

Neighbors of the Northwest Branch (NNWB)
Minutes of Board Meeting
February 1, 2022

1. Welcome

Present on Zoom: Anne Ambler, Kem Morawski, Rebecca Henson, Kristin Backert, James Graham, Julie Keenahan

2. Treasurer's report

The treasurer's report from Larry Hush shows a balance of \$6,431.06. We are paid up for Zoom for the next year. Report approved.

3. February-March Board Election

We will have three new people running, Melissa Schweisguth in Prince George's County, Matt Boyer in the middle of the watershed, and Nora Swisher up above Bonifant Rd. All can be elected. If anyone wants changes in their bios/photos, let Anne know ASAP.

4. April Elections of Officers.

Anne will not be running for president, but will continue for the time being with advocacy, website and database upkeep, listserv approvals, official thank-yous for donations, notices to members, and water quality monitoring (assuming ARK gets a grant again this year). She said she is open to handing off some of these jobs to others.

5. GreenScapes

February 18--Advancing the Natural Landscape in a Modern World put on by Brookside Gardens. We are sponsoring at the \$250 level, so 3 free tickets. Anne, Kem, and Rebecca will attend—Anne will submit their names. We also can submit materials for the online program. We have a couple of weeks to decide what this should look like—Anne will ask about the parameters of the materials and Kem will put something together about the organization for this purpose.

6. Tee Shirts and business cards

So far Kem, Rebecca, Glenn, Kristin, and Michael have picked up Tee shirts. For payment, a check (\$15 or up to \$21, payable to Neighbors of the Northwest Branch) added to your 2022 dues is preferred, to save the Paypal handling fee. Mail to treasurer Larry Hush or to our P.O. Box 4314,

Silver Spring, MD 20914. Those that want business cards, contact Anne for pick up.

7. **Rachel Carson Museum update**

The Board of the museum voted to change the name to Springsong Museum (paperwork pending with state of Maryland/IRS). Although they still want to focus on Rachel Carson, they felt the new name would reflect the desire to reach out to the community in a broader, more inclusive way. In December they started fundraising efforts.

Montgomery Parks has asked for estimates on all sorts of issues such as traffic studies, etc. The board has hired an architect who designed the Sandy Spring Museum and the Woodlawn Museum. They are also interviewing an exhibit designer who has designed exhibits for Woodlawn Museum and the Robinson Nature Center in Howard County.

Rebecca has talked to other small museums including Sandy Spring and Woodlawn. Perhaps small museums in both MC and PG would sign a letter of support? The Audubon Naturalist Society wrote a letter of support to be sent to MCP. Rebecca to send information to Julie to share with Julie's neighborhood in Springbrook.

The March meeting is to start with the introduction of new and current board members with a recap of the year in 4 or 5 photos. Anne suggested that Rebecca speak about the Springsong Museum. Rebecca will use some of the materials collected by Laura Mol who has done a lot of research on Rachel Carson's life and may also do a presentation for Friends of Sligo Creek.

8. **Spring Clean Ups**

Thanks to Julie for learning about the new reporting platform for Montgomery County. The app is called Literati and once an individual or organization joins, they get a code and can record photos of trash, amount, and data as to what kind of trash to help track what is going on. Rebecca is to put Julie in touch with her husband who is interested in helping out with clean-ups.

9. **Incidental**

Anne has been asked to speak about NNWB and our stream monitoring for the North 4 Corners Citizens Association on 2/9. They've also invited Trey

Sherard of Anacostia Riverkeeper to explain the Lockridge Tributary trash trap, but he is leaving water quality results on the NWB to Anne.

Anne sent in testimony in support of the bill requiring a chain of custody for artificial turf and will post on website. She also signed NNWB on in support of a bill that creates a new Maryland Recycling Task Force. She mentioned the bill about PFAS in the water (forever chemicals) and thought we ought to support the bill. The Sierra Club is doing research into this issue.

Instagram account: Julie posted one of Ben's photos of the stream in winter. Kem is to find out who took the photos of all the salt in the roads in the Woodmoor neighborhood and get permission for Julie to post some of them with a pertinent comment on oversalting on the roads and the impact on NWB. The caveats and instructions concerning road salt are now again posted on our website Homepage.