

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2023 7:00 pm via Google Meet

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Board Members Michael Ohlin and Fred Folmer, Member Jo Ellen Litz, Katie Hollen - Lebanon County Conservation District

Canner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Fred Folmer resigned as Secretary, but will remain on the board.

On a motion by Adams and a second by Ohlin, the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

On a motion by Adams and a second by Ohlin, the Treasurer's report from December 2022 was approved.

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

Adams indicated that no progress has been made on creating new trails at Swatara Watershed Park due to the poor weather conditions.

Litz asked Hollen if she was involved with the Dirt and Gravel Roads program at LCCD to see if the program could be used for improvements to the right of way at the park. Hollen indicated she was not involved with the program, but after the meeting, by email, provided Karl Kerchner's information as the appropriate contact for the program.

Bordner Cabin

Folmer stated that he has procured 1 inch thick, rough cut oak planks that can be used to repair the flooring of the cabin. No repairs have been made yet due to poor weather conditions. Folmer will make the repairs to the floor and porch railings as the weather allows.

Canner indicated that there is no new information of the lease renewal at this time.

Swatara Water Trail

Old business

Canner stated that the 3D camera mapping of the Swatara Water Trail is set to start in the spring as the weather permits.

Canner confirmed that the 2023 Swatara Sojourn will be on Saturday, May 6th. The tentative course will begin at Pine Grove and end at Lickdale. If conditions on the beginning section are not passable, then the sojourn will begin at Swopes Valley Rd access. Canner is researching several options for event insurance, as our general liability policy does not cover on-water events. Canner requested ideas for a theme and for speakers for the sojourn.

Other Items

Canner stated that she is visiting several homeowners who are interested in having trees planted on their property in the spring. Tree orders through Keystone 10 million trees begin January 9th.

Canner stated that she will be attending a public meeting to discuss the development of a 319 (Watershed Implementation Plan) plan for Spring Creek on January 17, 2023 at 7 pm, at the Hershey History Center. Spring Creek is a major tributary of the Swatara Creek and most of the creek is impaired. Canner invited anyone interested to attend.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday February 6th at 7 pm via Google Meet**. The meeting time was moved in an effort to find the best time to allow for the most board members and potential new members to attend the meeting.

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2023 7:00 pm via Google Meet

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Board Members Michael Ohlin and Fred Folmer, Member Jo Ellen Litz

Canner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Folmer nominated Michael Ohlin for Secretary, Canner seconded. Ohlin welcomed the nomination. A vote will be taken by email to confirm the nomination.

On a motion by Folmer and a second by Canner, the Treasurer's report for January 2023 was approved. Canner stated that electric rates at Swatara Watershed Park have increased.

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

Canner and Adams began marking out a trail through the wooded western half of the park. They located the corner survey pins on the western boundary.

Canner had a discussion with the owners of the canal parcel that borders the property. They are in the process of estate planning and will be in touch when/if they decide to sell to SWA.

Folmer made a motion to raise the seasonal camping rate to \$500 for the full season, Adams seconded. The motion passed.

Canner expressed the need for a Forest Management Plan or similar plan for the park. Litz indicated that a consultation was conducted when the property was purchased that could be used as a starting point. Canner stated that she would look into different resources for an updated consultation.

A discussion was held to determine projects for the park, including those that could be performed during the United Way Day of Caring. Projects suggested are: Clean up of felled trees, picking up downed branches in center grass island, assess building for maintenance issues including the need to paint, fire pit for center island, and re-anchor the dock.

Bordner Cabin

Folmer, Adams and Canner completed repairs to the floor boards and porch railing as requested by DCNR. Folmer will return when weather permits to seal the newly added wood. DCNR was contacted and is satisfied with these repairs.

Cleaning the cabin and general maintenance for the United Way Day of Caring will require 5-10 people.

Canner and Litz are meeting with Swatara State Park manager Courtney Troutman and her immediate supervisor on March 1st to further discuss the lease.

Swatara Water Trail

Sojourn planning was discussed in detail. The Sojourn will take place on May 6th. It will begin at Swopes Valley Trailhead and end at Lickdale Trailhead. Folmer will pull Canner's trailer with his vehicle to collect trash along the way. Lunch and a presentation will be at Bordner Cabin. Litz will pick up the food for lunch. A theme and presenter are still needed. Courtney Troutman or another DCNR representative was suggested as a possible speaker.

