

NNWB Board Meeting - December 5, 2018

In Attendance: Anne Ambler, Kristin Backert, Laura Barnitz, Suzanne Donohue, Michael Evans, James Graham, Larry Hush, Maurie Kathan (on phone for part of meeting), Laura Turbe, Glenn Welch.

- **Agenda Review/Key Topics to Cover:**
 - Prelim agreement on Jan events
 - Fundraising
 - Election schedule
 - Agreement on water salt watch
- **Treasurer's Report:**
 - Balance \$4880.01. Received a donation of \$150.
 - \$250 charge for room reservation was paid to Methodist Church. They are trying to "professionalize" with these high fees, but this is more than we can afford. We won't use them any longer.
 - New Wheaton library and rec center may have rooms; unsure as to when they open.
 - Paypal
 - May be able to avoid fees if people using their Paypal account to donate to us select "friends and family" option.
 - Person donating on our website does not need a Paypal account, even though Paypal handles the donations.
 - Glenn to add note to website encouraging "friends and family" option.
 - NNWB is not on CFC list.
 - Board approved Treasurer's Report.
- **Report Out**
 - **Burnt Mills/WSSC – Letter to Matt Harper**
 - Parks has "suggested" that this space be utilized
 - Glenn wrote a letter as individual; letter from NNWB group would be good too
 - Purpose is to open a discussion; Parks is looking for feedback.
 - Currently no stormwater controls. Looking for potential use of part of the space, not the whole parking lot.
 - Beautiful view; buildings are historic. Potential for rain garden, interpretive center, take advantage of grassy areas
 - Invite Matt to come to a meeting?
 - Glenn has sent a rough draft. Anne will add her experience with WSSC work in progress. Everyone to comment by end of week. James will send.
 - Downstream is the side of interest, but upstream there is no sidewalk from the parking lot to the traffic light, where one can safely cross Colesville Rd. Larry previously sent letter and got a response indicating that a sidewalk would be considered; will send out to the Board.
 - Discussed continued need for dam. Decided to defer any dam proposals.
 - **Adopt a Stream designation (PG County Only)**
 - No word yet from the county on the application. Maurie will follow-up with Tia

- Project commitment – 3 projects per year, would like to do 4 if possible.
 - Maurie will send information to Anne about the program and Anne will post to website.
 - **Financial Plan**
 - Maurie has not had time, plus end of year is almost here.
 - Not too late to do end of year gifting letter. Other options – Earth Day, New Year.
 - Existing version that we can adapt or a previous version of a successful letter? Anne will look and send to Michael.
 - Sending email is easy; paper more difficult and costly. We do have some mailing envelopes and return envelopes.
 - No set protocol to the number you send.
 - Email could start 1st week of Jan and send once a week for 3 weeks and then again in Earth Day, perhaps extending to paper mailing
 - Anne inquired as to demonstrating triumphs. Maurie suggested showing how funds are generally used.
 - Michael to draft a January letter. Maurie could commit to letter/email work after Feb or edit/feedback Michaels letter.
 - **Video**
 - Video is almost done. John Sullivan in Africa.
 - Would be nice to include a link from email. Can also be posted to website.
 - **Stormwater Partnership**
 - Ed, John Fay (previous NNWB board secretary), Anne, James attended potluck
 - New county executive, 4 members of his transition team are among the Stormwater Partners
 - County Executive Elrich's 3 measures to focus on under "A Greener County" are greenhouse gases, recycling rate, and code enforcement. Nothing directly related to stormwater control.
 - Diane Cameron leading brainstorm on watershed measures proposal
 - County work to comply with Clean Water Act requirements (MS4 Permit) will now be done using a design-build-maintain contract with private company, which limits public input and may also limit government oversight.
 - Our projects may not be affected because we work in parks, controlled by MNCPPC, which has a separate MS4 permit and responsibilities.
 - Concerns should continue to be raised. Consider invites to future NNWB meetings.
 - **Upcoming**
 - **Beltway expansion**
 - Expansion on land owned by Parks. No stormwater controls were required when the beltway was built, and State Highway Administration can now claim expansion is grandfathered and does not need to comply with current stringent Prince Georges and Montgomery County requirements.
 - Likely cannot stop beltway expansion, but can make a fuss in the Legislature about stormwater control.

