

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Agenda

January 2024

The meeting scheduled for January 8th is canceled due to scheduling conflicts. The follow are updates provided by President Canner

I. Opening/Attendance

II. Previous Meeting Minutes Approval

Please see attached file for December's minutes

III. Finance

Treasurer's Report - Please see attached file prepared by Canner

A donation of \$500 from Chrisland Engineering was received.

IV. Business

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

Unger property grant - no new update

New Business

Canner ensured all tables were attached to trees in anticipation of flooding. Minor flooding occurred with some minor debris left on the driveways. Debris will need to be removed prior to reopening the park. No other damage was noted.

Bordner Cabin

Old business

Chrisland Engineering submitted the GP 3 permit to the DEP on December 11th. All invoices have been paid.

No update was received on the extension request of the Hotel Tax Grant.

New Business

A storm in late December caused a tree to fall on the roof of the cabin. Park workers removed the tree. There are two holes in the roof. One is at the edge of the roof and does not extend to the interior of the cabin. The second is over the kitchen area, just below the chimney. This extends to the interior. Adams and Canner covered the area with a tarp to minimize leaking until it can be repaired. See images below. Canner put out a call on social media for monetary donations as well as possible donation of roofing repair services. Canner will schedule a roofer to provide estimates on repairs if no volunteer is found.



Swatara Water Trail

Old business

The final imagery map of the Swatara Water Trail was completed. Canner and Adams inserted Tags throughout the map indicating access points, bridges, tributaries and other points of interest. Tags include website links where appropriate. A small section of creek just upstream from Schiavoni Park will need to be reimaged as it did not record properly. This correction can be made at no additional cost. Canner distributed the link to the map via social media, email and a press release. Earthviews/Fishviews submitted their invoice and it was paid. Canner submitted the grant final report to KRCL along with the final invoice for reimbursement.

Signage updates for accesses

Canner received a letter from KRCL indicating that SWA was awarded a \$10,000 grant for the signage update. KRCL requested a meeting regarding the grant in January. No meeting date has been set as of yet.

There is no update on the SRBC or Mohawk Canoe Club grant applications.

New business

The Sojourn will be on a southern section of the water trail this year. Something related to the arts could be a possible theme as Lebanon County has declared 2024 as the Year of the Arts.

V. Other Items

Next Meeting: February 5th at 6:30 - via Google Meet

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/rxy-tcqq-iev>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 414-856-5160 and enter this PIN: 685 646 600#

To view more phone numbers, click this link: <https://tel.meet/rxy-tcqq-iev?hs=5>

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

February 5th, 2023 6:30 pm via Google Meet

Attendance

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

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:33

Motion by Canner to approve Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Folmer. Motion carried.

Business

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

Unger Property update - Canner stated she met with Lori Yeich from DCNR. SWA does not qualify for a DCNR acquisition grant because it is not a land trust. DCNR suggested having Lebanon Valley Conservancy apply for the grant and purchase the property and then SWA would operate the property under an MOU. Yeich had also suggested that SWA look into Marcellus Shale Grants as a possible match.

New Business

Camping fees will remain \$500 per site for the season.

The United Way Day of Caring is April 20th. Canner will request volunteers for cleaning up trash and downed branches at the park.

Bordner Cabin

Old Business

The GP 3 permit for the foundation repair was approved. A private foundation contacted Canner to express interest in donating toward the cabin repairs. They reached out after seeing the Penn Live non-profit wish list. Canner and Adams met with the foundation representative and gave them a tour of the cabin. They would like an updated estimate from the contractor before fully committing to donating. The foundation wishes to remain anonymous.

Folmer suggested requesting a donation of shingles from GAF in Myerstown to replace the roof. They have donated shingles in the past to SWA.

Canner mentioned that there is evidence of boring insect damage. Litz stated that there were previous issues with Post Borer beetles.

Swatara Water Trail

Old Business

SWA was awarded two grants for the signage updates. KRCL awarded \$10,000 (1:1 match required.) SRBC awarded \$5000 (no match required). The SRBC grant can be a match toward the KRCL grant. SWA funds as well as in kind match and volunteer labor will be the remaining match. The next steps are to decide on sign updates, schedule with Lebanon County GIS to make changes, and secure permissions for new signs where necessary.