South Hanover Township, Dauphin County, received a grant to establish a Greenways and Trails Plan. They have invited SWA to be a part of the team for this project. There are two accesses to the creek in the township, Keller Field and Swatara Creek Park. Adams and Canner attended the preliminary meeting for the project on January 30th.

Other Items

Canner and Adams attended the public meeting to discuss the development of a 319 (Watershed Implementation Plan) plan for Spring Creek on January 17, 2023. Canner indicated that there was a good turnout for the meeting and offered the support of SWA in the project. Spring Creek is a major tributary of the Swatara Creek and most of the creek is impaired.

Canner indicated that she would be attending the South Hanover Twp Historical Society presentation on February 7th and would be setting up a table of information at the event.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 6th at 7 pm via Google Meet.**

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2023 7:00 pm via Google Meet

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Michael Ohlin, Fred Folmer, Jack Stouffer

Canner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The motion to approve Michael Ohlin as Board Secretary was approved by an email vote. Canner stated she would set up a Google email account for Ohlin.

No Treasurer's Report was presented at the meeting.

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

No further progress was made on the trail creation in the month of February.

Canner stated that she created a United Way Day of Caring event for the park on April 22, 2023 from 9 -12. Projects involve picking up trash and branches, sprucing up facilities and cleaning up any remaining downed trees.

Canner and Adams met with DCNR Forester Andy Brought on February 23, 2023 for a consultation. Brought suggested dividing the property into two management sections - the East being the old golf course area and the West being the Forested area downstream from the launch. For the East, Brought suggested using herbicides to control the invasive weeds, including Japanese stilt grass and mile a minute, then planting trees in areas that have not naturally reforested. For the West, Brought suggested using cut stump or hack and squirt herbicide applications techniques to control Oriental Bittersweet Vines and Multiflora Rose. Canner indicated she would research costs for the herbicides.

Bordner Cabin

Canner and Jo Ellen Litz met with Swatara State Park manager Courtney Troutman and her supervisor, Joshua Swartley on March 1, 2023, at Litz's request, to discuss various topics related to the Bordner Cabin repairs and lease.

Canner met with civil engineer Josh Weaber from Chrisland Engineers about the DEP permit requirements for the foundation repairs. Weaber will send an employee to the cabin to get the layout of the area and will get back with a proposal.

Canner stated that she created an event for the United Way Day of Caring on Apr 22, 2023 from 9-12 for general cleaning of the cabin and surrounding area.

Swatara Water Trail

The 33rd Swatara Sojourn is scheduled for May 6th and will begin at Swopes Valley TrailHead and end at the Lickdale Trailhead. The theme is "Growing our State Parks."

Registration is at Swopes Valley and vehicles will be taken to Lickdale and the drivers shuttled back to the launch.

PA American Water pledged \$1000 for sponsorship and Sheetz provided a \$300 sponsorship.

Canner met with Courtney Troutman on March 1, 2023 to discuss the Sojourn. Troutman expressed support for the Sojourn and said she would provide a speaker from DCNR for the lunchtime presentation. She indicated that a Letter of Authorization (LOA) is required and the \$25 fee will be waived since we will be providing a service (picking up trash) during the event.

Canner indicated that she has been having discussions with Katie Hollen from LCCD about planning a trash clean up at the confluence of the Quittipahilla and Swatara Creeks, at Gravel Hill Rd and Pine Rd. Hollen is contacting the landowners for permission to conduct the clean up on their property. If approval is granted, the cleanup will be scheduled for the fall. PA American Water indicated that they will provide a \$500 sponsorship for the event.

Other Business

Canner stated that she attended the South Hanover Twp Historical Society presentation on February 7th and set up a table of information at the event. She talked to about 20 people and handed out water trail maps.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, April 3rd at 7 pm via Google Meet.**

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023 7:00 pm via Google Meet

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Secretary Michael Ohlin, Fred Folmer, Member Jo Ellen Litz

Canner called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Finance

March's minutes and the Treasurer's report for February and March were approved on an Adams motion, seconded by Folmer.

Canner discussed insurance coverage that SWA may want to consider based on a webinar about coverage for water conservation organizations. Canner stated that SWA currently has General Liability coverage and a Crime Policy, but coverage for Directors and Officers and Accident should be considered. Canner will get more information about coverage and costs for discussion at the next meeting.

