

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
February 12, 2014
Meeting via Conference Phone

Attending: Pat Beaudet, Bill Brainerd, John Butler, Emily Davis, Anne Lovett, Mathew Himmelein, Robin Mann, Allan Walters

Not Attending: Jim Wylie, Dennis Winters, Jeanette MacNeille, Len Finegold

Anne called the meeting to order at 6:50

Secretary: **Minutes for January were approved as emailed**

Treasurer: No Report

Committee Reports

Newsletter: No Report

Conservation Committee: Dennis is currently chairman of this committee. Members are Bill, John, Allan, Jim and Dennis. There was discussion about the roles of the members.

Political Committee: Individuals from the Bucks County sub-group have indicated that they want to put forward candidates for endorsement. Bill will be in touch with these folks. There was also discussion about a previously endorsed candidate who has agreed to the sale of land that should be open space.

Nomination Committee: No Report

Old Business:

Web Site: Jim Wylie will take over the management of the web site from Sheila Startup

Education Program: The next program will be March 10. Bill is looking for a speaker on the Wilderness Act of 1964. This Act, which created the National Wilderness Preservation System protecting nearly 110 million acres of wilderness areas throughout the nation, is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014. Margaret Stevens from CCP who works with us on this program series is sponsoring a showing of the movie, Gasland.

Bill moved that we cosponsor the showing of Gasland with the CCP group. The motion was seconded and passed.

Matt said he would put this on our Facebook page. Ann will ask Jim to put it on Groundswell.

New Business:

Rapid Response Team: Matt would like to form a group that would have the authority to respond to issues that arise between meetings such as letters or issues that the SPG needs to support. It was felt that such a mechanism would be useful but that the Conservation chair should be involved in the final decision for the SPG to support an issue. The discussion was tabled until a time when Dennis could be involved.

Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS): Robin reported that William Kramer's team is working on this issue and is meeting with target senators. She felt this was an area where SPG could assist. Perhaps SPG members could assist in identifying people who have influence over senators, by writing letters to the editor and op-ed articles. Bill mentioned a meeting his team plans to meet with Senator Stewart Greenleaf (12 District - parts of Buck and Montgomery Counties) in late Feb. or early March.

Eastwick Neighbors Coalition Update (Robin): We are listed as one of the partners in this coalition, along with the Delaware River Keeper. The group is insisting on a larger role in the planning process. They want to be a partner at the table in discussions with the Redevelopment Authority. Their particular

focus is flooding issues since the area is effected by both stream flooding and storm surge. They need to be able to bring in experts to support their views. This may become a model for community involvement in flood planning in the future. David Conrad, who has been advising FEMA has been assisting them.

It was moved and seconded that we support the travel and other expenses of Mr. Conrad in his work with Eastwick with up to \$1,000 over the next year. (This funding can come from C3 funds.) The motion passed.

Septa Route 100 Extension Plan: Anne reported that SEPTA is considering the extension of Route 100 to include King of Prussia and area business parks. She wants to know how we can encourage this action. Bill will contact the person from Septa who spoke to the group. Bill also suggested that we could contact PA State Rep. Nick Micozzie (retiring) who worked to create an anti-congestion plan in Delaware County.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: March 12 (second Wednesday) at 6:45 at the Clean Air Office. The April meeting will return to the first Wednesday (April 2) so it will precede the Chapter meeting.

Event: Trans-Pacific Partnership in Montgomery County, PA (Sierra Club is a co-sponsor and will have a speaker)

If completed, this new trade deal would expedite fracking in Pennsylvania and around the country, take away American jobs, strip away food safety and environmental regulations, and empower corporations while weakening democracy.

Jenkintown Public Library, 460 Old York Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM