

**Whippany River Watershed Action Committee  
Whippany River Watershed Management Group  
Action Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 (rescheduled from 3/7)  
Morris County Library**

**Call to Order.** The Action Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

**Attendees.**

Jim Baranski – Chair – Hanover Township  
Len Cipkins – Vice Chair – Parsippany  
Sal Iannacone – Chair Emeritus  
Sergio Capozzi – Facilitator  
Jenifer O’Neill - Administrator  
Art Catalusci – County of Morris  
John Hoover, Madison  
Dennis Dittrick, Whippany  
Jen Holzberger, Mendham Township  
Mary Ellen Murray, Morristown  
Rich Hoffman, Parsippany  
Steve Tractenberg, Morris Township

**Guest Speaker.**

Amy Curry, Executive Director - Morris County Historical Society  
“Environmental Preservation”

Human Assisted Secondary Succession

Reconstructing a native northern New Jersey mixed hardwood forest in the Whippany River Watershed.

Forest Restoration at Acorn Hall in Morristown, NJ

- Amy presented pictures of the Patriot’s Path 3-1/2 acre area before Sandy, after Sandy and during cleanup of debris, standing dead trees, grinding of debris, etc. to make it more plantable.
  - Received a \$250,000 federal grant. Tree planting started in November 2015 and still continues. Rutgers Cooperative extension volunteers planting as well. set aside small corner of the property as a wildflower garden - want to encourage native bee populations here.
- Ongoing effort to control invasive plants.
- 15 year plan.
- Deer exclusionary to keep deer out - fenced to keep deer out.
- Goal is to present native New Jersey mixed hardwood forest to this area.

#### Ideas:

- Cover cropping of early rye really helped with erosion.
- Culverts and swales - instituted a lot of it recognizing where all of this was.
- Looking for Oak and native Northern Red Oak – invited folks to bring from their own yard or come and drop some acorns on the site. Looking to the community to continue to help with the project and process.
- Offering history hikes and other events to get the community involved.
- Showed pictures of joint event with WRWAC.
- Jim Baranski asked about storm water run-off issues – Amy responded that herbicides can be taken by storm water – doing work to prevent this from happening.
- Found original spring that may feed run-off. No significant erosion near edge of property. Whatever was done has helped to significantly reduce erosion near the river.
- Amy acknowledged that the plantings of trees, etc. are helping to reduce erosion and run off.

Treasurer's Report. Not available.

#### Facilitator's Report.

- Two upcoming clean ups - both April 21
  - Bethel AME Church (8:30am-12pm)
  - Troy Meadows (11am-2pm)
- Watershed Ambassador tree planting on April 29 (11am-2pm) at Troy Meadows
- Coordinating the installation of a new rain garden at the Hanover library
- Applying for an Impact 100 Grant
- Welcome ideas and potential projects from members/public
- Seeking volunteers for WRWAC committees

#### Upcoming Events.

- Bethel AME River Clean Up (April 21, 2018)
  - Art Catalusci indicated that Jeff Hirsch from Trout Unlimited is semi-retired and does not have boat or waders to lend. Suggested using another Trout Unlimited group
  - Mendham member (Jen Holzberger) suggested reaching out to The Great Swamp – Sandra Levine – to borrow waders from them.
- Regional Tree Planting – Troy Meadows Parsippany (April 29, 2018)
- Art Catalusci – described the event and handed out copy of Nature Conservancy regional tree planting dates.

## Projects.

Hanover Library Rain Garden (Watershed Institute Grant, Morris County grant)

## Future Projects.

## Executive Committee Report.

- Executive Board Nominations
  - Executive Committee voted in – Jim Baranski, Chairman, Sal Iannacone Chairman Emeritus and Len Cipkins, Co-Chairman

## Committee Reports.

### Program

- Jim Baranski explains that we are reinvigorating the organization.
- Need a Chairperson for Program Committee.

### Outreach and Education

- Jim Baranski introduces himself as the Outreach and Education Chair.
- Asks for speakers for upcoming meetings.
- Asks if any speakers available from current group that can go out and promote WRWAC.

### Membership

- Sergio address growing the membership.
- Updated website, Wikipedia page and Facebook page are all great resources to use when encouraging people to join the organization. Use them.

## **Next Committee Meetings.**

- April 18th – Executive Board Meeting – Hanover Township Town Hall 6:00pm
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Action Committee Meeting – Morris County Library 6:00 pm

**Adjournment.** The Whippany River Watershed Action Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenifer O'Neill, WRWAC Administrator  
April 14, 2018 (drafted)