

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
Call-in Meeting
November 2, 2016 Meeting**

ExCom Members Attending: Pat Beudet, Bill Brainerd, Gerald Brown, John Butler, Mathew Himmelein, Mike Hoppus, Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath, JimWylie

Attending by Phone:

ExCom Members Absent: Anne Lovett, Dennis Winters,

Other Members Attending: Karen Melton, Ken Hemphill, Emily Davis, Kwan Morrow, Seth Bush, Charlie Isaacs, Seth Long

Secretary: Jim asked that the agenda be included in the minutes. The minutes were approved with that addition.

Treasurer:

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim)

Standing Rock

Things seem to be coming to a head in North Dakota. The protestors there are the tip of the spear and representative of the fight against pipeline expansion throughout the country. There are several layers of supporters both on-site and elsewhere providing material resources and motivational support. Please share any social media stories you see from SC about this issue. There is a tentative Day of Support planned for Nov 15.

Transportation - SEPTA

Sierra Club is supporting SEPTA workers in their strike. There are a couple picket locations, outside 1234 Market Street and 20th and Johnson. Charlie will suggest some possible signs.

Charlie is organizing picket line support actions in the city. Specific asks may evolve as the negotiations continue.

Volunteer Organizing Training

Tom Torres has offered to run a class on organizer training – targeting volunteers that are motivated to help with various issues but lack the knowledge of how to go about organizing others. My experience is that we have plenty of interested/motivated volunteers, but few (almost none) that are willing to be issue leaders – call meetings, set goals, assign tasks, ask for help. Can we cultivate those people from our ranks?

Solar Opportunity

I got an email from someone at Beaumont at Bryn Mawr in Lower Merion Township, a large retirement community with several large buildings with flat roofs. He is on the green committee and wants to explore options to possibly make a proposal to the owners. He'd like to hear from a 3rd party (like Sierra Club) instead of just getting a sales pitch. I told him that we didn't have that kind of expertise, but suggested we could set up a sales pitch and myself and/or John B could also attend to try to act as a truth-o-meter. I've made contact with someone from Solar States – at Sue Edward's recommendation. Stay tuned.

Runnymede Farm

I received an email from someone living at Runnymede Farm in Edgemont, Delco, expressing concern about a plan to expand the development into an area that was previously a large septic system. The development has switched to public sewer. He asked to be pointed to any regulations that might be relevant. Ken suggested checking the open space requirements for the original development. I reached out to some other remediation experts. No response yet.

Southport - Emily

Sam Rubin (Food & Water Watch) convened a meeting on Saturday 27 October. Also attending, Emma from Philly Thrive and Kia from Action United, now 1 PA.

Focus: Planning action to encourage the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PRPA) to approve the establishment of container shipping activities at Southport rather than PES proposal for fossil fuel infrastructure. Was also some discussion of getting support of mayor and Kenyatta Johnson. Already have support of Jannie Blackwell.

► Date: Tuesday November 22 at 12:00

Organizer: Food 7 Water Watch, Green Justice Philly Partners & Long Shoreman's Union (ILA)

Place: PRPA office at 3460 N Delaware Ave as Board members are coming to monthly meeting.

Action Vision: picketing line, rally, use of first few minutes of meeting (public). Expect board to go in to closed executive session quickly. Began discussing elements of action at meeting.

[from John] - If the PRPA is a public agency, they need to advise what subjects they are going to cover in executive sessions.

Philly Thrive has planned an action as well.

► Date: Thursday November 10 at 12:00

Place: PRPA office at 3460 N Delaware Ave

Action: deliver giant post-it note to PRPA board Chair, Gerry Sweeney saying "Don't Forget: We say NO to fossil fuel expansion" put small post-it notes on building.

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

► Prasad and Seth Bush, an organizer temporarily working in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, reported on work for Steve Santarsiero (US House, 8th District) who we have endorsed. Bill has been calling a ton of Bucks County Sierra Club members to confirm their support for Steve and also to recruit them for volunteering for the campaign. Prasad has been doing door to door canvassing and has done some phone calling. On Saturday Oct 29, there was a Climate Voters for Steve Santarsiero Rally in which Seth Bush, Bill and Prasad spoke about why we endorsed Steve. The candidate spoke as well. There were about 20 volunteers; some from the DCCC. Seth said he was particularly impressed that Santarsiero identified climate change as our greatest challenge. Seth is looking for volunteers to get out the vote.

► Seth Long is working on the McGinty campaign. She will be at the rally this weekend

► There have been some question about the fact that we did not endorse Dwight Evans. The group chose not to endorse any candidate in the primary and since the environment is not a priority with him, we chose not to endorse in this race. Karen or Bill will respond to the emails.

► There was a discussion about creating political endorsement teams in each county to interview candidates and make recommendation to the executive committee.

Education Committee: (Bill Brainerd)

The next program, entitled "Sustainability in Philadelphia and at Swarthmore College" will be Wednesday, November 16 at 6:45 PM in Room C2-28 of the Center for Business and Industry, 18th and Callowhill Sts. Speakers will be Christine Knapp, Sustainability Director for Philadelphia, and Aurora Winslade, Sustainability Director for Swarthmore College.

