

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
At City Coho
October 5, 2016 Meeting**

ExCom Members Attending: Bill Brainerd, Gerald Brown, Mike Hoppus, Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath,

Attending by Phone: Pat Beaudet, John Butler, Anne Lovett, Mathew Himmelein, Dennis Winters

ExCom Members Absent: Jim Wylie

Other Members Attending: Emily Davis, Charlie Isaacs, Kwan Morrow, Karen Melton

The Meeting was called to order by Prasad Ramnath at 6:20

Secretary: Dave made a motion to approve the minutes as sent. Sgt Brown seconded. The motion passed

Treasurer: Dennis reported that the Chapter has sent \$450 toward the payment of Coho rent, Our expenditures included \$200 for the October rent and \$20 in bank fees. The balance in the C4 account as of October 1 is \$2261.76. An allocation from the Chapter of about \$2500 has been made to our C3 account. The Balance in the C3 account as of June 30 was \$53.48.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim)

Storm water Management - John

Many towns in the Darby and Crum watershed had a requirement for stormwater to go back to meadow lands when more than (in Marple 2000 sq feet) was disturbed. This got us a reduction in runoff when a property was redeveloped because the old way was if it had been a paved surface they didn't have to do anything because development didn't increase runoff. This appears to have been eliminated when the towns adopted a watershed wide stormwater ordinance. (Towns should have the right to go above the basic code)

Chester County Quarterly Meeting – Jim

SCofCC just had its second quarterly meeting. It was a big success, I think. 11 people in the room. One on phone. 90 minutes of passionate discussion on conservation issues (pipelines, rf100, open space, pesticides) and 30 minutes of status on other topics. I really encourage other regions to organize quarterly meetings to review the last 3 months and plan for the next 3 to 6.

Several people are interested in attending an Organizing Training session offered by Tom Torres. Probably in Nov. A couple are interested in pursuing Outings Leader Training. We have plans for a couple of fundraising events – collaborating with Iron Hill Brewing. We'll send out coupons for a "Sierra Club day at Iron Hill". We'll get 20% of their food order. Suggested outing at Connewingo Dam for bald eagle watching.

RF100/Chesco team is planning to start with boro of West Chester to get pledge, then use as template for other townships in CC. Initial discussion with supervisors and EAC members has been very positive.

Pipeline Action at Sunoco Logistics in support of Standing Rock Sioux – Jim

On Sep 21 a coordinated action between the Sierra Club PA, NJ and DE chapters drew about 40 protestors to the Sunoco Logistics HQ in Newtown Sq. Jeff Tittle (NJ Chapter Dir), Robin Mann (SC Board VP) and Dennis Coker (Lenape Chief) gave short speeches. I got quoted in a Media/Newtown Sq Patch article trying to tie this action to the Mariner East project. Lots of photos from Chris Baker Evans. Article in Inquirer. NJ Observer article.

Ready for 100: Dave

There was a brief discussion of what "100" meant in terms of energy source and dates. Dave suggested that we should work for as aggressive a commitment as we can get.

Future Energy - Dave

Report on Green Justice Philly (GJP) Activities

Coordinating Committee Meeting September 30, 2016. Attending: Mordechai Liebling IPL, NN, Coryn Wolk CAC, David Moscatello Sierra Club, Tracy Carluccio DRKN, Susan Saxe Outreach, Mitch Chanin 350, Sam Bernhardt FWW, Craig Robbins AU, Andrew Bowers Communications, others (minutes not yet received).

AMS (Air Management Services) & Southport proposals are main focus.

Matt (CAC) hope to schedule another meeting with AMS in October.

Southport proposals now due November 1; scoring criteria modified to include slightly stronger environmental language.

F&WW in contact with City Council, esp. Squilla (his district); want sign-on letter from council favoring container port, no fossil fuel port. Longshoremen (ILA) happy to partner, go to meetings with GJP. Teamsters also favor container port.

October 18 Lobby Day in Harrisburg to urge PRPA & Gov. Wolf to support container port, no fossil fuels for Southport.

Plan for rally (date TBD) after RFPs are turned in to get PRPA to make proposals public.

CWA along with 350.org working on Cindy Bass on Fossil-Free SEPTA campaign
Action United (AU) group on hiatus.

