

**Neighbors of the Northwest Branch (NNWB)**  
**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
**December 7, 2021**

**1. Welcome:**

Present on Zoom: Anne Ambler, Kem Morawski, Rebecca Henson, Ben Simasek, James Graham, Michael Evans, Kristin Backert, and FOOSC liaison Ed Murtagh.

**2. Treasurer's report**

The treasurer's report from Larry Hush shows a balance of \$6,199.76.

**3. Updates and Reports**

**NNWB business cards:**

Reminder: Michael, Kristin, and Julie to get them at Anne's house, James to pick up cards at Kem's.

**October 30 clean ups**

Ben's clean-ups went well on 10/30. He led the 8a.m. one and Melissa Schweisguth led the afternoon one. Ben's area was between East/West Highway and Agar Rd.

**Anacostia River boat trip 10/23:**

Anne said only 8 people showed up so this may not be a good time of year for this. Chris Williams, new Executive Director of the Anacostia Watershed Society, also came. He said AWS is on track for its goal of making the Anacostia River swimmable and fishable by 2025, so he is now looking for improvements upstream, that is, in the Northeast and Northwest branches. He may seek to work with us.

**Alderton Rd. clean-up 11/6.**

Anne said it went well and had about 20 people, although not the 20 who originally signed up. She used the new NNWB banner. She had to call to remind MC parks to pick up the trash.

**NNWB program, 11/2**

Dr. Than Saravanapavan of the United States Army Corp of Engineers gave a talk via Zoom entitled “Restoring Aquatic Life in the Anacostia River System.” He is the project engineer for two stream restoration projects on the Northwest Branch and one on Sligo Creek that include removing two barriers to fish migration. It was an interesting talk and prompted an active discussion afterwards. Someone needs to keep an eye on this as there have been stream restoration projects that have not gone well.

### **Rachel Carson hike and house, 11/13.**

Rebecca reported that there were 10 people, which was the maximum number we could have. The hike started at Burnt Mills and went to Rachel Carson’s house, where Diana Post of the Rachel Carson Landmark Alliance (RCLA) showed a video about Carson and gave a short talk. It went very well. RCLA now has PayPal options for donations.

### **Anacostia Riverkeeper water quality monitoring grant application 2022.**

It looks like the expanded proposal for water monitoring will not be happening and that the program will look same for NW Branch as it did in 2021. This means one site and monitoring every other week.

### **State of the Stream** with Audubon Naturalist Society.

Kem, Anne, and James participated. At the last meeting of the program, ANS showed us a mock-up of the multi-media presentation they are working on. There are 3 streams involved: Oxon Run, which runs 7 miles through Prince George’s County, through SE DC then into the Potomac on the east side; Holmes Run, whose headwaters start about I495 and I66 and goes through Falls Church and Alexandria before emptying into the Potomac on the west side; and the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia. The interactive Internet report will have a lot of graphs and data, photos, and interviews with a variety of people in each watershed. We shall probably see the finished product in January or February.

### **Hyattsville update:**

[Hyattsville Watershed Implementation Plan](#); [Prince George's County Climate Action Plan](#): Balancing development, forest conservation, and park space in

Rosemary Terrace Park, Clay Property; Hyattsville plastic waste reduction policies under consideration for 2022.

Ben reported the action plan is a draft that he is hoping will be adopted by the county council. There is a lot of developing going on near the stream. The Clay property at Rosemary Terrace has a ridge that drains into the NWB on the west and into the Northeast Branch on the east. 137 townhomes are to be built and 11.1 acres of trees are to be cut down leaving 1.4 acres. The city has asked for a minimum of 4 acres. Soccer fields and a parking lot have been proposed. Ben says that there are other soccer fields nearby and plenty of parking and that they don't need another at this site at the expense of tree cover. Hyattsville would like to see a forested park here. There are 3 stormwater ponds that have or will be built to help control the development run off.

The city of Hyattsville would also like to see a stop to development exemptions in NWB's floodplain. The County Council and the developers have ignored the City of Hyattsville's concerns in the past, but there is a developer who has other properties it wants to develop in the city so it may be willing to compromise.

The plan asks for equity and transparency and a climate score for all development projects.

Recently Prince George's Sierra Club had a program on plastic. The Environmental Committee for the City of Hyattsville would like to see a plastic bag tax like they have in MoCo. They would also like to see an "opt-in" policy for take out utensils, straws, packets, etc. It would help to have a letter of support for this from NNWB.

### **NNWB Facebook page**

There are about 360 followers. Ed hasn't posted much recently. We all need to send him photos and news.

**GreenScapes Symposium:** Advancing the Natural Landscape in a Modern World, Feb. 18, Friday, 9:30 – 4, Zoom. This is put on by Brookside Gardens. We are sponsoring at the \$250 level, so 3 free tickets. Several people were interested in going. We will look at the schedule and see who wants to see what.

### **CBT-MC Grant (Chesapeake Bay Trust-Montgomery County)**

We didn't apply for this grant due to several circumstances. Trash traps are difficult to get permitting for. Maybe next year.

Anacostia Riverkeeper will install a trash trap on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Lockridge Tributary. They plan on collecting the trash, categorizing and counting it.

4. **Update on T shirts.**

Kristin showed us the T shirt information. We liked the blue she chose and decided on how many in what sizes she should order. She will send Anne the link to make the purchase.

5. **Board Elections**

Please review and update your bios and photos and send Anne revisions. Ballots to go out via email in February, so March meeting may be more announcement than election. We have a couple of names of potential board members who seem interested. We need to consider who would like to run for officers in April. Anne will not run again for president.

6. Future meetings: Renew **Zoom**, since COVID shows no signs of disappearing? We all agreed to renew our Zoom account for next year. Anne paid for it this year, but it will need to come out of the budget next year.

7. We need a **speaker for our March meeting.**

Everyone needs to think about a speaker/program for that month.

8. **Happy Holidays to all.**

There is no January meeting. Next board meeting will be February 1, 2022.