

Minutes

Warm Springs Watershed Association

March 26, 2014

Attendance: Norman Dean, Susan Jones, Kate Lehman, Larry Lower, Rebecca MacLeod, Andy Swaim. Excused absence: Stacy Dugan and Betty Harmison

Other People in Attendance: Tyler Orr, Jeff Hankey, Tim Roland, Bob Wurster; Michael Brooks

Treasurer's Report: on February 5, 2014, there was \$12,352.55 in the account. Since then a bill of \$17.50 was paid to Morgan Messenger. Thirty dollars in dues have been deposited. The total balance as of March 26, 2014 is \$12,365.05.

Secretary's Report/Minutes: Larry moved/Susan seconded that the February Minutes be accepted as written. The vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: Rebecca reported on plans to increase the involvement of local businesses in efforts to protect the Run by doing a self-assessment of areas where they could adopt best management practices. Those businesses that do meet their goals for improved practices could be recognized in various ways that promote their business as well as the work of the WSWA. Board members were given an opportunity to help develop a name for this project; the three top ideas will be presented to the general membership at the Annual Meeting.

To Do: **Kate** will create a power point presentation to be used to promote this project. **Kate** will also talk to Suzy Lucas about creating a self-auditing tool to be used by businesses. **Rebecca** will talk to the Chamber of Commerce to explore ways we can work together to reach out to and encourage local businesses.

There was also discussion of the annual dues structure. Susan moved/Rebecca seconded that individual dues remain fixed at \$10.00 per person, and that dues for businesses be set at \$20.00 a year. The vote was unanimous. There was some discussion on using PayPal for people who are inspired by our website to join.

To Do: **Tyler** will explore ways that the Treasurer and Secretary can exchange information so that members' names can be added to our mailing lists.

Publicity Committee: The t-shirt project is back on track. While we won't have any t-shirts ready for distribution at the Annual Meeting, they should be ready by late July/early August so we can make them available at the Fair. A portion of the 2014 Stream Partner funds can be used to provide free t-shirts for members.

Webmaster's Report: Tyler reported that participation in the Face Book page continues to improve, while visits to the website continues to decline. Tyler has initiated a Calendar of Events on the website, which he hopes will induce more people to go to the website to learn what is

going on. Tyler proposed holding a training that would allow people to be involved in sharing news on the website. He will hold a brief training on how to do this at the Annual Meeting.

Unfinished Business

Everything is in place for **Make it Shine**, including a general press release as well as a jointly-sponsored ad in the Morgan Messenger.

Results of the Cacapon Institute's **third quarter testing** for fecal coliform bacteria in the Run showed only slightly elevated levels of contamination at one location.

We were awarded \$500.00 by the Town of Bath as part of the **Motel/Hotel Tax Distribution**.

Kate reported that the names of the following people will be presented as candidates for the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting: **Jeff Hankey, Tim Roland and Bob Wurster**.

Jeff is a science teacher at Berkeley Springs High School. He has received grants for an experimental design course for college-bound junior and seniors that makes extensive use of the Widmyer wetlands.

Tim is a writer who works as a syndicated columnist for various organizations, including the Bay Journal News Service. In addition to writing, Tim is an avid outdoorsman, having climbed in the Himalayas, hiked the Inca Trail and ridden a bicycle across the United States. He has climbed all 46 Adirondack high peaks over 4000 feet.

Bob is an amateur naturalist who likes to fish. In the past he shared his love of nature as a scout master.

There was discussion on the revised **2014 proposed budget**, which will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Larry shared information about projects funded by the **2013 Chesapeake Bay Community Grant**. Trees will be planted at four locations on April 29th.

New Business

Everything is in place for the **Annual Meeting**, including a legal notice in the Morgan Messenger that came out thirty days prior to the event. A press release focusing on our speaker has been submitted, and will be published in the April 9th edition of the Messenger. There was consensus that we should purchase cookies to be served after the meeting from one of the local businesses. Andy said we have sufficient funds available for this expense.

To Do: **Larry** will get the names of several vendors for the Farmers Market to Kate, who will arrange to have cookies at the Annual Meeting.

There was also consensus that we should host a table at the **Master Gardener Plant Fair** on May 9th and 10. Larry will donate five field guides to be raffled off to those who visit our table.

To Do: **Susan, Tyler, Jeff** and **Kate** will explore how we can feature information about the Widmyer wetlands at our table. **Kate** will ask Stan Oaks if he still wants to donate money to create a WSWA banner.

The School Board has reached a **maintenance agreement** with the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District to insure appropriate care of the Widmyer Wetlands. WSWA will be involved in coordinating efforts and helping to enlist the help of students for appropriate projects.

At a workshop led by a representative from the state auditing committee, it was recommended that **someone other than the treasurer sign checks**. The consensus of the group was to keep our current arrangement, which requires the signature of a second person in addition to the treasurer on checks.

Adjournment: At 6:50, Larry moved, Norman seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The vote was unanimous.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is our Annual Meeting, which is scheduled to occur on Wednesday, April 23 from 6:00-8:00PM at the Board of Education Headquarters. Brent Walls is our speaker. Please park in the parking lot between the Run and the BoE headquarters.