

Minutes
Warm Springs Watershed Association
July 27, 2016

Attendance

The following board members were present: Norman Dean, Jeff Iliff, Betty Harmison, and Kate Lehman. Board members Michael Brooks and Andy Swaim had excused absences. Matt Pennington (Region 9) and Frank Rodgers (Cacapon Institute) were also present. Because there was not a quorum, many items were tabled until the next meeting

Announcements and Reports

Kate announced that the Town of Bath has been awarded a \$10,000.00 Chesapeake Bay Community Grant. The Tree Board and the Warm Springs Watershed Association are co-authors of the grant.

Jeff and Matt gave a report on the Hazard Mitigation Meeting both attended. FEMA has money that can be used to help people in times of emergency. In order to receive funds, it is essential that we report hazard mitigation projects we have worked on/are working on/would like to work on. The two main issues of concern for WSWA are reducing the potential severity of flooding in town and source water protection. **Jeff and Frank** will work together to report the work we've already done since 2012 in terms of planting trees, restoring riparian buffers, etc. **Larry** will be asked to report on the green infrastructure work currently being done on North Washington Street. These reports need to be submitted as soon as possible.

Secretary's Report

Jeff moved/Betty seconded that the Minutes of the June 22, 2016, meeting be accepted as written; the vote to do so was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

Andy submitted a report noting that at our last meeting (6/22/16), our CNB account had a balance of \$13,930.11. During the last month, we had no credits and one debit, a reimbursement to Jeff in the amount of \$244.87 for costs incurred attending the Choose Clean Water Coalition conference in Annapolis. This reimbursement was approved at the June meeting, with funds being taken out of the Travel/Conference line item. The balance of today, July 27, 2016, is \$13,685.24.

The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Committee Reports

Finance: Andy submitted one bill for approval, in the amount of \$29.92 to reimburse Kate for replacement chemicals for the kit used to test alkalinity. Norman moved/Jeff seconded that the bill be paid; the vote to do so was unanimous.

Stream Monitoring: Jeff reported that two members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition will join us in our stream monitoring effort on Friday, July 29. Due to low water levels in front of the Country Inn, our initial location, we will instead meet at the back of the parking lot of the Morgan County Board of Education Headquarters on Harrison Avenue on 8:00AM.

Unfinished Business

2016 Stream Partners Grant: Matt and Frank outlined the specifics of the proposed project funded by our 2016 Stream Partners grant. With remaining funds from the NFWF grant awarded to the Town of Bath Cemetery Management and Maintenance Corporation, a retention pond will be established in the far northwest end of the New Addition. Three rain gardens will eventually be placed at strategic points on the edges of the retention pond to capture and hold stormwater before it enters the retaining pond. Our funds will be used to create one or more of the rain gardens. Until the cost of earth moving is known, we will not know if the third rain garden can be constructed at this time.

Topo maps created as part of the Thrasher Green Infrastructure study were shown indicating the lowest point in this area of the cemetery. Using NFWF funds, earth will be moved to enhance a naturally existing "bowl;" soil will be used to create berms on three sides of the "bowl." Stormwater runoff will be directed into the retention pond from the drainage paths on the hillside above the retention pond/rain gardens. During times of unusually heavy rainfall, a concrete riser will drain overflow into an existing culvert on Greenway Drive. Under normal circumstances, water will not stand in the pond for longer than 72 hours.

Topo maps also showed three drainage paths in this section of the cemetery.

- On the south side of this area, stormwater drains into a natural retention pond at the west end of a 5-acre wooded lot. A culvert currently drains overflow from this area, under the maintenance shed and into the area where the retention pond will be established.
- On the portion of the cemetery north of the central road leading to Johnson Mill Road, there are two drainage patterns. Some of the water drains into lowest spot in the cemetery where the drainage pond will be constructed. One of the rain gardens will be located at the eastern edge of the drainage pond to capture and hold runoff to this area; overflow will spill into the retention pond.
- On the far northern edge of the cemetery, close to where we installed water diverters, stormwater runoff flows into a low area on the north side of Greenway Drive. (This area is more or less east of Pat and Larry Springer's house; there is a stone wall just above the area where a portion of the worst erosion settles.) A culvert will be installed under the center road to convey stormwater from this northern most drainage area into the retention pond. A second rain garden will be installed in the "crotch" of Greenway Drive and the road that bisects the cemetery. Overflow will spill into the retention pond.
- The third rain garden will be on the western side of the retention pond to help capture any overflow during especially heavy rainfall. During times of exceptionally heavy rain, overflow from the retention pond will be captured in this rain garden.

Discussion followed in terms of unintentional damage caused by the retention ponds and rain gardens. Because of existing flooding due to runoff from the southern and central areas of the cemetery, there are no graves in the low area where the retention pond will be built.

Heavy runoff into the low area on Greenway Drive will be significantly reduced rather than exacerbated.

While a vote could not be taken due to the lack of a quorum, there was consensus that we should move ahead by getting estimates on the cost of earth work, the riser, and material needed to construct the rain gardens. Since this is a demonstration project, we need to set a date for the installation of the rain gardens, if not the retention pond. The goal for installation of the rain gardens is mid-September to mid-October.

For those who missed the presentation and want to see it, Matt will be showing the slides at the August 4th meeting of the Cemetery Management and Maintenance Corporation, which meets at 4:00PM.

Adopt-a-Highway: Jeff presented more information about the program. We must agree to regularly pick up along a two-mile section of a federal highway. It was agreed to adopt the area between the Post Office and McDonald's. Betty moved/Norman seconded that Jeff should continue the process of registering us in this program; the vote to do so was unanimous.

Long Term Goals: tabled

2017 Stream Partners Grant Application: We will apply for a grant to plant trees in two sites, one a riparian buffer along the Yellow Run, the other behind the offices of Trump & Trump. Herb Peddicord will advise us in terms of how many trees to plant, as well as what species will do best in these areas. We will also apply for funds to purchase and install three pet waste stations, one by the Rag Shop (Independence Street), one by the Berkeley Springs Waterworks Plant (Wilkes), and a third one in Berkeley Springs State Park.

Purple Loosestrife Eating Beetles: tabled

Knotweed Control at Widmyer: tabled

Tree Maintenance /work weeding the path at the Widmyer Wetlands: We will meet on Monday, August 1, 15, and if needed, on the 22nd, starting at 8:00AM on the east side of the Daisy Abbott property. When that task is completed, we will work in the wetlands.

Tractor Supply Update: tabled

Signs Along the Run: tabled

New Business

Watershed Celebration Day is October 22nd and 23rd; Jeff plans to attend. The nomination for WSWA has been submitted. Kate will apply for a \$200.00 scholarship to be used by Jeff and whoever else attends for WSWA.

Memorial Gift in Honor of Carla Hardy: tabled

Policy on Memorial Gifts: tabled

Formation of Advocacy Committee: tabled

Other: Jeff reported on the successes realized at least in part through the work on the advocacy initiatives. The next big push is to request that President Obama declare the Birthplace of Rivers a National Monument. Jeff has learned that the proposed gas pipeline will be used to distribute natural gas to people, and not a distribution line. The proposed pipe will be much smaller with less overall risk involved. Norman reported that the wild flowers in the wetlands are at their height. There is some multiflora rose and honeysuckle, but not stiltgrass as if yet.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:40.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is on our regular date, the fourth Wednesday of the month, which is August 24, at 6:00PM at the Extension Office.