

QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
ANNVILLE TOWN HALL
January 17, 2017

Present: Mike Schroeder, Karen Feather, Kent Crawford, Alan Wood, Alicia Norris, Joe Connor, Bill Beck, Sean Droms, Kelly Cottingham, Marty Brandt

The meeting began at 7:00 PM.

1. The minutes of the meeting of the meeting of December 20 were approved.
2. Mike provided an update on the Cleona Quittie Creek Restoration Project. He noted that Rocky Powell has submitted the proposal to PA-DEP's Growing Greener program, and that 16 of the 21 landowners along the creek have signaled that they are on-board with the project by signing the two initial permission forms from PA-DEP.
3. Mike noted that Rocky Powell would be on hand for the Association's next meeting on February 21, when he will provide an update on the still-developing Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and lead a discussion on priority projects for the Association over the next 15-20 years. [NOTE: the Feb. 21 meeting was later canceled and Rocky's presentation & discussion moved back to the meeting of March 21.]
4. Kent provided an update on the Lower Snitz Creek Restoration Project. Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited [DFTU] in collaboration with Rocky Powell (Clear Creeks Consulting) and Lee Irwin (Aquatic Resources Restoration Co.) and in partnership with the Watershed Association submitted a proposal to the PA Fish & Boat Commission, which in December announced that it had approved \$115,000 of the requested total of \$147,562, leaving a shortfall of \$35,000. Kent indicated that DFTU intends to pursue other funding sources to make up the difference. The proposal identifies 1,200 linear feet of stream to be restored, with its lower terminus at the Dairy Road bridge. The work will stabilize the banks; provide livestock crossings; remove invasive species; erect fencing; narrow the channel; increase the stream velocity; and include installation of riparian buffers using saplings to be provided by the Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited. (The proposal is posted on the QWA website: Homepage > Studies & Documents.)
5. Special guest Marty Brandt, representing the Friends of Union Canal Tunnel Park, addressed the Association and highlighted some issues and problems with the Union Canal. He indicated that the park itself is 110 acres, 95 of which are in the Quittapahilla watershed. The park's section of the canal is approximately 1,500 linear feet, and has been experiencing increasing erosion on its banks, with an estimated one foot lost on each bank over the past ten years, and with mucky silt in some sections up to thigh-high. Marty further indicated that his goal was to solicit the advice and counsel of the Association on how to address these problems. A broad-ranging discussion ensued. Members of the Association summarized that for grant-funded projects it has pursued, grant proposals are submitted in two phases: the first to study the problem and devise a solution, and the second to actually address the problem using stream & streambank stabilization measures. Alan Wood suggested a simple solution of lots of rip-rap and planting trees along the lower embankment. A range of other solutions were also discussed. Also discussed were possible sources of funding, including the PA-DCNR, Penn-DOT, the PA State Historic Preservation Office, the federal Department of Agriculture's NRCS, and various engineering and historical societies. Consensus was reached that the Association would be happy to assist the Friends of Union Canal Tunnel

Park with advice & counsel in the future. Marty offered his thanks to the assembled members for their assistance and said he would be in touch.

6. Alan Wood reported that a landowner along the Quittie near Syner Road had sent a letter to the Lebanon Valley Conservancy expressing interest in stream and streambank improvement along the Quittie in that section. The letter further indicated that Penn-DOT is considering removing the three-arch stone bridge on Syner Road, and that many of the local residents are upset at the prospect and are in favor of preserving the bridge. The question was raised regarding whether the Association would agree to send a letter to PA state representatives indicating its agreement with the landowners in that section. Consensus was reached that the Association was in favor of stream restoration work, but that preservation of the bridge fell outside the Association's proper purview.
7. Alicia Norris provided the Treasurer's Report. She announced that annual membership dues of \$10 per member were due, and a number of members submitted their annual dues. She further reported that the Association's current assets were approximately \$970.
8. Joe Connor reported on a request from Doc Fritchey Trout Unlimited that the Association purchase an ad for DFTU's annual banquet program, at the same cost as last year – a half-page ad for \$50. Mike moved that the Association purchase the ad space. Kent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mike agreed to revise last year's ad and include an invitation to DFTU members to attend the Association's meetings.
9. Joe circulated the newsletter of DFTU, "Hatches," P.O. Box 6592, Harrisburg PA 17112.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem