

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee
Whippany River Watershed Management Group
Minutes of the December 6, 2006 Meeting

Attendance:

- BRIAN MARSHALL—MT. LAKES
- ART VESPIGNANI—PARSIPPANY
- JANIS SLUTSKY—MENDHAM BORO
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- AMY DIBARTOLO—EAST HANOVER
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- MICHELLE BURKE—MCMUA
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TOWNSHIP
- RICH TAUBALD—GENERAL PUBLIC
- DONNA BANGIOLA—POCAHONTAS LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR
- JEFF KURT—PRESIDENT TROUT UNLIMITED
- TED HUSSA—DENVILLE TWP
- JIM BARANCH
- CARY LLOYD—MORRISTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
- PEGGY ADAMS—FREEHOLDER REP

Absent Municipalities:

- FLORHAM PARK
- HANOVER
- MADISON

Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:07pm by Art Vespignani, Vice-Chair. There were no announcements nor public comment. The meeting ended at 6:08pm.

Art Vespignani, Vice-Chair, convened the WRWAC meeting at 6:09pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

Minutes of November 1, 2006 meeting—*Deborah McComber*

- Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report—*Amy DiBartolo*

- The November 2006 Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.
- Amy presented the proposed 2007 budget. We have asked the freeholders for \$22,500 for 2007 but have budgeted \$17,500 to match 2006. We have asked the towns for \$1200, same as 2006. We added a line to maintain the website at \$800.
- We conducted a certified audit in 2007. Victoria Foundation is very impressed and requested a copy with any grant applications.
- The 2007 budget was unanimously approved.

Executive Committee—*Art Vespignani*

- We met on November 29 to plan for today's meeting.

Facilitator's Report—*Art Vespignani*

- Art and Sal Iannoccone met with Victoria Foundation about funding possibilities. The meeting was very productive. We will submit one or two grant requests.
- The Program Committee met this week to discuss possible grant requests/projects.
- We are also looking for funding from Novartis for Black Brook.

- Art and Sal worked up a letter to the Freeholders requesting funds for 2007.
- Art and Morristown reps replaced fencing at Speedwell Lake. Passaic River Institute is doing monitoring of scouring pit for sediment as per revised contract at Speedwell. They will then try to identify sources upstream and recommend projects based on their findings. The project has been extended until June 2007. Peg Adams recommended looking at Watnong as a source of phosphorous.
- Still considering projects at Black Brook and a Water Restoration Plan based on our Sanitary Survey Study. Working with Princeton Hydro—Art is trying to reach Steve Sousa who has promised a proposal for NJDEP on a Water Restoration Plan this month.

Outreach—Amy DiBartolo

- Amy praised the members and the work conducted over the past year.
- The website is up although her son is working on setting the website address at wrwac.org. Right now the site can be reached at rosenet.org/wrwac. Check it out.
- Outreach will send out more letters to civic groups asking if they would like presentations on WRWAC activities. We did a number of presentations in 2006 that led to interest and a volunteer project with a group in Morris Twp.
- Please let Amy know of signs that identify water crossings in the county. The signs identify where waterways cross highways/streets and have the bird and frog logo on them. Please also let her know where you think signs should go and WRWAC will order them and install them.
- The next Outreach meeting is at Morris Twp Town Hall on December 14 at 8:00 p.m.
- There will be a watershed-wide clean up sponsored by Trout Unlimited on April 21, 2007. Vicki Potuchek, Watershed Ambassador, has expressed interest and will be contacted to help with town participation within our watershed and others.

Program—Brian Marshall

- At the last meeting, the group identified future projects and discussed fundraising and proposals.
- More projects are expected upon completion of the work at Speedwell by Passaic River Institute.
- The Troy Brook project will recommend future work to be done. Chris Obrupta will be speaking about Troy Brook at our February meeting.
- Other ideas were examined in Mendham and at Western Avenue in Morris Twp.

Membership—Art Vespignani and Deborah McComber

- Two letters will go to the municipalities requesting members and dues for 2007, respectively. Member appointments will be requested this month and dues next month. We are making some specific requests for members that are already active on the committee but who have yet been officially appointed by their towns.

Nominating Committee—Brian Marshall

- Art has spoken to Sal concerning the Nominating Committee and nominated Brian Marshall to head it. Brian will recommend a slate for the Executive Committee at the February meeting, after members have been appointed by the towns for 2007.
- Brian has approached a number of people who are interested in joining the EC.
- Brian may send out the slate of nominees through email prior to the Feb meeting.

By-Laws—Art Vespignani

- Art handed out a copy of a proposed revision to the by-laws which has been recommended by the Executive Board. Changes relate to membership and dues.
- Dues have been changed to reflect payments of \$1200 which we have been received for several years. The by-laws currently state dues are \$1000.
- It is also recommended to change the membership requirements from three to four members.

- We are now asking for an elected official (or someone selected by the official to take his/her place); a member of the town's professional staff; a member of the town's boards or commissions; and a town resident.
- The amendment was approved unanimously.

Appointment of Facilitator—*Amy DiBartolo*

- Amy asked for a motion to approve Art Vespignani as permanent facilitator. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- Art informed the Parsippany mayor that a new rep from Parsippany will need to be selected to take Art's place in 2007.

New Business—*Art Vespignani*

- Donna Bangiola noted some excavation being done on the river off of Speedwell in Morristown but she does not know why. There is also more dam repair being done nearby.

WaterBucks Reward Celebration—*Amy DiBartolo*

Waterbucks were distributed to members as earned for 2006 and prizes were selected. The big earners were Amy, and Donna Bangiola.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

The next meeting is February 7, 2007, with speaker, Chris Obrupta from Rutgers. He will talk about the Troy Brook Regional Stormwater Management Plan.

The next Executive Committee meeting is January 31, 2007.

Deborah McComber