

**Whippany River Watershed Action Committee Meeting Minutes
Whippany River Watershed Management Group**

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

***LOCATION: Morris County Library: 1st Floor—Large Conference Room
30 East Hanover Avenue, Whippany (across from Frelinghuysen Arboretum)***

ATTENDEES:

Jim Baranski
Sal Ianaconne
Pat Rector
Jenifer O'Neill
Mary Ellen Murray – Morristown
George Strothers – Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet – Chair of Denville River & Streams Committee
Brian Marshall – Garden Magic, LLC

Call to Order

- Open comment/question period
- Motion to approve October 2018 Action Committee meeting minutes
- Minutes approved.

Featured Speaker

Brian Marshall – Garden Magic, LLC on The Role of Native Plants in the Watershed
Presentation Attached

- Before presentation – acknowledges the riparian buffer done at Burnham Park as model but has gotten overgrown. Something needs to be done about it.
- Discussion that acknowledges that past WRWAC projects done without maintenance plans in place
- Brian encouraged WRWAC to do projects with native plants but to be sure that maintenance plan is included up front
- Will volunteer to help write technical parts of future grants
- There is a need for engineering services on grants
- Brian offers auction item – Garden Consultation from Garden Magic, LLC for next year's Fundraiser
- Brian is an engineer but is not licensed in NJ
- Mary Ellen asks if Action Committee for each town should prepare maintenance schedule for installed gardens

Executive and Other Committee Reports

Facilitator's Report

- Summary of Executive Committee meeting (minutes/notes)
- 2018 Celebration Dinner – October 17
 - Went very well – 2nd Annual Dinner
 - Recognized Dr. George Van Orden's contributions to the watershed and WRWAC
 - Showed film "River's Journey" – star of film was Dr. Van Orden
 - Had 68 attendees
 - Recognized by Bucco, father and son, Hanover Township recognized him & Resolution from Morris County Freeholders
 - Action committee recognized him as well
 - Waiting for reconciliation of fundraising and expenses
- Anticipation of asking watershed member municipalities for 2019 dues and appointments
- Sergio will be sending pre-ask email and corresponding survey
- Letter and survey will be going out in the mail

- Future Projects
 - Sergio is working on two grants that are due in December
 - Finishing up tasks associated with Watershed Institute Grant for Rain Garden at Hanover Library which has been established
 - Roots for Rivers and Environmental Endowment Grants are still being completed
 - Call out to members if you have projects interested in pursuing please reach out to Sergio
 - Mary Ellen Murray – in Morris Township there are proposed building condos – There is a wetland situation and they have to resolve all that. Would our committee get involved at all? Who does that?
 - Near St. Elizabeth's – on PunchBowl Road
 - Sisters of St. Elizabeths' will be selling to develop
 - Question people are asking is about the wetlands there
 - Jim – Action committee does not get involved in those decisions?
 - We do not take political decisions but if we have expertise that we can lend and are asked, we certainly can do that
 - If there is a need to prepare a paper on this, have them reach out to us with details and we can discuss at the next meeting.
 - Call out to members if you have projects interested in pursuing please bring to Sergio's attention.

Executive Committee Report

- Highlights of Executive Committee Meeting minutes from October:
- We sold two entire tables at the fundraiser to sponsors – JMF Properties and Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (SMCMUA)
- Helped lead to success of the dinner
- Participated in Parsippany Day, but could not staff Bottle Hill Day, Madison, so \$50 fee was a donation
- Discussed installation of rain garden at Bethel AME Church in Morristown
- Sergio pursuing Franklin Parker Conservation and Investors Bank Foundation grants for that
- Roots for Rivers grant application is due December 14th
- Environmental Endowment Grant application is due December 15th
- Reminder to coordinate with Brian to help with writing technical aspects of those two grants
- Also consider Burnham Park situation – had discussed with Sergio about getting a grant to do something there
- Seems like Morristown wants to take care of Burnham Park situation
- Brian Marshall – on Burnham Park Association – Morristown told Burnham Park Association that this is our project stay away.
 - There are ash trees and member of BPA came to AC meeting and asked if we had any response or assistance available because it seemed like the Shade Tree Commission of Morristown went ahead and cut them all down because of the Emerald Ash Borer
 - Brian has mixed feelings about Emerald Ash Borer – JCPL has done presentations to some towns and said it's coming so we're going to start cutting down aggressively because they are worried that the trees are going to get brittle and fall.
 - JCPL wants to cut them all down before they die.
 - Jim – AC did replicate the state's guidance to respond to Emerald Ash Borer:
 - Least resistance – cut them down
 - Combination of chemical and mechanical treatment
- There is systemic treatment but can only do with specimen trees – cannot do for all of them – only for ones that we want to save
- Ash have other diseases – not always borer

Treasurer's Report

- P&L submitted by Libby through end of October submitted for approval.
 - Gross profit - \$26,557.00
 - Expenses - \$13,339.00
 - Income - \$13,230.00
- Motion to accept.
- Accepted.

Committee Reports

Program – We are looking for a Program Chair, so let me know if anyone is interested

Outreach and Education –

- Parsippany Day, Hanover Township Day, Bottle Hill Day signed up but could not attend
- Spring – looking to do cleanup at Bethel AME Morristown again
- Possible education hike

Membership – Sergio has been leading lobbying of member towns

Jim represents Hanover Township

VISITOR: George Strothers –Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet/Chair of Denville River & Streams Committee

- Rockaway River Watershed Cabinet is losing members – at one time 15/16 towns now down to 10-12
- Keeping up with dues is always an issue
- Jim – If cabinet has something we can work on together bring to our attention – in best interest of both groups would be beneficial
- We meet most months during year
- Try and do a lot with rain barrels, storm water control
- We are both in Passaic River Watershed, so would be great partnership
- George after witnessing damage from Irene, became interested in how to prevent stream bank erosion, rehab streams that have been eroded
- Have looked at Roots for Rivers, but cannot get organized in time for deadline
- They want to plant trees in areas that are grassy on public property and on roads – don't know if native
- Won't plant any trees within 10 feet of river bank – will not accomplish erosion control
- They say will slow down river flow – not interested in this
- I do not have enough expertise/background to understand what we need to do
- Jim directs to WRWAC.org – Whippany Burying Yard project report to learn about erosion of river bank and what we did to resolve (2015/2016) – Princeton Hydro
- Jim – encourages George to request speaker's bureau member come and present to RRWC meeting to describe functions of WRWAC
- Christine Marian – interacted with Jim on Whippany Burying Yard project
- Discussion ensues about removing fallen trees from the rivers – possible grants for extraction?
- George – He has heard discussions about removing canopy but leave trunk alongside bank of river
- Jim – establishment of WRWAC was with first generation of projects to establish gardens, etc. Second generation is about maintenance

Next Action Committee Meeting:

- December 5, 2018– Morris County Library, 6:00pm

Drafted by Jenifer O'Neill November 28, 2018