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

April 22nd is the United Way Day of Caring clean up at the park.

Wayne (Skip) and James (JU) Unger have stated that they are willing to sell their approximately 5 acre property, which consists of the canal and two locks, that separates the Swatara Watershed Park from Blacks Bridge Rd to SWA. On a motion by Folmer and second by Canner, the next step in the DCNR grant process of hiring an appraiser was approved. Canner will continue to look at other grants to use as a match.

Canner also stated that a neighboring property owner, Fred Johnson, had expressed interest in purchasing part of the Unger property that borders his property, west of the locks. After discussion, all in attendance were in agreement that SWA would prefer to purchase the entire Unger property to best preserve the canal and the environment around it.

Bordner Cabin

Canner stated that there was no update on the engineering for the cabin repair permit.

April 22 is the United Way Day of Caring event for the clean up at the cabin. At this time, there are no known minor repairs, so a general cleaning and trash pickup will take place. Litz will oversee the cleaning.

Swatara Water Trail

The 33rd Swatara Sojourn is scheduled for May 6th and will begin at Swopes Valley TrailHead and end at the Lickdale Trailhead. Canner will pick up breakfast items, Litz will pick up lunch items. Folmer will help with registration.

Canner and Adams met with Ranger Lesa Willis at Swatara State Park to go over the take out locations and use of the roads in the park. All information will be included in the Letter of Authorization that DCNR requires for large events in the park.

Insurance for the event was purchased through Paddlesport Risk Management. Insurance is based on a per person amount and will be adjusted after the event, based on participation.

Lower Swatara Township has completed improvements on the launch at Fulling Mill Rd, and is in the process of finishing work on the parking area. A PA Fish and Boat grant helped to fund the project.

Other Business

Canner attended a table event at the Conewago Darter 5K in Londonderry Township. SWA will have a table at the LCCWA Arbor Day event at South Hills Park, April 28 from 3-5.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 1, 2023 at Swatara Watershed Park**

Canner adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2023 6:30 Swatara Watershed Park

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Secretary Michael Ohlin, Fred Folmer, John "Chip" Benedict

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Finance

No treasurer's report was submitted

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

April 22nd was the United Way Day of Caring at the park. About 25 people attended and helped to clean up the park.

As of May 1, 22 campsites were rented for the season.

Mike Adams will research types and cost of a firepit for the central grass island

Canner will call appraisers for the Unger Canal property to begin sale process

Canner discussed two hazardous trees that need to be removed at the park, one in site 12 and one in site 24. She will get estimates for their removal.

Bordner Cabin

Chrisland Engineering submitted a proposal to complete and submit the paperwork for the DEP GP permit that is needed to complete the foundation repairs and creek bed restoration.

Swatara Water Trail

Final Sojourn planning was discussed. Approximately 40 people pre registered. Litz will pick up lunch from Sheetz, Canner will pick up breakfast items and drinks. DCNR will provide a presenter.

Adams and Canner updated the progress of the camera mapping of the water trail. A test run from Swopes to Lickdale was completed and submitted to Earthviews. Earthviews sent a draft Map of the section for review. Adams and Canner will continue to map sections of the creek over the coming weeks.

No new update on the proposed cleanup at Gravel Hill Rd.

Other Business

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 5, 2023 at Swatara Watershed Park**

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:45.

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2023 6:30 pm Swatara Watershed Park

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Board Members Michael Ohlin, Jack Stouffer, Folmer, Jo Ellen Litz and guest Shawn Jacobs (Manada Conservancy) .

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:35

Finance

Motion to approve May's minutes and Treasurer's report by Folmer. Both were seconded by Canner and approved.

Canner Reimbursement of \$271.66 for food and drinks for the sojourn & water testing for the park.

Litz Reimbursement of \$522.39 for Sheetz for food for sojourn.

Motion by Folmer to reimburse Canner and Litz. Motion approved.

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

28 sites currently rented for Watershed Park seasonal camping. Canner stated that some campers have decided to rent two sites so they have more room.

Adams stated that a fire pit design and quote are in progress for the central area of the park.

