

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
January 4, 2012

- Meeting Held At:** P.S.S.D. Conference Room, District Way, Martinsburg, WV
- Present:** Sandra Bernardi, Martin Elliott, Alana Hartman, Jennifer Jones, Suzy Lucas, Herb Peddicord, Robert and Tyler Richards, Diane and Gary Sylvester, Lou Scavnicky, Cam and Alice Trowbridge, Brent Walls
- Meeting Opened** 6:05 p.m.
- Officers for 2012** The following officers will serve for a one-year term in 2012:
President – Lou Scavnicky
Vice President – Mary Palmer
Treasurer – Diane Sylvester
Secretary – Sandra Bernardi
- Eagle Scout Project** Tyler Richards and his father joined the meeting briefly. Tyler will be working toward the rank of Eagle Scout and came to ask if we had a project for him. The team suggested the Opequon trail map project. Brent Walls gave him his card and agreed to support his efforts. OCPT has GPS camera purchased for this purpose. Other ideas mentioned were stations of trash signs/bags “Courtesy of OCPT” at Creek access, and (w/DOH permission) benches on Route 9 bike path.
- November Meeting Minutes** There were no corrections to the November meeting minutes and they were accepted into the record as written. Hollis Oak fundraising event was briefly covered: next step is for Herb to send Sandra final recipient information and she will complete certificates and cover letters.
- Future Speakers** Lou has arranged for the following speakers at future meetings:
February – Tanner Haid, Cacapon Institute will talk about urban trees and the urban tree program. Lou will find the name of the Martinsburg arborist and invite him to that meeting. He will also invite the mayor.
To be confirmed:
March or April - Vicki Blazer, Leetown Science Center
Steve Knipe, Manager, Martinsburg Water Department and Jeff Wilkerson, MS4 program manager.
Jim Lawrence, The Opequon Watershed, Inc.
Curtis Keller, Berkeley County Public Service Sewer District Manager
- Upcoming Events**
- Italian cooking class at Visone. Date to be determined.
 - January ? Door-to-door septic program announcement.
 - March 24 and 31, Harlan Run Buffer Planting.
 - April 14, 9AM-12PM, Annual creek side cleanup at Van Metre Stone Bridge.
 - May 4 – Faith Christian Academy Labors of Love

- May 26 – Back Creek Fun Float.
- September ? Day of Caring.

Mill Creek Septic Program

Sandra, Lou, Pete Kesecker and Kristin Mielcarek did door-to-door work in Gerrardstown Reached ~50 homes, ~70% seemed interested. Kristin received 2 calls immediately afterward. Someone reminded the group that Lisa Giles might have been interested. Sandra will inquire what date it is retroactive to. Sandra went to EPOHOA meeting intending to announce this opportunity, but agenda was full. However, EPOHOA secretary, Laura Taylor, already knew of the program and was willing to post pdf of brochure on their website. Alana mentioned Nick Schell (WVDEP) interacted with another HOA in Mill Creek recently and told man of the project. Alana mentioned an anonymous complaint led to Keith Allison checking on report of wastewater in Mill Creek just today, and he preliminarily confirmed he found a straight pipe. Brent mentioned his office may have received the same complaint. This may lead to a project with the 319 grant, unless a Home Aeration Unit is prescribed – that is technically a permitted source and can't be paid for with nonpoint funds.

Remaining Grant Monies

The remaining grant monies used to install the Roach vernal pond will be used to purchase plants, soil, etc. for the Baltimore Street rain garden. Amount is pending Palmer's submitting final invoice. The extra work the Roach's required is already figured in. This money must be spent by April 30, 2012 and then the final accounting will be sent to DEP.

Poster Contest

Details of this program will be worked out over dinner at the meeting to be held at Casa Visone, 120 North Queen Street, Martinsburg, January 23 at 6:30 pm. Discussion to include, theme, reaching out to home schooled children, age groups, etc. Katlyn Hendershot (EPCD) may have a contact with home school group. Prizes were discussed: kayak, free labor to reduce runoff on someone's property.

Harlan Run Buffer

Herb announced this planting scheduled for March 24 and 31. It is on a farm protected through the Farmland Protection Program and includes 4,000 feet of stream bank (both sides of the creek).

Interpretive Sign

Herb wants to put an interpretive sign about Opequon Creek on the Route 9 bike trail where it crosses the Creek. This sign will be similar to the one on Route 51 at Evitts Run. Shepherdstown Paint and Art created the sign and it should be a simple matter to use that template again. We will need DOH approval and RC&D has agreed to contribute \$600-800 toward this project. We need to figure out where to put it. OCPT might be asked to provide concrete and dig the holes. Gary moved that the Project Team do what is needed to support this project, Martin seconded and the motion passed.

Macroinvertebrate Sampling

We need to contact Glenn Nelson, the new SOS coordinator based in Charleston, to schedule a training/sampling weekend.

New Meeting Facility

Suzy Lucas, Conservation Agency, stated that their conference room is available, however, an Agency employee must be there to lock up the facility at the end of the meeting. Other suggestions were Daily Grind (too small), James Rumsey, the Martinsburg Library (Sandra will follow up on this), the Martinsburg Mall meeting room (Gary will follow up on this), Herb's office in Inwood (although we have the same problem there as the Conservation Agency's office).

Publicity and Membership Recruitment

Lou stated that he was interviewed by TV3 out of Winchester in early December, but was not sure what happened to the interview. Lou also went to Faith Christian Academy in the fall to talk to the senior class about OCPT and the watershed. Diane suggested that, in addition to recording PSAs for local radio (WEPM and WRNR) spots, we could do the same for Channel 25 TV. Alana suggested she and Lou might sit down with Hans Fogle of WEPM (1340) radio for a watershed discussion.

Adjournment

At 7:10, Gary moved that the meeting be adjourned, Martin seconded and Lou adjourned the meeting. Lou then introduced Suzy Lucas, Conservation Specialist at the West Virginia Conservation Agency. Suzy addressed the group with a presentation on how best to increase OCPT membership, outreach and public exposure.

Minutes of the meeting prepared by Sandra Bernardi, Secretary