New Business

This year's sojourn will be May 4th. Registration and launch will be at Swatara Creek Park in South Hanover Township. Take out is at the PFBC Middletown Access. The tentative theme is arts and conservation. Several possible speakers were discussed. Canner will work on grants and sponsor requests.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: March 4, 2024 at 6:30 - via Google Meet

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

March 4th, 2024 6:30 pm Via Google Meet

Attendance

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

Canner Called Meeting to order at 6:32 pm

Motion by Folmer to approve Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Canner. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Canner, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried.

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

Unger Property update

Canner talked to DCNR and found out that Lebanon Valley Conservancy could purchase and then transfer property to us but she is unsure of the costs associated with the transfer. Canner indicated that she plans to seek corporate sponsors to aid in the purchase.

New business

Camping fees will not be raised this year and will be held at \$500 per site for the season.

The United Way Day of Caring is April 20th, 9:00-12:00 and 20 people were requested for the pre-season cleanup at the park.

Snow Damage at the Park: Several trees are damaged enough to come down. Flooding damage occurred as well, which will require cleanup and also minor repairs to the culvert to site 1. Canner will schedule a buffer maintenance day for the tree tubes that were impacted by flood waters.

Bordner Cabin

Old business

Foundation Repair update - Chrisland Engineering GP 3 permit was approved. Repairs can move forward when conditions allow. We are waiting for an updated estimate to provide to the private foundation interested in donating toward the repairs.

There are no new updates on the roof repairs.

Swatara Water Trail

Old business

Signage updates for accesses

SWA was awarded KRCL (10K) and SRBC grants (5K)

Next steps:

- Permission from the Fish and Boat Commission for signage at Middletown was given.
- Permission was given to update the existing signs at Swatara State Park, but paperwork is needed to obtain permission to install a new sign at Lickdale Trailhead
- Duke St. to be determined.

Changes to the map must be completed and submitted to Lebanon GIS

A list of topics for signs must be completed so information and images can be obtained for submission to the graphic designer

New business

Sojourn planning - May 4th

The sojourn will be from Swatara Creek Park to Middletown.

Canner submitted the Float Plan to PFBC.

Canner applied for event insurance through Paddlesport Risk Management. All participants, including ground crew must sign waivers.

The tentative theme is art.

Sponsorship from Sheetz, additional grants are being sought. Transportation help is also being sought. Discussed ideas for food, education speaker.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting: April 1st at 6:30 - at Swatara Watershed Park.

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2024 at 6:30 pm at Swatara Watershed Park

Attendance

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

Canner Called Meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Motion by Adams to approve last month's minutes. Seconded by Ohlin. Motion carried.

No Treasurer's Report

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

No update on Unger Property

Buffer Maintenance and replant scheduled, volunteers requested from Wabash

United Way Day of Caring scheduled for April 20th 9 -12. Volunteers will clean up downed branches and trash from flooding. The large tree next to the pavilion will need to be removed due to storm damage.

Camping starts on May 1st, reservations are being taken.

Repairs: Holes in the culvert to Site 1 caused by flooding may be addressed at the day of caring. Road sign and the sign below the blue water trail sign need to be updated due to rotting wood and wrong email address.

Bordner Cabin

Old business

Still waiting for cost updates from Woodland Contractors for the foundation repair.

Swatara Water Trail

Signage update project status (Review topics to be posted on signs) Hummelstown Borough is submitting a DCNR grant to improve Hummel Nature Trail Park. Canner provided a Letter of Support for the grant. If the grant is successful, the Swatara Water Trail sign will be removed during construction and moved to a new location within the park.

Duke St Sign requires Zoning Permit from Hummelstown Borough

Sojourn planning - May 4th

8:30 Meet at Swatara Creek Park in Union Deposit for registration.

Participants will drop their gear and then take their car to Middletown & take the shuttle back to Swatara Creek Park. Launch is at 10:15 - 10:30.