Canner has hired Fogelman's tree care to remove two dangerous trees in the campground. They are waiting for a repair of their truck and will cut down the trees when they get the truck back.

Canner has talked to two appraisers for Unger canal property. She has not heard back from them.

Litz stated that the area was very dry and burn bans were being discussed by the county. Litz suggested that drought education be disseminated via our social media accounts.

Bordner Cabin

Adams motions to hire Chrisland Engineering to prepare the DEP GP3 permit for the cabin repair. Second by Folmer, motion approved.

Swatara Water Trail

Sojourn recap: There were approximately 40 participants. There will be a refund from the insurance company for the event based on the number of participants. There was a net gain of \$600 from the Sojourn,

POI vs Public access discussion - Adams has had feedback about confusion on the Water Trail map about the distinction between a point of interest and a public access point. A list of changes will be made for future map printings. Some POIs such as Camp Catherine or Hershey Campground may appear as public access points.

Canner stated that PFBC and Lower Swatara Township updated the Fulling Mill Launch. PFBC reached out about updating the map at the location. Adams stated that many of the maps need to be replaced as they are weathered and difficult to read. Canner stated there are several sources of grant funding that could be used to replace the signage. Only the map sections of the signs need replacing, the uprights and map boxes are in good shape.

Canner stated that she and Adams had completed approximately half of the camera mapping of the water trail. They have been hampered by low water in some areas. They will continue with the mapping as water conditions allow. Earthviews sent a draft of the Swatara State Park section of the creek.

Other Items

Shawn Jacobs was recently hired by Manada Conservancy to lead projects related to the Swatara Creek ROE. The Educational day previously discussed with Manada has been put on hold because they did not receive the requested grant funding.

There are three potential tree plantings for the fall. Camp Kenbrook, near Fredericksburg, a private residence in Hummelstown, near Indian Echo Caverns, and a replant at the Jonestown Borough Park.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 3th at 6:30 pm at the PFBC Water Works Access. There will be a trash clean up prior to the meeting.** Canner adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2023 At PFBC Water Works Access

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Secretary Michael Ohlin, Board Members Jack Stouffer, Fred Folmer, Member Jo Ellen Litz and guest Shawn Jacobs (Manada Conservancy) .

Canner called the meeting to order at 7:15 after litter clean up of the Water Works access.

Finance

No Treasurer's report was submitted.

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

The two dangerous trees in sites 12 and 24, were removed by Fogelman's Tree Service. Canner paid for the removal and requested reimbursement of \$750. Stouffer motioned and Folmer seconded to reimburse Canner. The motion carried.

There were no updates from Adams on quotes for a central firepit at the park.

Canner presented a quote of \$2500 from Eberly Appraisal Services to complete the necessary appraisal of the Unger property for the DCNR grant. There was a discussion as to whether this was a fair price for the appraisal. Canner will research additional appraisal companies and/or negotiate with Eberly on the price if necessary.

Canner mentioned that a tree had fallen on the equipment shed at the park. It appears that there was minor damage but it would have to be further evaluated once the tree was removed.

Canner reported that there had been repeated complaints about campers in site 30 fighting and roaming through other campsites at night. Canner provided a partial refund of the seasonal rate in order to get the campers to agree to leave without additional problems.

Bordner Cabin

Canner reported that the contract with Chrisland Engineering to complete the GP3 permit for the cabin repair was signed and Chrisland indicated that they would begin work within the next two weeks.

Swatara Water Trail

Canner stated that progress on the camera mapping has been slow due to water levels and scheduling, but should pick up again now that water levels have rebounded.

Canner reported that LCCD is continuing to attempt the land owners around the confluence of the Quittie and Swatara to gain approval to clean up trash in the area. If landowner approval is granted, the hope is to schedule a cleanup in November as a joint effort of SWA and LCCD.

Canner stated that PFBC and Lower Swatara Township updated the Fulling Mill Launch. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held and Canner provided a letter from SWA to be read at the event.

Other Items

There are three tree plantings for the fall. Camp Kenbrook, near Fredericksburg, a private residence in Hummelstown, near Indian Echo Caverns, and a replant at the Jonestown Borough Park. Tree ordering is coming up soon and dates will be set once K10 sets delivery dates.

SWA will have a table at National Night Out at the South Hanover Township park from 6-8 on August 1.

