stressed that there is some urgency to form an activist group due to the city of Harrisburg current financial crisis. Joe Lauver II proposed that we develop a critical mass of individuals to preserve the watershed and the valley. Larry Hochendoner stated that we need to look ahead to protect the land. Larry Hochendoner moved to form a working group to develop a mission statement, and Brett Zankel seconded. A mission statement committee of Larry Hochendoner, Joe Lauver II, Linda Brindle and Brett Zankel was appointed to develop the mission statement and report back at the next meeting.

Legal report: no action due to the requirement for bylaws to define the organization before there is anything for an attorney to do.

Mike Blum moved to form a by-laws committee, Karen Stilp seconded. Anna Marie Sossong as the volunteer attorney must be on the committee. The motion failed to pass, and the action of a bylaws committee will be deferred until a mission statement is approved. The mission statement will define the nature of the organization (neighborhood association or public group) and thereby clarify for the bylaws critical issues such as membership. Larry Hochendoner stated that the mission statement identifies stakeholders in the organization. Gene Stilp stated that there can be multiple types of members in any organization... working members who participate on committees, social members who attend meetings and attend social events, voting members defined in the bylaws, and sustaining members who provide funding and financial support.

Following this discussion, Brett Zankel moved to open a bank account as a community organization, Mary Hochendoner seconded, and the motion passed. If the nature of the group changes to a more public type of organization, then the bank account can be modified later.

At the previous meeting, Archie Fenton was tasked to make contact with and invite the Harrisburg Authority to one of our meetings. Sally Banks will follow up with Archie. Mike Yanchuck will also contact the Harrisburg Authority from the conservation district inviting them to learn about our group.

Penn-DOT committee: Brett Zankel and Mary Hochendoner met; they want to inspect the culvert water flow.

Conservation District Water Quality Study: Mike Yanchuck worked with the conservation district on obtaining permits for culverts. He identified a tributary to the creek which provides pristine water. He updated his study to include an additional sampling point at McKelvey and Fulton road, and a tributary which is impacted by the timber harvest. Brett and Mary requested a sampling point near the culverts, close to the fish hatchery. Mike will find out about the silting status of the reservoir to see if the City's plans include dredging. Deb Nardone was contacted to see if her electro-sampling study of fish can be moved from 2011-2012 to 2010. Bill Kosmer of Doc Fritchey chapter of Trout Unlimited received funding for a water flow meter on Clark's Creek. Due to unfavorable stream characteristics at the Rt 325/225 intersection, the gauge will most likely be located elsewhere (yet to be determined).

New business:

Joe Lauver II stated that DEP water quality conservation releases should be increased. He agreed with Mary Hochendoner that the cheapest water for the city of Harrisburg comes from the Dehart Reservoir due to the gravity-flow method of delivery. Leroy Young of the fish commission stated that DEP determines the water flow. Joe

stated that increasing the release will put more cold water into the creek and improve fish life.

Outreach: consolidate the lists from the first 3 meetings and notify people on the lists by email.

Until officers are elected, the group will operate with a rotating chairman. Agenda items are to be sent to the meeting chairman. Sherry McLain will chair the next meeting. Mike Yanchuck will get the room, and the mission statement team will present some recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

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Paula Zankel

Recorder

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