- Anne is on committee with Kit Gage and other Stormwater Partners to see what can be done. Legislative session starts in Jan.
 - Suggested bill would require PG and MoCo stormwater rules.
 - Extent of expansion is unknown, but expect more lanes and toll lanes with a possible double deck.
 - James asked about a potential “beltway expansion 101”. Anne said there may be information on county website.
- **Septic/Public Sewer**
 - Ed raised issue of properties on septic and tying into WSSC. Typically means rezoning which leads to increased development to watershed.
- **Weed Warriors**
 - Kristin, Michael, and Laura went out to URR area. Suggested by Tenley.
 - Larry asked about Lamberton still being on table. Glenn raised Burnt Mills.
 - Laura will send Tenley’s email.
 - James asked if there were dimensions to the area, potentially identify on map.
 - Tentative schedule – Could sponsor a pull 4x a year/sponsor a pull
 - Anacostia Riverkeepers got grant for community garden; could team up to do hike in March between rain garden and pull area.
 - Kristen, Michael, and Laura now certified. Laura met Kemp Mill resident who is also certified.
 - No supervisor training at this time; need to be certified for at least 1 year anyhow.
 - Certified WWs can go out without a supervisor; any uncertified volunteers on a site require a supervisor be present. Larry could supervise.
 - Suggested sites: Underground RR area in Sandy Spring, Lamberton Drive heading south, Rachel Carson Trail heading north
 - Area with high visibility would be good. Demonstrate progress over time.
 - Kristin, Michael, and Laura will coordinate on a site.
- **Anacostia Waterkeepers**
 - Hot topic is bacteria monitoring. Are there any areas that stand out? Looking for site selection.
 - Glenn suggested this could be done in areas where insects are monitored.
 - Ed noticed there are areas that may be worse after the rain.
- **Green Matters sponsorship**
 - \$250 check sent. Anne waiting on receipt. Gets 1 free ticket for sponsorship.
 - Feb 22. Symposium is 8 AM to 4 PM. \$85 early bird price ends Jan. 10, then \$99; lots of professionals
 - Limited availability among Board. Perhaps raffle? Give to a landscaper? Give to a Boy Scout or student who can report back?
 - Suzanne suggested this be raffled in Jan fundraising email, Students can be Plan B.
- **January Events**
 - January 2 – No public meeting
 - MLK – Perhaps inside event. Libraries may be open and provide space.
 - Making posters, building birdhouses, bee huts

- Neighbor of Suzanne and Laura T used to do bee keeping
 - Laura T to pull bee huts information
 - Laura B to reach out to a member of the beekeeping
 - Larry suggested demo of weed warrior work
 - Laura T suggested Frogwatch – toads vs frogs, different sounds
- **March Events**
 - Board/Officer Election Board Election
- **Other**
 - Salt watch
 - Isaak Walton league leads this effort
 - Provides a small kit – test strip to check water, do this before and after a big snow
 - Use evidence to contact county
 - No set dates on when to do this
 - Suzanne interested, James to send out information.
 - Storm drain markers
 - Anne has materials – at least 100 stormdrain labels, 4 brushes, 18 tubes of glue.
1 ½ boxes of disposable gloves
 - Do in the spring; specific temperature needed, labels (Anacostia, Chesapeake)
 - Ana Arriaza (DEP staffer) splits up county, which approves us doing this work. We can also choose a neighborhood and just do it.
 - Option for Scouts to do it.
 - NNWB materials
 - Anne will leave posters and stuff with Laura T
 - Looking for homes for gloves; will take back to Henry as Kristin, Michael, and Laura T have plenty