Nomination Committee:

Ballots have been sent out. There is also a link on the electronic newsletter so members can vote electronically

Newsletter/Communications:

Newsletter - Pat Beaudet

The print newsletter to just under 3,000 members was dropped on Monday, Oct. 24, giving us two weeks in the mail at bulk rate. But a full week before political mail takes over. If anyone knows someone who gets a print copy, could you check when they received it? Ideally we would have had 3 weeks in the mail but ran into printer problems and had to hire a professional to get the file ready for print, costing an

additional \$300. Not Ken's fault. It was impossible to know what the printer wanted. This is a learning experience and we will be the wiser if we use the same printer next year. The printer shipped extra copies to Coho for placement there. Emily with pick up

Social Media - Mat

Though I've been less active with SC fb page due to a new position at work I continue to disseminate pertinent information on social media as one of our admin.

Old Business

Fundraising

Letter Campaign - Pat

The letter is still in process. We need to get a letter finalized and approved by the committee. The letter will be sent after the election so that it doesn't get lost in the hoard of political mail coming through. I think we should aim for dropping the letter Nov. 11. A return envelope will be included with our Coho address. Emily will pick up the mail, record the names, addresses and donations, and then send the list and the checks to Dennis. The letter will be sent to 100 or so people that Bill has on record as frequent donors giving more than \$35 as well as ex comm members and other individuals. Pat asked we give the names of possible donors to her or Bill.

Give 20 – Ken

Iron Hill Brewery is offering 20% of their food sales at their Phoenixville and West Chester locations on November 7 to our Sierra Club group. There is a coupon on our website and in the newsletter. Jim offered to pick up people who come by train.

Facebook Boosting - Kwan

It was explained we can use a boost to increase the number of viewers to our facebook page. This has a cost. After discussion, it was decided that we should do this and include a line in the budget to fund it.

Urban Gardening Support letter – Charlie

Charlie presented the letter again without changes. He suggested that supporting this project will help us in our work building partnerships as well as increasing recognition of the Sierra Club. Pat moved we approve the letter and Jim seconded. The motion passed 8 to 1.

Outings: Amy has organized a tour of green infrastructure for Saturday November 19. It will be a walking tour of storm water management structures. Outings will be linked to a meet-up site

New Business

Standing Rock

There will be a solidary event on November 15. It is being organized by 350.org and is part of a nation-wide action

GreenWorks Unvailing: Charlie attended the GreenWorkd unvailing at the Library. He reported that the 8 part plan is quite comprehensive and includes packets for getting involved for agencies, businesses and individuals

Holiday Social: The Holiday social will be a potluck at Coho on either the 19, 20 or 21 of December

Announcements:

Television: Karen

► First episode of **Years of Living Dangerously, Season II**

Episode 1 is Sunday, October 30th @ 8 EST on National Geographic Channel

The website says episodes will be made available on Hulu, Google Play, iTunes and Amazon.

► The second episode of YLD is just 3 days later on Wednesday, Nov 2nd, and the remainder of the series will then be weekly on Wednesday evenings. Footage featuring Citizens' Climate Lobby is part of the Dec 7th episode.

► Leonardo DiCaprio's new climate film **Before the Flood** also premieres tomorrow evening, Oct 30th, at 9pm on Nat Geo channel. The website says it will be available "free on all platforms" as soon as it airs.

Chapter Survey: Jim asks that we complete the on-line chapter survey:

<https://goo.gl/forms/L86JQEe6koVwd8LI3>

December Meeting will be call-in o December 7

Meeting Call-in Number:

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

Agenda

- **Introductions**
 - **Approval** of [Oct minutes](#)
 - **Announcements**, agenda updates
 - **Fundraising**
 - o Letter
 - o Give 20
 - Come to WC?
 - o FB boosting – link to Paypal acct – **possible vote**
 - **Politics**
 - o Santarsiero
 - o McGinty
 - o Hillary
 - o Response to “Why?” emails
 - o Organizing for 2017
 - **Newsletter**
 - o Things we should do differently next year
 - **Conservation**
 - o Southport
 - o Standing Rock
 - o SEPTA
 - o Urban Garden Support – **vote on letter of support**
 - o Volunteer Organizer Training in Jan
 - o Solar at Beaumont at Bryn Mawr in Lower Merion Township
 - **Quick Hitters**
 - o **ExCom elections**
 - o **Chapter survey** - <https://goo.gl/forms/L86JQe6koVwd8LI3>
 - o **Treasurers Report**
 - o **Dec ExCom – call-on only !**
 - o **Review of 2016, Plan for 2017** – meeting in Jan
 - o **Holiday social**
 - Suggest pot-luck at CoHo on Dec 19, 20 or 21
 - o **Outings**
 - Join the meetup group - <https://www.meetup.com/Philadelphia-Sierra-Club-Outings/>
 - o **Next Education Program**
 - o **Email send dates**
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