

**Whippany River Watershed Action Committee
Whippany River Watershed Management Group
Action Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 2, 2018 DRAFT
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
Jen Holzberger, Mendham Township
Don Ginsburg, Morristown
Rich Hoffman, Parsippany
Krystina Jeron, Boonton (Commission on Voluntary Service & Action rep)
Linda Jeron, Boonton (CVSA rep)

Guest Speaker.

Caryn Maxim, Volunteer Organizer, Commission on Voluntary Service & Action
“Taking Ownership of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals”

- Presented outline with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- 193 nations signed agreement in September 2015 agreeing to work together to achieve the 17 goals by 2030
- President Obama supported the plan.
- Current State Department representative currently says that these goals and the plan do not apply to the United States.
- Lively discussion ensued about the goals and how the actions of the WRWAC and other organizations should be accounted for and contribute to the mission of the CVSA.

Treasurer’s Report.

- \$1200 received from Madison
- Discussion about tax filing and current accounting firm.
- Waiting for quotes from three firms – then will decide who to use instead of Fitzpatrick
- Need to file extension – PKF Donohue offered to file for free

Facilitator’s Report.

- Successful event at Bethel AME Church on April 21
 - Art, Len (with his Boy Scout son), Jen were present
 - Jen Holzberger from Mendham was also in attendance

- Had about 40 volunteers.
- Art Catalusci presented enlarged photos from the event showing total cleanup
- Many other events were going on in Morristown that day, so attendance was lower than usual
- Did not use the boat as river was too high – unsafe
- Troy Meadows event was the same day but no one from WRWAC was in attendance.
- [Submitted Working on the Impact 100 Grant \(streambank stabilization near Bethel Church\) and EPA grant with the Passaic River Coalition \(high school education on with the Passaic River Coalition—One Water Approach approach to watershed management\)](#)
- 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.

- Don Ginsburg – [Shoreline Stabilization clean up](#) event set for 5/19 at Speedwell [and Pocahontas Lakes](#), Morristown
- Gala Fundraiser set for October 17th at Birchwood Manor
 - Len reminded everyone that he has updated all the fundraising materials (letters and forms) for all to use in fundraising effort.
 - Spread the word about the event
 - Need sponsors
 - Need contributors to Tricky Tray & Silent Auction
 - Len has gotten several restaurants to donate already
 - With Jen putting together Wellness Package with massage, spa, etc.

Projects.

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

Future Projects.

Executive Committee Report.

- Jenifer O'Neill distributed copies of minutes from last EC meeting.
- File cleanup – Files not stored and available at Morris County Library
- Len has boxes from Amy DiBartolo – will also store at MC Library
- Still have large device and don't know what it is to be used for. George Van Orden could not identify it
- Working on the October Gala – fundraising efforts by all encouraged

Committee Reports.

Program

- John Hoover (Madison) inquired as to what the grants we receive are used for.
- Jim Baranski stated
 - Burnham Park – Riverbank stabilization – discourage geese
 - Bayer Grant to produce “A River’s Journey” documentary
 - PSTA – Detention Basin
 - Rain Gardens
- Rich Hoffman (Parsippany) suggested that video of our actions on the FB page and website would be more effective tool to illustrate what our organization is doing.

Outreach and Education

- Rich Hoffman (Parsippany) suggestions:
 - Video of our actions posted to the website and FB page would be more effective tools to illustrate what the organization is doing.
 - He is available for outreach and education – uses Watershed models in schools and for scout groups
- John Hoover (Madison)
 - Madison is very active town when it comes to sustainability
 - MACA – Madison Arts & Culture Alliance sponsors many events
 - May Day – Town-wide beautification day - volunteers help to improve Madison’s parks, business districts & public places
 - Rotary Club – donates 100 trees town wide
 - Swap meet – residents meet and swap items
 - Green Forum
 - 78% of Madison’s energy use utilizes renewable energy via Nexterra
- Art Catalusci – presents copy of article in Observer Tribune about Burnet Brook cleanup. John Hoover
- Don Ginsburg (Morristown) suggests sending agenda ahead of AC meetings and minutes following to all members

Membership

- Need Chairperson
- Jim asked in anyone interested on AC Committee
- Carmella Vitella (Madison) was previous chair

Next Committee Meetings.

- May 16th – Executive Board Meeting – Hanover Township Town Hall 6:00pm
- June 6th – Action Committee Meeting – Morris County Library 6:00 pm
 - Discussed screening of “A River’s Journey”

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenifer O'Neill, WRWAC Administrator
May 9, 2018 (drafted)