Lunch will be at Schiavoni Park, food will be from JoJo's in Hummelstown.

There will be a second stop at Fulling Mill Rd for a stretch, snack and bathroom break

Finish at Middletown launch around 6:00 pm

Canner submitted an application for a sojourn mini grant through POWR. Up to \$1000 with 1:1 match (cash or non-cash) required

New Business

Trash problem at Emrich Launch to be addressed soon

Other Items

Meeting adjourned at 7:23

Next Meeting: May 6, 2024 6:30 pm Swatara Watershed Park

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm at Swatara Watershed Park

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Board Member Fred Folmer

Canner Called Meeting to order at 6:34 pm

No Treasurer's Report

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

The Marcellus Shale Grants are available for 2024 and the application is posted on the Lebanon County website. Applications are due by the end of the year. The Unger property should qualify for the grant, but Canner will meet with the county to discuss.

The buffer maintenance and replant at the park was completed on April 24th. 10 volunteers from Wabash participated and replanted about 100 trees, replaced broken stakes and shelters and cleaned up tree shelters washed away by flooding.

United Way Day of Caring was April 20th from 9 -12. Approximately 25 volunteers cleaned up downed branches and trash from flooding. The large tree next to the pavilion was removed due to storm damage. A large pile of branches and wood was created in the parking area near the shed. Additional piles of branches will be picked up at a later date.

Camping opened on May 1st. Approximately 20 sites were rented for the season at that time.

Repairs: Culvert repairs are more extensive than previously thought. Canner will look into contractors to address the necessary repairs. The sign on the road delaminated and must be replaced. This will require a zoning permit. The sign below the blue water trail sign also needs to be replaced.

Bordner Cabin

Old business

The grant extension was approved by the County Commissioners and will now expire 03/25. Woodland Contractors submitted the updated project summary for the foundation repairs and streambed restoration for \$49,923. An additional \$8000-11,000 is estimated to repair the wood porch posts. Canner approved the estimate. Plans must receive UCC approval prior to repairs beginning per the lease agreement with DCNR.

There is no further update on the roof repair at this time.

Canner repaired several boards in the portable toilet enclosure. The boards will need to be repainted and several additional 2x4 framing boards replaced in the future.

Swatara Water Trail

The GIS layer update for the signage was returned from the county and is available for review.

The Swatara Sojourn was conducted on May 4th. 34 people registered. 24 people attended due to poor weather conditions. A mini grant from POWR for \$1000 was awarded. A \$500 sponsorship from PA American Water, a \$200 sponsorship from Sheetz and food donations from Hershey were received. The final budget will be available at the next meeting.

New Business

Trash dumped over the fall and winter at the Emrich launch needs to be cleaned up. Folmer said he will clean up what he can.

Other Items

Canner met with Jim Lewis from Penn State Master Watershed Stewards to assess the Swatara State Park as a possible location for the Waterways on Wheels program. The program combines a bike ride along a waterway with educational programming and a meal. SWA would act as a partner for this activity with MWS being the lead.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37.

Next Meeting: June 3, 2024 6:30 pm Swatara Watershed Park

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm at Swatara Watershed Park

Attendance

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

Canner Called Meeting to order at 6:32 pm

Motion to approve May's meeting minutes carried (Adams motion, Ohlin second)

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

There was no update on the Unger Property purchase

Culvert repairs - Canner met with a contractor to discuss the culvert repair and is awaiting a quote. To restore the culvert to its original condition, two 36 in diameter by 20 ft long culvert pipes will be required. The estimated price for each culvert pipe is \$1000. Stone and labor will be additional costs.

The driveway around the campground is in need of repair. Some stone is onsite but additional 2A modified stone is needed.

Canner will get estimates for the two signs that need to be replaced.

Bordner Cabin

Old business

Woodland Contractors has submitted plans for UCC permit approval. Once approval is received, plans will be submitted to DCNR for final go ahead. Targeted time frame for repairs is in August 2024.

Canner will contact contractors for roof repair estimates and apply to GAF for in kind product donations for shingles and other supplies.