LCCD is conducting a workshop for landowners with riparian buffers on September 23. SWA has been asked to attend.

Shawn Jacobs, from Manada Conservancy, is conducting a tree planting on September 22nd at Boathouse Park. Jacobs presented the possibility of a reciprocal business membership between Manada and SWA and a possible fundraising project of waterproof maps of the Swatara Creek.

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm

Next Meeting

August 7, 2023 at Swatara Watershed Park at 6:30 pm.

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2023 Via Google Meet (meeting method changed due to inclement weather)

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Fred Folmer, Boy Scout Zachary Harden

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:35

Finance

Treasurer's report was circulated via email following the meeting.

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

Canner indicated that she had received the appraisal for the Unger property from Eberly Appraisal Services. The property was appraised for \$30,000. Canner stated she would forward the appraisal to the Ungers and begin negotiating a sales price. A sales agreement is the next step and will need an attorney to complete it.

Canner stated that she had removed the fallen tree from the equipment shed at the park. The shed sustained minor damage. It will have to be monitored for leaks.

The railing of the EZ Dock was damaged and the broken portion was stolen. Adams and Canner removed the remaining part. Adams contacted the vendor and was quoted a price of approximately \$450 to replace the railing. Adams stated that prior to ordering the new railing, he would like to experiment with a different dock configuration. The new configuration would allow boaters to enter and exit the dock more easily as the chute would be oriented parallel to the creek. There may be drawbacks to this configuration as it will not be as protected during highwater. The railing would not be necessary in the new configuration. The dock will have to be removed from the water in order to reconfigure it. Adams has volunteered to supply labor for this task.

Bordner Cabin

Canner reported that she has not received an update from Chrisland Engineering regarding the GP for the cabin repairs.

Swatara Water Trail

Canner indicated that progress has continued on the camera mapping of the water trail.

About 70% of the trail has been mapped but some sections may have to be redone due to rain.

Canner reported that LCCD is continuing to attempt to contact the landowners regarding the cleanup around the confluence of the Swatara and Quittie. The hope is to schedule a cleanup in November as a joint effort of SWA and LCCD.

A discussion was held regarding the updating of the signage at each access of the water trail. Only the sign face itself will have to be replaced. The legs and map boxes appear to be in good condition at all locations. New complete signs are needed for accesses at Swatara Creek Park in South Hanover Township and Lickdale Trail Head at Swatara State Park. Adams stated he believes the easiest way to install the new signage will be to have new signs printed and then attached overtop of the original signs. He will contact sign companies for possible ideas on materials and costs. Canner will look into funding possibilities. Further discussion is needed on what changes should be made to the existing signs. Canner stated that only the signage at each launch should be replaced at this time still has a good supply of printed maps and the updates of the maps can wait for now.

Other Items

There are three tree plantings for the fall. Camp Kenbrook, near Fredericksburg, a private residence in Hummelstown, near Indian Echo Caverns, and a replant at the Jonestown Borough Park. Delivery dates for the trees have not been confirmed yet.

SWA had a table at National Night Out at the South Hanover Township park from 6-8 on August 1st. Canner and Folmer manned the table and were able to talk to approximately 200 people. Canner's Lego watershed model was a big draw. Hershey bars left over from the sojourn were given to kids that answered questions about water.

LCCD is conducting a workshop for landowners with riparian buffers on September 23. SWA has been asked to attend.

Zachary Harden, an Eagle Scout candidate from BS Troop 23 asked about potential projects at Swatara Watershed Park. A common area fire pit and repairs and residing and repairs of the office were mentioned as possible projects. He indicated that he will discuss the possibilities with his advisors. Ideally the project needs to be completed by spring.

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 6th at Swatara Watershed Park at 6:30 pm.

(Date changed due to Labor Day holiday)

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2023 6:30 pm At Swatara Watershed Park

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Secretary Michael Ohlin, Fred Folmer, member Jo Ellen Litz

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:38

Finance

No treasurer's report was submitted.

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

Canner reported that she had talked to Ungers concerning the road frontage property and they had indicated that they are asking \$35,000 for the purchase of the property. It was decided that since the property was appraised at \$30,000, further negotiation was necessary. Litz stated that the county assessment office should be contacted to discuss a HUP test for property tax purposes. She also stated that Wiley Parker from Henry and Beaver Law, was the attorney used for the purchase of the park property.

