

Great Swamp Watershed Association
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 22nd, 2019 at 8 a.m.

Attendance:

Deb Apruzzese A	Reed Auerbach P	Kate Barry P	Gerry-Jo Cranmer A	Michael Dee P
Jay DeLaney Jr P	Tony DellaPelle P	Jordan Glatt P	Eric Inglis A	Matt Krauser P
Teresa Lane T	Cathy Lee P	Chris Obropta P	Alan Pfeil P	Kathy Pfeil P
Guy Piserchia T	Nic Platt T	Anthony Sblendorio P	Lisa Stevens P	Dot Stillinger P
Kevin Sullivan T	Nadine Vitro P	Giorgios Vlamis P		

* P= Present; A = Absent; T= Teleconference

Staff: Wade Kirby, Sue Levine, Sally Rubin, Val Thorpe

The meeting convened at 8:08 a.m.

Cathy Lee motioned to approve the Minutes from the board meeting held on January 18, 2019. The motion was seconded by Kathy Pfeil and passed unanimously.

Jay DeLaney motioned to approve Alex Vitro’s membership on the Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Michael Dee and passed unanimously.

Safety:

Sue Levine reported that there is a rodent problem in the building as well as inadequate lighting along the driveway going down the hill towards the parking area. Both will be addressed by the landlord. The lease expires this year and will be re-examined prior to renewal.

Paterson SMART:

This is an economically depressed part of New Jersey where environmental hazards, such as flooding that contains raw sewage, may be corrected through the intervention of a green infrastructure that includes educational programs. The goal of Paterson SMART is to work with the community and city leaders to incorporate green infrastructure and education at all levels on the benefits of green infrastructure to deal with storm water management. One key goal is to create a “green street” that will be a statewide example and will have Rain Gardens as well as the construction of a park for people afflicted with autism. City schools will be directly

involved and state funds from the DEP will be used for storm water management. Sue Levine is our direct liaison to this transformational project.

Finances and Human Resources:

The YTD results were reviewed. See attached. Trustee Giving is off significantly and will be addressed later. There were some timing issues which were identified. The board designated remains at \$88K. Endowment is at \$1,181,111.35. There were no HR issues.

Music Festival:

Val Thorpe appealed to the board to secure music festival sponsorships from corporations. She specifically explained the value of a \$7,500 sponsorship that comes with a private tent for ten employees and guests, in a prime field location, along with a catered lunch and beverage service. Nadine Vitro said that Investors Bank will contribute a sponsorship of \$1,000. The festival sponsorship opportunities will soon appear on our website.

Land Stewardship:

Work days for Land Stewardship were requested to be forwarded to the board.

Executive Directors Report:

Sally spoke about a meeting at which she, Wade and Tony DellaPelle met Advisory Council/board member prospect Joseph Donegan. Joe was recommended by John Murphy who handles our employees' retirement plan. Another meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4th, with Drew Maldonado, which Jordan Glatt, she and Wade will attend. It is hopeful that Jordan and Drew will facilitate connections and opportunities in Summit assisting with our downstream expansion.

Scott Morris is making a documentary about Mary Bruno's challenging trip kayaking down the Passaic River. He asked the GSWA to be a "physical sponsor" where we hold funds from other sources contributed for the production. We would need to see a budget. Reed Auerbach offered to help Sally decide how to proceed.

Sally delivered an update on a possible office move to the Ferber property in Green Village. The property would be purchased by PSE&G for a "laydown area" during some transmission improvements, and then ultimately preserved and conveyed to the Refuge. GSWA would then enter into an arrangement with the Refuge to take over the buildings, which the Refuge is not interested in.

Sally spoke about approaching Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill to be our 2019 Gala speaker and honoree. She said that Mikie was honored to be asked, however committing to something this far in advance is currently a challenge. We have encouraged a decision sooner than later.

Development:

Wade reviewed board member responsibilities that start with the meeting he has with individual trustees at the beginning of each new fiscal year. Commitments are made under a number of different criteria, including financial contributions between July 1st and June 30th. As the board is historically quite generous with respect to the annual Gala, Wade reminded them that a personal contribution in addition to their Gala contribution is preferred. It is important to follow through with their offers to make personal introductions with contacts as well. And 100% annual board participation is crucial for inquiries made in seeking funds from all other sources. A line item on the annual budget for trustee giving is approved each year **by the trustees**. Based on current trends, future consideration may be given as to the size of that amount. Wade thanked the board for their service and vested interest in our success.

Sally called everyone's attention to our upcoming events as listed on the agenda. Wade encouraged attendance at Friendraisers and at least two events of any type per year.

Lisa Stevens spoke about the amazing longevity of devoted volunteer service from Stephen Gruber over a period of twenty years! It was proposed that his dedication be formally recognized at our 2019 Gala.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wade Kirby
Director of Development