Swatara Water Trail

The GIS layer update for the signage was returned from the county and is available for review.

A motion by Ohlin and seconded by Folmer was approved to reimburse Ashley Adams and Bethany Canner for costs associated with the Sojourn and water testing for the park.

Ashley Adams - \$477 - JoJos for lunches

Bethany Canner - Giant - \$35.19, Sam's Club \$135.28 - breakfast, drinks, supplies

\$100 - Facebook Ads, Puretest - \$86, \$36 for SWP water testing (Total - \$392.47)

Canner presented the final report for the sojourn. Expenses were \$2034.47. Grants/sponsorships equaling \$1700 were received. \$810 in registration fees were received.

New Business

Fred Folmer cleaned up a load of trash from the Emrich Launch. Several tires and some wood were left behind for future cleanup.

Other Items

The Waterways of Wheels event partnership with Master Watershed Stewards is moving forward. A date will be set for sometime in the fall.

Canner will sign up for the National Night Out event in August and asked others to be on the lookout for other tabling event opportunities.

Canner asked for any ideas for fundraising events.

The July meeting will be preceded by the annual cleanup at Water Works Access.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49.

Next Meeting: July 1, 2024 6:30 pm Water Works Access 10 Swatara Drive, Annville, PA

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

July 1, 2024 at 6:30 pm at Waterworks Access

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Secretary Michael Ohlin, Board Member Katie Hollen

Board members picked up trash at the Waterworks Access prior to the meeting.

Canner called the meeting to order at 7:30

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

There was no update on the Unger Property purchase

There is no update on the culvert repair. Canner refunded the Site 1 renter as the site is not able to be safely accessed due to the damage to the culvert.

Canner stated that the new sign for the road will be approximately \$150 to replace and the sign at the front of the park will be around \$200. The road sign will require a metal bracket across the top of the sign.

Bordner Cabin

Old business

Woodland Contractors is waiting for permit approval to begin work. Timeline is still for work to begin in August.

Canner submitted a grant request for the donation of materials to GAF for the roof repair.

Martin's Roofing returned a quote of around \$14,000 for the roof replacement including labor and materials.

Swatara Water Trail

There were no major updates to the water trail signage project. SRBC Public Relations requested they be present for some of the sign installations.

It was suggested to reach out to Lebanon Valley Historical Society for the POI write up for the Waterworks sign.

Other Items

A meeting for the Waterways of Wheels event partnership with Master Watershed Stewards is scheduled with Swatara State Park staff to establish details for the event.

SWA will have a table at National Night Out at South Hanover Township Patriot Park on August 6th.

Hollen reported that the Spring Creek WIP preparation is underway and there is a renewed effort to establish a watershed association.

The Lancaster Lebanon Watershed Forum is scheduled for November 16th at Middle Creek.

Canner adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm

Next Meeting: August 5, 2024 6:30 pm at Swatara Watershed Park

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm at Swatara Watershed Park

Attendance

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

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:36

Previous meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Adams that was seconded by Canner.

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

There was no update on the Unger Property purchase.

Canner presented several designs for the new road sign for the park. Canner discussed moving the water trail sign from the front of the park and reinstalling it closer to the creek access ramp. A new sign with information about the park could then be installed at the park entrance. Canner stated she would come up with potential designs for the signs.

PA Counseling Services has volunteers in their late teens and early twenties interested in a work day at the park. Canner suggested tasks such as sealing picnic tables and some landscape cleanup as possible tasks. The workday will be scheduled for September.

Bordner Cabin

Old business

Woodland Contractors is waiting for permit approval to begin work. There was confusion about the type of permit and who should be issuing the permit- local or state entities.

GAF awarded a grant providing the necessary roofing materials to replace the cabin roof. The installation cost provided by Martin Roofing and Siding is \$13,607.67. Folmer moved and Canner seconded a motion to approve the roof replacement. The motion carried.

The anonymous donor helping with the foundation repair expressed interest in funding solar lighting for the cabin and a handrail for the outside steps. Canner stated she would get a cost estimate from Woodland Contractors for the handrail that could be done at the same time as the other repairs.

