**Neighbors of North West Branch**

**Minutes of Board Meeting Oct. 6, 2020**

In attendance (Zoom): Kristin Backert, Michael Evans, Anne Ambler, Kem Morawski, James Graham

Treasurer's report

We took in or were reimbursed: $805.

We paid out $1,155.22—net change was $350.22

Our balance is $4,167

Thoughts on our Anacostia River Keepers program last month:

Olivia Anderson presented. Everyone thought the program went well. We had a good turnout.

Stream cleanup at W. Hyattsville 10/3 with MNCPPC protocol (James):

James said stream cleanup went well. Joint Anacostia Watershed Society + MNCCP. Used PG Parks protocol which capped number at 10--people lined up six feet apart and came up individually to get their supplies. All showed up who signed up. Our website has slides of clean up. The site was near the West Hyattsville metro and the footbridge across the stream has been completely knocked off its moorings which is a problem for locals who want to reach the metro or shop on Queen’s Chapel Rd. The bridge also acted as a trash trap so lots of trash. They could not reach it all on the far side so lots more work to be done. Group had 3 UMD students and a professor who took photos.

Status of plastic reduction bills in Montgomery County:

Bill 6-20 Balloon release ban;

Enacted, to go into effect Dec. 30, 2020

Bill 32-20 plastic straw ban;

Hearing completed. The Montgomery County Council Transportation and Environment Committee (T&E) will discuss on Oct. 12, 2020. Current provisions in the bill call for a program to be established within 90 days of signing, and the ban to take effect 12 months after signing.

Bill 33-20 polystyrene ban.

Expanded polystyrene food containers are already banned.  The current bill would also ban clear polystyrene food containers and polystyrene utensils. Hearing took place. The T&E Committee will review it on Oct. 12 as well. Would go into effect 12 months after signing, or January 1, 2022, whichever comes first.

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Housing development in Hyattsville:

Two sites by same developer on either side of a road. One side is on the floodplain. Case is in court because correct procedures were not followed. We support delay in this case until the court case plays out.

Status of NNWB comments on beltway-I270  expansion DEIS.

Anne making her way through the 19,000 pages. The state wants to use areas in Sligo Creek for staging areas and access, and severe damage to the NWB would result from deconstruction and reconstruction of the bridge. MDOT already owns rights of way in parts of this area.

Report on replanted trees along NWB, Burnt Mills area (Kem)

WSSC worked on an area of NWB at Burnt Mills below the falls (backs up on Woodmoor neighborhood). Summer of 2019 they planted trees to replace ones that were taken down. 14 of the 44 trees and bushes they planted died. A lot of the living dogwoods have anthracnose. Kem contacted Eugene Rose, liaison between MC Parks and WSSC, and Andrew Frank, MCP, in July. Conclusion was that replacement trees would be planted in fall—don’t think they will do anything about the dogwoods. Kem contacted Eugene last week and he said that he met with the landscaping company at the site and they were scheduled to plant Saturday, October 3rd. Kem checked on October 6 and there is no sign of planting. She contacted Eugene Rose and asked him to check on this.

New business:

Presidential Plastics Action Plan:  Should we sign on?  See [tinyurl.com/plasticfreepres](http://tinyurl.com/plasticfreepres)

Suggestions, not binding. Everyone to take another look at this and contact Anne about whether to sign on or not.

Clean-ups--Suggested locations:

1.  At foot of Lockridge Tributary (access from Hillsburo Dr. & Gilsan St., Kemp Mill neighborhood) Lead: Anne November 14.

           2.  Lamberton Tributary (access from Lamberton Dr.) Laura lead? (Ask)

           3.  Burnt Mills. Leads: Kem and Larry (?) (Ask ) November 7.

            4.  Upper NWB (access from Alderton Rd.) Leads: Kristin and Michael November 7.

5.   Upper NWB--parkland. Challenging cleanup of ravine behind Cutstone Dr.

This is complicated because of a lot of trash and construction materials—will require a dumpster. MCP will have one available end of November which Anne has requested.

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6.  James will look into another clean up at the Hyattsville site Oct. 31st as there is still a lot of trash there.

Another possible site: Just downstream from Old Randolph Bridge where a log has trapped litter (access from Kemp Mill Rd.)

Anne will communicate with MCP and put up a list on our website.

Program ideas for December meeting Dec. 1st.

Anne suggested discussing Masterplan for Wheaton Regional Park.

James suggested getting someone to talk about what to look for in nature when outside in December. Perhaps an app to go with it. Will try to find someone.