Political Committee: Bill Brainerd and Karen Melton, Co-chairs

Chester County Politics – Alexa, Jim

Just returned from an interesting political/environmental Hillary, etc. hob nob with Ted Danson at the Binder home. Ted is involved with ocean environmental issues and Oceana which I'm a member of. Carolyn Comitta gave him a key to West Chester. Lots of Dem candidates Had a good chat with Susan Rzdichio. She said her campaign is going well and urges everyone to email their friends in her district to support her (this is effective for her). When I clone myself, I'll volunteer for her too! She needs to win!

Alexa is volunteering with Comitta and Ciresi campaigns. She also is planning a meeting w/ Becky Corbin next week (as a constituent).

Jim and Richard Whiteford were asked to write a letter of support for Carolyn Comitta to be sent to SC members in district 156. The Comitta campaign is paying for mailing labels from SC. We have agreed to do that. Does anyone need to approve it? Comitta campaign has not reviewed yet.

Bill said this is a normal activity of endorsed candidates. The candidate prepares the letter and Bill reviews and approves it.

Endorsements: Karen

Since our last meeting the SPG approved an endorsement of DiGirolama via email and this was approved by PA chapter.

Bill has been working on political calls, and Jim has included support for Carolyn Comitta in recent emails to Chester Co members.

Newsletter/Communications: (Pat Beaudet)

The print version of the newsletter has been sent to the printer. The deadline for articles for the on-line version is October 10. The bill will be approximately \$1,875. Pat said that about 50% of the print version will be educational. The percentage of the newsletter that is educational will be paid from the C3 account. Th remainder will be paid with funds from the C4 account.

Social Media: Mat

Mat says if you have problems uploading material to our facebook page, contact him or Brian Crenshaw

Education Committee: (Bill Brainerd)

Nomination Committee:

Kwan suggested to methods of voting for executive committee members October 19 when the on-line newsletter will be sent.

Old Business

Fundraising:

A Fund Raising Committee was created. Members are Pat, Bill, Dennis, Mat, Dave and Sgt Brown. Two activities will be organized.

1. Pat will draft a letter to a subset of members. Bill and Dennis will review the draft. Bill will put together a list. Pat urged ex comm members to donate before the letter is sent.
2. A Karaoke night will be arrange. Sgt Brown will connect with a friend who has a set up. This has been done at Drexel and Dave will try to connect with the Student group that sponsored it.

Kwan suggested we set up a go-fund-me account

Outings:

Bartrams Garden outing on Saturday organized by Amy Kwas. Suffice it to say it was a unique outing. Coryn Wolk from Clean Air Council was our guide for the event. The objective was to increase awareness about the oil and gas build up along the Schuylkill river.

Moon light paddle on the Schuylkill (north of Pottstown to Pottstown was attended by 12 people and went well.

Tom Torres and the Save the Loyalsock Coalition led a hike on the Old Loggers Path at Loyalsock State Forest. The forest is under threat from natural gas drilling and pipeline development.

Future Outing: Have spoken to David Bressler of Stroud Water Research Center for a water-monitoring related outing. They normally do 1-2 day long workshops which is too much for a first step. He suggested engaging Penn State Master Watershed Stewards who may be able to do something light. He can also do something for a day-long event on Nov 18 but this is a weekday which poses a problem for working folk.

New Business

Support for an Urban Garden in West Oak Lane - Charlie.

Charlie asked us to consider signing a letter of support to Council Women Cindy Bass for a community garden in the 8th City Council District. The land on which this garden sits is currently belongs to the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority

Background: DITO inc is a company started by Tiara Council in response to her difficulty turning a local vacant lot into a community garden in the area of West Oak Lane. She is in communication with Councilwoman Cindy Bass but in order to acquire a garden agreement, Tiara is requesting support from local community groups and organizations. Tiara currently uses the space to provide free food donated by Trader Joes to local residents. She also uses the area for education and want to turn the land into a garden that will provide produce to local food stores. Tiara has secured support from a number of partners including the horticultural society, City Harvest, Trader Joes, and community organizations in the area.

West Oak Lane is one of many communities that not only face steep economic and social struggles, but also lacks sufficient resources to protect against rising temperatures from climate change. The area is in the red on map projections of neighborhoods that will face health risks from temperature increase in the next few decades. West Oak Lane lacks proper access to healthy food options. Environmental progress in Philly depends on progress in areas like West Oak Lane to build both social and physical resilience and community sovereignty.

There were several questions about one of the asks in the letter. Charlie will discuss this and prepare a revised letter which we will vote on via email.

Announcements:

Meeting Call-in Number:

1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.