Lighting would need approval from the state park manager. Solar lighting types were discussed with the understanding that maintenance and the possibility of vandalism would have to be considered.

Swatara Water Trail

Canner met with the graphic designer - Level Eleven Art Dept. about the sign layout and design. She emphasized that the sign design should be approached with the understanding that the user has made the decision to go on the water (since they have to be at a boat access to see the sign) so information should be structured around the on-water experience. They will work on a general layout for the signs. Specific information could then be "pasted" into each section of the sign for each site. Highlighting a section of the water trail around the specific access point on each sign was discussed instead of providing a map of the entire water trail. This would allow more detail to be seen on the sign. QR codes can be utilized to direct users to a landing page on SWA's website that links to additional information and the rest of the water trail. Users could choose the language (english or spanish with the possibility of adding additional languages) on the website.

Tali McArthur from PEC/POWR applied for a Chesapeake Gateway grant to fund an artist in residence that would produce some type of art that would promote the Swatara Creek. Initially denied, the grant was later funded. PEC is the lead on the project and SWA is a partner. SWA's role is to present and provide a tour of the creek to the artist and present the art at an existing event (most likely the sojourn).

Other Items

Penn State Extension Waterways on Wheels event is scheduled for October 19th at 10 am at Swatara State Park.

SWA will have a table at National Night Out at South Hanover Township Patriot Park on August 6th.

Canner is submitting a request for trees to Keystone 10 Million Trees for the fall season. There is an additional planting at the same residence near Indian Echo Caverns that is planned.

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:37

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:30 pm at Swatara Watershed Park. (Meeting moved to Tuesday due to Labor Day)

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm at Swatara Watershed Park

Attendance

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

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:35

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

There was no update on the Unger Property purchase.

There was no new update on the culvert repairs

There was no new update on the new signs for the park.

PA Counseling Services will be bringing volunteers to a work day scheduled for September 24th at 12.

Bordner Cabin

Old business

Woodland Contractors is waiting for permit approval to begin work on the structural components. There was confusion about the type of permit and who should be issuing the permit- local or state entities.

Martin's Roofing and Siding is scheduled to replace the roof on September 5th.

There was no new update about the potential lighting project.

Swatara Water Trail

Level Eleven Art Department is developing the new layout for the new signs. Hopewell Industries gave a 4-6 week lead time for the sign manufacturing.

There was no new update on the artist in residence grant with PEC.

SRBC opened the mini grant round for 2024. Grants have a maximum award of \$5000 and applications are due October 31. Signage to mark the location of access points to on-water users is a project that could potentially utilize this funding.

Other Items

East Hanover (Dauphin) Community Park day is September 21st from 11-3:30. SWA will have a table at the event.

Penn State Extension Waterways on Wheels event is scheduled for October 19th at 10 am at Swatara State Park.

SWA was awarded a limited number of trees from K10. The homeowner will be planting the trees at the property near Indian Echo Caverns, so no volunteer labor is needed.

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:13

Next Meeting: October 7, 2024 at Swatara Watershed Park

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm at Swatara Watershed Park

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Board Member Katie Hollen

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:41pm

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

There was no update on the Unger Property purchase. Ungers' have said that they would like to complete the sale in the next several months or they will open the sale to others.

The PA Counseling Services volunteer day was September 24th. One volunteer helped SWA volunteers clean out the elevated office and clean gutters of the office and pavilion.

Bordner Cabin

Old business

No work can be done on the stream itself per the DEP permit from October 1 - December 31st. Repairs can still be done on the cabin itself during that time.

The roof repair was completed on September 5th by Martin Roofing and Siding. The roofing materials were donated by GAF. During the removal of the old roof, extensive damage to the sheathing was found and a joist was replaced. The sheathing damage was most likely caused because the open nature of the building allows moisture to contact the sheathing from the interior. All sheathing was replaced which added \$3000 to the total installation cost. The overall cost was \$17,107.67. The private donor that pledged funds for the foundation repair, donated the full cost of the replacement to SWA. The balance of their pledge will be used for the foundation repair.