Bordner Cabin

State Park Manager Courtney Troutman contacted Canner about State Representative Russ Diamond's planned visit to Swatara State Park and Bordner Cabin on October 14th.

Canner stated that Chrisland Engineering had reported they had completed scans and surveys of the area and were continuing with the general permit application preparation.

Swatara Water Trail

Canner and Adams reported that approximately 80% of the camera mapping has been completed.

Canner stated that the clean up at Gravel Hill and Pine Roads has been put on hold due to lack of land owner cooperation at this time.

Canner stated that she attended the POWR/PEC Statewide Water Trail Managers meeting in Lock Haven on August 31st. A list of possible funding sources for trail projects was provided at the meeting. Canner said that PEC had mini grants available that might be appropriate for the signage updates. PFBC and DCNR are other possibilities. Veolia water

company has expressed interest in being a sponsor for the signs. Litz stated that Hopewell Manufacturing was the supplier of the original signs and that the signs were designed to easily change the printed face. The plan is to replace all the existing sign faces with an updated map and graphics as well as to install new signs where they are missing. Sites include, Lickdale Trailhead, Swatara Creek Park (South Hanover Twp), and PFBC launch at Middletown. It was mentioned that the sign at the Waterville (AT) Bridge may need to be moved.

Other Items

LCCD is conducting a workshop for landowners with riparian buffers on September 23. SWA has been asked to attend.

East Hanover Twp, Dauphin Co, invited SWA to their community day, September 23, 11-3:30.

Three tree planting events are scheduled for fall using trees from Keystone 10 Million Trees: Private Residence in Hummelstown - September 30, 9-12

Jonestown Borough Park - October 7th, 9 -122

Camp Kenbrook - October 14th, 9 -12

Canner stated that the tree delivery dates had not yet been confirmed, so planting dates are subject to change.

LCCD and USGS have installed a Super Gage on the Swatara Creek at the Rt 743 Bridge. They will hold an educational event about the gage on October 17th from 10-12 at Boathouse Park.

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm

Next Meeting

Monday, October 2, 2023 via Google Meet

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

October 2nd, 2023 6:30 pm via Google Meet

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Board Members Michael Ohlin, Member Jo Ellen Litz

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:35

Finance

We received a \$500 Donation from Eric Johnson of Hershey

Canner indicated that she had an estimated \$1000 from campground and PA American Water reimbursement to deposit into the account.

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

Walk through being planned for the Park for after the campers move out on October 31st.

There were no further updates on the Unger canal property.

Bordner Cabin

Local Representative Russ Diamond will be visiting the cabin on October 14th. Litz indicated that she would attempt to attend.

There was no update from Chrisland Engineering regarding the GP-3 permit.

An extension will be requested for the Lebanon County Hotel Tax Grant that was awarded for the cabin repairs. The grant expires in March 2024, but an extension can be requested.

Swatara Water Trail

The Camera Mapping is almost complete, much of it has been submitted to Earthviews and should be finished in the next couple weeks.

Canner indicated that there are 15 existing signs that need to be updated.

New signage is needed at 5 locations: Lickdale Trailhead, Swatara Creek Park (South Hanover), Duke Street, Middletown and possibly Keller Fields.

Hopewell Manufacturing was the previous manufacturer of the existing signs. Canner has requested a quote for the updated signage and 5 new signs.

South Hanover Twp has approved the new sign at Swatara Creek Park.

DCNR must approve the new sign for the Lickdale Access. Swatara State Park manager Courtney Troutman has initiated the process, but approval can take 1-2 years.

Lebanon County GIS should be able to perform updates and provide the basemap for the signs. A graphic designer will be necessary to complete the finished sign.

Once quotes are received we can look into getting grants.

Other Items

Fall tree plantings - Camp Kenbrook, October 14, 9-12, Private Residence Hummelstown - October 8th, 9-12 (Date subject to change), Jonestown Borough - October 7, 9-11

Riparian Landowner Workshop and East Hanover Twp, Dauphin Community Day were canceled due to rain.

LCCD/USGS Super Gage event at Boathouse Park - October 17th

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: November 6, 2023 at 6:30 - via Google Meet

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

November 6th, 2023 6:30 pm via Google Meet

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Secretary Michael Ohlin, Board Member Fred Folmer, Member Jo Ellen Litz, Guest Katie Hollen

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:32

Canner made a motion to approve the previous minutes, Ohlin seconded. The motion carried.

