

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

Whippany River Watershed Management Group

Minutes of the March 5, 2008 Meeting

Attendance:

- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- BRIAN MARSHALL—MT. LAKES, SECRETARY WRWAC
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- PEGGY ADAMS—FREEHOLDERS OF MORRIS COUNTY
- JEFF KURT—HACKLEBARNEY, TROUT UNLIMITED
- ROBERT CONLEY—MADISON
- MIKE ROMANKIEWICZ—WATERSHED AMBASSADOR
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TOWNSHIP
- GEORGE VANORDEN—HANOVER, MADISON
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- DONNA BANGIOLA—MORRISTOWN
- AMY DiBARTOLO—EAST HANOVER
- JON WRIGHT—HACKLEBARNEY, TROUT UNLIMITED
- RICK VOLLMAR—DENVERVILLE

Absent Municipalities:

- FLORHAM PARK
- MORRIS PLAINS
- MENDHAM BORO

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:07pm by Brian Marshall, Secretary. There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 6:08pm.

Brian Marshall, Secretary, opened the Action Committee meeting at 6:08pm. Brian introduced the speaker, Mike Romankiewicz, Watershed Ambassador for WMA6. Mike talked about the watershed ambassador program sponsored by AmeriCorps and NJDEP.

Art Vespignani announced that the April 2 meeting speaker will be Virginia Michelin, Morris County Planning Board, who will discuss the Water Balance in Morris County. The May 7 meeting speakers will be engineers from Mendham Boro, Parsippany and possibly one other Action Committee member town. The speakers will discuss the status of stormwater regulations and their impact on towns. Thank you to Ellen Sandman, Administrator Mendham Boro, for helping to arrange the speaker from her town.

Minutes of February 6, 2008 meeting—Deborah McComber, Administrator

- Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report—Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer

- We have received dues from Parsippany, Morris Plains, East Hanover, Mountain Lakes, Madison, Mendham Borough, Morris Township, and Mendham Township; and \$100 from Boonton Twp.
- The February 2008 treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Executive Committee Report—Art Vespignani

- To be covered by the facilitator's report.

Facilitator's Report—Art Vespignani

- **Speedwell Lake**—\$1400 will be spent for a spring clean-up day to mulch and fix the steps. Louise is working with a high school student going for his Eagle Scout badge to arrange the clean-up day.

- **Troy Brook**—there is a meeting tomorrow at 2pm at Hanover Municipal Building on plans for a Hanover Community Based Learning Project. Invitees to the meeting include Chris Obropta and Sandy Goodrow from Rutgers, arborist Lorraine Knopka, Judi Iradi (Council member) and Art Vespignani. Art has invited representatives from the Hanover board of education and the parks department as well. Anyone interested is welcome. Rutgers has redesigned an earlier proposal for a project in Mt. Lakes regarding catch basin inserts. The Program Committee is also considering a stream restoration project in Parsippany. Ralph Rhodes asked if we have considered contacting the county for funding. Such funding is recommended by the Troy Brook plan, Part B, for selected projects. Art will contact Ray Zabihach and/or Jack Schrier.
- **Sanitary Survey**—grant request is going thru channels at NJDEP, which should reach a decision in a couple of weeks.
- Art attended a meeting today of the **NJ Council of Watershed Associations**. WRWAC is willing to share our insight into common concerns especially in light of our being ahead of the curve in many areas. We also hope to learn from the experiences of other watershed organizations. Another meeting is planned in June 2008.
- **Black Brook**—WRWAC has determined that the restoration plan proposed by EcoScience at the Morristown Airport is the best of the proposals that have been submitted and hopes to obtain funding for the Black Brook proposal. Art sent the Black Brook proposal to the NJDEP Division of Land use to be reviewed as part of the EcoScience proposal.
- Art left a message with Engineer, Jeff Hartke, concerning **Morristown's plans to build a new power plant** alongside the Whippany River.

Program Committee—*George VanOrden*

- A summary of the previous meeting is included in today's packets and was described in today's facilitator's report. The next meeting is May 13.

Outreach Committee—*Jim Baranski*

- **Earth Day**—Saturday, April 19 at Sunrise Lake from 11am to 4pm. Art will be hosting Watershed Jeopardy, which Brian Marshall and Ralph Rhodes are revising for a young audience. A sign-up sheet was handed out asking for help with set-up (10am), Jeopardy hosts, and clean-up (4pm).
- **Speakers Bureau**—We have a Power Point presentation about the AC as well as a summary of the project at Speedwell Lake for presentation to civic groups. Please submit names of groups to the Outreach Committee. Debbie McComber sent letters to the mayors of Morristown, Morris Township and Morris Plains asking if they would like to see the Speedwell Lake presentation. Rich Taubald gave a PP presentation to the Unity Charter School and has some other contacts. Rich is looking into possibility of teachers receiving professional development credit for these PP presentations.
- **Kayak Trip**—Amy spoke with John Madden about spearheading our third spring kayak/canoe trip along the Whippany River. He is scouting out a route and will lead the trip. Date TBA for late April or early May 2008.
- Art Vespignani has rescheduled the **Patriots Path Historical Hike** with commentary by Joe Macasek, for October 4, 2008.
- **Visual Assessment Workshop**—scheduled for April 5 from 8:30am to 3:00pm. The program will start in the Morris County Cultural Center in Morris Township and adjourn in the afternoon to a nearby Whippany River site (across Mendham Road) for field work. Danielle Donkersloot of NJDEP Watershed Management will teach the program with assistance by Watershed Ambassador, Mike Romankiewicz. A sign-up sheet was passed out at the meeting. Debbie will send out press releases next week to open up the workshop to the public.
- **Watershed Signage**—Amy DiBartolo presented a map which identified locations of watershed signs. Next step is to identify where additional signs should be installed and order more signs, perhaps with funding obtained by area sponsors.
- Trout Unlimited is arranging a **spring clean-up day at Community Gardens** in Hanover (behind Walmart strip mall) for April 26 at 10am. Jon Wright will contact Katherine Margiotta who coordinates the annual Morristown Spring Clean-Up Day. Mike Romankiewicz volunteered to

help with the event. Jon will send Debbie McComber the details when finalized so she can issue flyers, press releases, mailings.

- Jim Baranski put together the first **WRWAC annual report** which is in the packets, today. These reports should be distributed to municipal buildings and other appropriate public locations and handed out at WRWAC events.

New Business—*Brian Marshall*

- Flyers were handed out and emailed to members for upcoming Goose Control seminar and a Passaic River Institute workshop on tracking floatable debris and trash on the Passaic River.
- Please note **memorial display for Bob Kelly** who died recently. He was a charter member of the WRWAC from Florham Park. There is a basket out for member donations to his selected charity, Habitat for Humanity. A card with donations will be sent from WRWAC.

The next AC meeting is April 2, 2008. Virginia Michelin, Morris County Planning Board, will discuss the Water Balance in Morris County.

The next Executive Committee meeting is March 19, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Deborah McComber