The foundation repair is still awaiting a permit for the structural posts and beam that will be replaced.

Swatara Water Trail

Board members reviewed the proof for the new water trail signage. Canner will meet with the graphic designer to go over the comments. Once the proofs are submitted and approved at the manufacturer, it will take 4-6 weeks for the signs to be manufactured and printed.

The PEC Artist in Residence program is moving forward. SWA is waiting for the next steps from PEC.

The statewide water trail managers meeting took place on September 12. It was followed by a kayak trip with the managers on the Swatara Creek. On water signage (mile markers, launch

markers, etc), dealing with trail hazards (blockages, strainers), and livery service registration were topics of discussion.

Other Items

Canner had a table at the East Hanover Township(Dauphin) Community Day on September 21st. About 100 people stopped by the booth.

SWA will be receiving 250 trees from Keystone 10 million Trees in October.

Penn State Extension Waterways on Wheels event is scheduled for October 19th at 10 am at Swatara State Park.

SWA is invited to the Northern Lebanon FBLA Trunk or Treat Community night at Northern Lebanon Elementary on October 29th.

Canner adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm

Next Meeting: Monday, November 4th at 6:30 pm via Google Meet.

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/xuk-mpxx-iee>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 650-449-9755 and enter this PIN: 983 217 823#

To view more phone numbers, click this link: <https://tel.meet/xuk-mpxx-iee?hs=5>

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm via Google Meet

Attendance

President Bethany Canner, Vice President Mike Adams, Secretary Michael Ohlin, Board Member Katie Hollen

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Motion by Adams (Canner seconded) to approve the previous meeting minutes carries.

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

There was no update on the Unger Property purchase. Canner will meet with the Ungers to discuss a final price for the property.

The camping season is over, a walk through and work day is scheduled for November 7.

There are no updates on the culvert repairs or the signs for the park.

Canner suggested that an area of the Met-Ed right of way that was clear cut could be utilized for additional parking for campers and guests. This would allow several sites to have a proper parking spot and not have to park along the road. The area will be evaluated for this purpose during the walkthrough.

Bordner Cabin

Old business

The underpinning of the foundation using shotcrete was completed by Woodland Contractors on October 22, 2024. The invoice for the repair has not been received yet.



The foundation repair is still awaiting a permit for the structural posts and beam that will be replaced.

Swatara Water Trail

The graphic designer is continuing work for the signage. Canner is working on updates to the website that will complement the signage.

Some of the existing signs will require repainting. Several have large sections of paint peeling from the back. Repainting will have to wait until warmer weather. Canner spoke with a local scout about installing the new signs as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Pine Grove Fish and Game developed the launch on their property.



The kickoff meeting for the PEC Artist in Residence program is scheduled for November 6th.

Other Items

250 trees were planted at 3 locations: a private residence near Indian Echo Cavern, on Pine Rd around a culvert upgrade along the creek, and a private residence along the Swatara in East Hanover Township, Lebanon Co.

There were 19 riders for the Waterways on Wheels event at Swatara State Park on October 19th. There was a lot of positive feedback and interest in making it an annual event.

SWA participated in the Northern Lebanon FBLA Trunk or Treat Community night at Northern Lebanon Elementary on October 29th. There was a large turnout and there was a lot of interest in the water trail maps.



On a motion by Canner and second by Adams the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 6th at 6:30 pm via Google Meet.

Swatara Watershed Association Board Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm via Google Meet

Attendance

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

Canner called the meeting to order at 6:36pm.

Motion by Adams (Hollen seconded) to approve the previous meeting minutes carried.

A Treasurer Report was not submitted. Canner showed the current balance was \$110,669.56 for the checking account and \$7,663.10 for the money market account.

An anonymous donor donated \$25,000 earmarked for Bordner Cabin repairs.

A \$120 donation was received from the Gin Mill.

Several online donations totaling approximately \$500 were received through PayPal donations.

Swatara Watershed Park

Old business

Canner presented a summary of the 2024 camping season.