Canner made a motion to admit Katie Hollen to the board, Adams seconded. The motion carried. Katie Hollen is the Watershed Specialist for the Lebanon County Conservation District

Finance

No treasurer's report was submitted. Canner requested reimbursement for water testing for the park totaling \$324. Folmer made a motion to approve the reimbursement, seconded by Adams. Motion carried.

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

Canner and Adams performed a walk through of the park after campers moved out. They noted that the solar lights on the dock were stolen. The lights were donated by Cocoa Kayak Rental by the previous owner Ben Miller. Adams will research the cost of new lights and a decision can be made on whether to replace them. The dock is functional without the lights.

The October monthly water test came back positive for bacteria contamination. Additional sampling was conducted per DEP protocol and all samples came back negative. No further action is necessary.

Canner indicated that she had talked to Wayne (Skip) Unger and held on to the \$30,000 purchase and is currently awaiting a response back.

Bordner Cabin

Local Representative Russ Diamond was scheduled to visit the cabin on October 14th.

Chrisland Engineering is preparing the DEP GP-3 permit. We are waiting to receive the original repair drawings for the cabin from Josh Eisenhauer. We are also awaiting confirmation from DCNR that they are the entity filing the permit application and not SWA.

Swatara Water Trail

The Camera Mapping data collection is complete and the link to the draft was shared to the board. Earthviews is working on editing of the trail.

Canner received a quote from Hopewell Manufacturing for updated sign panels for exiting water trail signs and for 5 new signs and map boxes.

New signage is needed at 5 locations: Lickdale Trailhead, Swatara Creek Park (South Hanover), Duke Street, Middletown and possibly Keller Fields.

Possible updates to the signs include: adding new access, name of access specific to location, numbering accesses with trail mileage (like highway exits), info section on sign that is different for each access (history, geology, point of interest, etc), info in spanish or QR linking to spanish version.

Other Items

Fall tree plantings - Camp Kenbrook, October 14, 50-60 trees were planted at the event, Kenbrook staff planting 750 more. Private Residence Hummelstown near Indian Echo Caverns- 100 trees planted with 2 volunteers from Wabash. Jonestown Borough - 100 trees replaced in planting at Jonestown park with 5 volunteers from Wabash, Private farm in East Hanover Township - 500 trees planted.

LCCD and USGS held a joint event at Boathouse Park demonstrating the new super gage installed on the Rt 743 bridge and the supporting manual routine water testing protocols conducted by USGS

Canner attended a meeting at Fort Indiantown Gap (FIG) to discuss the PFAS remediation being conducted and how the information can be best disseminated to the public. PFAS was found in the ground water and soil at FIG, the source being firefighting foam.

Canner mentioned that she would like to discuss possible website updates and looking into a consultant to grow membership in the new year.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: December 4, 2023 at 6:30 pm - via Google Meet

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

December 4th, 2023 6:30 pm via Google Meet

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Secretary Michael Ohlin, Board Members Fred Folmer, Katie Hollen.

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:32

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes by Canner, second by Folmer. Motion carries

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

Postseason trash clean up is done. Tables may need to be tied to trees depending on water level.

Old business

Unger Property update - Canner attended the DCNR Grant seminar and is beginning the grant preparation for an Acquisition Grants. Grant submission is due in early April and requires a 1:1 match.

Bordner Cabin

Chrisland Engineering is preparing the GP-3 permit for the foundation and creekbed repair. An invoice has been received.

Swatara Water Trail

The Camera Mapping is complete and is in the final editing process, adding logos and tags and labeling for different landmarks and logos. The final report is due by the end of the year.

Signage project update: Canner submitted applications for 3 grants: SRBC grant capped at \$5,000 (no match), KRCL Grant for 10,000 (1:1 match required), Mohawk Canoe Club (possibly 10,000). The project has a \$26,000 estimated total cost. Timeline is to be done by the end of 2024.

Other Items

Sojourn planning to begin in January/February.

Adams suggested sending a letter to the new owner of Emrich farm about the launch there in order to touch base and establish a relationship.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: January 8th, 2023 at 6:30 - via Google Meet

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm.