

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Gubanc's Pub and Restaurant

Friday, April 10, 2015

The *vision* of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is a healthy properly functioning watershed. This vision is of streams, wetlands, riparian forests, upland forests/trees, Oswego Lake, and other natural resources working together as a sustainable ecological system that supports good water quality, productive habitat for native plant and animal communities, and enhanced quality of life.

The *mission* of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is to foster stewardship, education, participation, and financial support for the purpose of the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of watershed functions that achieve and sustain a healthy watershed.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Directors present were Chair Stephanie Wagner, Andy Harris, Michael Buck, Mark Rosenkranz, Rob Amsberry, Mary Ratcliff, Sarah Asby, and Tom Bland. Guests were Maddee Rubenson, intern with LOC and Jim Holly with OFW.

2. Operations:

- **Minutes: Resolved: Meeting Minutes for Friday, March 13, 2015 were unanimously accepted.**

- **Treasurer's Report:** Tom reported a balance of \$1,944.32 in our account. Stephanie informed us that contracts with the City had been signed after a delay for procuring necessary liability insurance coverage. We will be having bills for directors' and officers' coverages. Tom will file our 990 form for Federal and our 1231 for State purposes. Very soon we should be receiving from the City the funds for habitat restoration purposes which total around \$32,000.

3. Council Business:

- **NEG projects:** The Habitat Enhancement Fund projects necessitate our need for a project manager and Stephanie has received references and a responsive applicant. Interviews will be set up with Mike and Stephanie to determine applicant's background, competency, availability and communications skills. Stephanie said that Corinna of TCWC would like to have in the future a person to share for their own restoration projects. So the hope might be to work out in the future a full-time managerial position for both Councils thereby facilitating work in linked watersheds. The press release on Watershed Enhancement Projects (now referred to as Habitat Enhancement Fund Projects) was released with the helpful scripting by Mary Ratcliff. Mike reported that he has met with Pastor Keith Dickerson from Hope Community Church and three property owners in the Boutwell Creek project area. Signed agreements are forthcoming and will be turned over to the City (Anne McDonald) for filing and availability. Mike also mentioned ongoing deliberations with Planning Commission on the new Natural Resources draft to replace Sensitive Lands code language. Hearings continue in April and May with City Council reception planned for June. Lastly, Mike is working with Babs Hamacheck the new Volunteer Stewardship Coordinator for the City. They are sharing

information and resources to help increase citizen involvement with watershed improvement efforts.

- **Mtn. Park:** Sarah reported progress in formation of a sub-committee dealing with goals for watershed enhancement in the common areas of Mountain Park. Along with Dwight Sangrey, Kevin Stohler and Stephanie Wagner, she is putting together a Nature in the Neighborhood grant application for project work on the publicly used area of the Mountain Park Homeowners Association. This is a created riparian area needing more natural water conveyance characteristics that will better serve habitat values along with public use. Sarah and Stephanie briefed Council members on the five tributaries in Mountain Park that feed the Springbrook Creek drainage. They are working on developing partnerships as part of this grant application. This was formulated in the following resolution:

Resolved: The OLWC formally acknowledges a partnership with the Tanglewood Park Tributary of Springbrook Creek project in Mountain Park by unanimous vote.

Sarah commented on the process for these Metro applications and hope their grant request makes it through the initial review. Other partnerships may include the City, school and Friends' groups, and this site has been targeted in the past by the City's Clean Streams program. Other notes mentioned by Sarah included Dwight Sangrey's hydrological experience and OLWC helping with volunteers on this project. Stephanie mentioned that OLWC with its 501C3 status might be a good fiscal agent.

- **2015 Budget Approval:** Stephanie reported that in our budget, the OWEB grant is listed but that is a projection consistent with budget process. Given the increased complexity of reports generated by grants and projects, Tom said he may need the help of a bookkeeper to do a quarterly report. A non-profit does not need to do an audit but were we to do one, we need to show it. Good financial policy dictates reviews and additional eyes on monies coming in and out. Tom would continue to sign checks and do the reconciliation of books.

Resolution: The OLWC unanimously accepted the proposed budget.

- **HEF Project Coordinator:** As reported above, Stephanie said we are in the process of interviewing and hiring this position.

- **Jim Holley:** On turtle surveys in the City, Jim reported on his observation points looking for breeding native turtles, western pond and western painted, around the lake area and in wetlands. Two observation points were highlighted in George Rogers Park. He sighted turtles around the dam and upland off of Country Club Court. Jim gave some background on turtle habitat and egg laying and what is being done to promote and protect these native inhabitants. A special fundraiser is being held and people were asked to contact Jim or Maddee if they wished to attend.

- **Healthy Ecosystems:** Greg McMurray stopped in to solicit volunteers for a subcommittee to work in conjunction with Craig Stephens on the Healthy Ecosystems draft for inclusion into the City's Comprehensive Plan. NRAB is taking a close look at the process since both Healthy Ecosystems and the draft for Natural Resources are going before City review processes at the same time. The Planning Commission is reviewing the draft on April 13th and April 27th. Members were asked to look at the draft and see if anything critical needed attention. Mention by Council members on the request for signage of watersheds on the transportation corridors was again noted.

4. Public Comments: Iron Mountain Work Party on April 19th from 1:00 – 3:00pm.

5. Meeting Adjourns: 9:30 am.

Next Meeting: Friday, May 15, 2015