

# OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Gubanc's Pub and Restaurant

Friday, February 20, 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.

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1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Directors present were Chair Stephanie Wagner, Andy Harris, Joe Morelock, Michael Buck, Mark Rosenkranz, Sarah Asby, and Tom Bland. Guests included Mary Ratcliff from SAB, Maddee Rubenson, intern with LOC.

## 2. Operations:

- **Minutes: Resolved: January 9, 2015 minutes were unanimously accepted.**

- **Treasurer's Report:** Tom reported our account balance as \$1979.32. He reminded Council that we have two accounts; this bank account and one for Paypal. The Financial Statement for 2014 was emailed to each Council member by Tom. Our total volunteer hours on behalf of watershed contributions last year were around 700.

**Resolved: Council unanimously approved and accepted this 2014 Financial Statement.**

Stephanie mentioned the impending resolution of the City Council toward restorative environmental projects for the future. She recommended an updating and accounting in June of our expenses. She also talked about procuring liability insurance as a necessary prerequisite to our work on selected project sites in conjunction with City Staff and Parks and Recreation. Council briefly talked about volunteer liability forms for adults and for those younger: Under 18 would require a parent/guardian signature and release; under 14 would require parent accompaniment.

In answer to Mark's question regarding a part-time person to help with organizing our projects, Stephanie hoped we could contract with a professional who might also be in the employment of Tryon Creek Watershed Council, a 501 C3 entity. In that way, we would not incur payroll structuring. Joe added that this probably would necessitate an interagency agreement. She clarified also that our projects will affect our ability on grant solicitation, that the funding from the City does allow for some overhead expenses, and a small contingency amount. Stephanie believed she could get an insurance package by next week. \* Mark offered Lake Corps's cooperation on any fixed costs and affirmed the process of partnering as a way to get the most out of our funding.

• **Candidacy of Mary Ratcliff:** Upon acceptance of Mary's application and acknowledgement of her past advocacy and support, Council brought her candidacy as a Council Director to a vote. **Resolved: Mary Ratcliff is officially recognized as member of the OLWC, serving as liaison for the Sustainability Network, in a unanimous vote of Council.**

### **3. Council Business:**

• **Mountain Park:** Sarah reported positively on her meeting with the Mountain Park Board of Directors. Stephanie was also present as they collaborated on future goals on Iron Mountain's common property. Sarah said that follow-up will continue and planning with funding needs to happen before any real work can commence.

Stephanie reiterated the hopes for grant (OWEB) money in regards to such enhancement. Linkage with the current CIP of the City was also cited as necessary as well as continued cooperation with TCWC especially since Park Creek drains into the Tryon basin.

• **2015 Budget Discussion:** Tom and Stephanie will draw up a draft to present to OLWC for approval. \*

• **Strategic Plan Review:** Mary talked about the desire to have signage on selected ROW sites helping inform pedestrians and vehicle users about the watershed they were in. She said the Water Consortium has done work on this. Identification and association are key component in helping raise awareness of watershed activities. Stephanie went over the three overarching goals in our Strategic Plan. Work needs to be done on the Plan to put in the specific projects we have selected as well as data organized, criteria for selection, and evaluation processes. A Habitat Enhancement Committee to help organize the three projects was set up consisting of Stephanie, Andy, Maddee and Mike.\* Also, with our educational goal in mind, another committee consisting of Stephanie, Sarah and Mary was formalized. Joe will be a resource with this committee regarding curriculum development. The meeting concluded with the recognition that everyone continue to heed transparency, credibility and established criteria in public process functioning. Council members were urged to look at the Strategic Plan and come back with updated modifications.

• **New Business:** Items for a quarterly website newsletter report need be sent to Linda Keast by members. Give her all work related to our watershed.\* Via our website, Mike reported hearing from a resident in the Blue Heron area regarding their questions about a change of surface water movement on their property. Council thought referring the caller to Rob Amsberry would be beneficial.

**5. Public Comments and Announcements:** Mary announced "Fix a Leak Week," March 16-22 in conjunction with EPA's goal for residential conservation of potable water. Andy had some good instructional material on stream morphology he will send to the website.\* Tom announced the February 21<sup>st</sup> planting work party at Springbrook Park from 9:00 am – 12:00pm. Mary will look at our calendar and send announcements to Linda in addition to articles and events.

**6. Meeting Adjourns: 9:30am**

**Next Meeting: March 13, 2015, 8:00 am.**

**(Next Page for \*To Do list)**

## **TO DO LIST\***

- √ **STEPHANIE will follow up with liability insurance coverage for Council.**
- √ **TOM AND STEPHANIE will draw up Budget.**
- √ **MIKE, STEPHANIE, MADDEE AND ANDY will meet as Habitat Enhancement Committee to plan and organize for projects.**
- √ **ANDY will send article on stream morphology to Linda for posting.**
- √ **ALL MEMBERS will update Linda for newsletter info. Pictures are also welcome.**
- √ **MARY will make sure calendar on website has special notices and events.**