Twenty-three sites were rented for the full season and 4 for part of the season. Site 1 was refunded due to the questionable integrity of the culvert leading to the site.

\$12,335 was raised from the long term site rentals with an additional \$410 from short term and pavilion rentals.

Canner met with Wayne (Skip) Unger to discuss the sale of the canal property. He will double check with his brother, James, but is confident he will agree to a \$30,000 sale price with SWA paying all settlement fees. Canner commented that because of donations made to cover Bordner Cabin repairs, there are funds available to make a cash purchase of the approximately 5.5 acre property. Canner made a motion (Folmer seconded) to accept the sales offer if both brothers agree. Adams suggested a stipulation that if settlement costs exceeded \$5000 that further discussion should take place before proceeding with the sale. The motion with this stipulation carried. Upon confirmation of the offer from the Ungers, Canner will contact an attorney to begin the land transfer process.

Canner and Adams performed the postseason walk through of the campground. They cleaned up a small amount of trash and removed a large downed tree. Canner stated that a decision will need to be made regarding Site 1 due to the damage to the culvert that leads to it. She stated that if the Unger property sale goes through that SWA may want to apply for a grant to create a trail along the towpath that would continue through the wooded portion of the park and that the culvert repair could potentially be a part of that. Other possible uses for Site 1 discussed were to not rent it in the future, split it into 2 sites or to use it for group camping for scouts and other groups.

Canner suggested that an area of the Met-Ed right of way that was clear cut could be utilized for additional parking for campers and guests. Adams and Canner evaluated the site and stated that there are many tree stumps, most less than 4 inches in diameter, that will need to be cut to ground level. Invasive species and poison ivy are a concern for the area. A ground cover of mulch or stone may be needed to help with this. Adams suggested using logs to define the boundaries of the parking area. Work on this area can take place in the spring.

Bordner Cabin

Old business

The underpinning of the foundation using shotcrete was completed by Woodland Contractors on October 22, 2024. The invoiced price was \$49,923.00. Treasurer Bender submitted the payment for the invoice but it had not yet been cashed prior to the meeting. Once the check is cashed, Canner will submit the final report for the hotel tax grant for the foundation repair. The total cost including the permit costs was \$52,969.57. (Original grant was for \$53,000). Reimbursement is for 75% of the total cost (\$39,727.18). The replacement of the wooden post and beams has not been completed (\$8000-11,000). The anonymous donor that paid for the labor for the roof replacement donated an additional \$25,000 toward the foundation repair and any additional repairs and maintenance of the cabin. This contribution will cover SWA's match for the grant as well as the post repairs.

Swatara Water Trail

The graphic designer is continuing work for the signage. The proofs for the upper section were reviewed and minor revisions were noted. Canner and Adams are meeting with the graphic designer on 12/10 to make the changes and complete the middle and lower sections. As soon as the upper section proofs are completed, they will be sent to the manufacturer.

The kickoff meeting for the PEC Artist in Residence program was on November 6th. Tali MacArthur from POWR/PEC is facilitating the grant. The premise of the grant is for an artist to spend time and learn about the waterway, then create an artwork that will promote the waterway to the public. The artwork will be debuted at an event in the fall. SWA's role is to introduce the artist to the Swatara Creek, its history and the communities around it. Then, SWA will host an event to present the artwork. Canner suggested the Waterways on Wheels event or possibly a new fundraiser event. The artist will be chosen from applicants that PEC will solicit. Adams suggested that we find out how artists can apply so we can promote it to local artists as well.

Other Items

Canner met with Tali MacArthur and Shawn Jacobs from Manada Conservancy about a NFWF Grant that PEC received to help small organizations with capacity building. The grant will pay for a consultant to evaluate and assist both Manada Conservancy and SWA with organizational or technical needs. Canner stated that membership, fundraising and marketing were areas where a consultant might be the most beneficial. Jacobs felt the same for Manada. MacArthur will advertise for consultants that can provide these services and SWA will be able to interview

consultants to choose the best fit.

On a motion by Canner and second by Adams the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 6th at 6:30 pm via Google Meet.