

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
May 7, 2014**

Attending: Pat Beaudet, Bill Brainerd, John Butler (by phone), Emily Davis, Anne Lovett, Robin Mann, Allan Walters, Jim Wylie, Dennis Winters, Jon Paul Jawarski, Len Finegold

Not Attending: Mathew Himmelein, Jeanette MacNeille

Anne called the meeting to order at 6:45

Secretary: Correction in April 2 minutes (C4 account balance \$539.81. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer: Account Balance: C4: 539.81 (current)
Account Balance: C3: 7887.50 (as of Dec 31, 2013) No one has yet requested reimbursement for the Washington trip. A total of \$240 was approved for this purpose

Committee Reports

Newsletter/Communications: Pat (Newsletter) and Jim (website) Pat asked how frequently we should send out a newsletter. This led to a discussion of the mode of transmission – email v. mail. Newsletters will be posted on the website. We do not have email addresses for all members. Dennis said it costs about \$4000 to send the newsletter to all members. He will check on the difference in cost if we mail only to members for whom we do not have email addresses.

Jim asked if he should schedule 2 monthly convio emails and suggested the 1st and 3 Thursday. There was agreement that this was a good idea. Jim said we did not have to use the scheduled times and that we could get bumped if an important issue came up. It was agreed that Jim should schedule the convio emails.

Conservation Committee: John Butler will chair this committee. There was discussion on the duties on this committee. Dennis said they were posted on the web. Jim said he'd put a link to them from the chapter website. As members of this committee, Dennis will focus on land use and transportation, and Robin on water issues. Bill is also on this committee.

Political Committee: Bill moved and Pat seconded that we withdraw our support from Vanessa Lowery Brown (State Rep. 190 division). Reason: recruiting for pro-fracking. There was a question about which candidates receive questionnaires. All candidates, no matter what their party are sent questionnaires. Jim said he would put link to the website of the candidates we are supporting.

Nomination Committee: No Report

Old Business:

Education Program: The next program will be June 9 with the topic "The Wind Debate." Bill said this title came from a club newsletter. Robin wanted to make sure that attendees understood that the Club supports wind power because creating electricity with wind causes very little environmental damage when compared to extraction and burning of fossil fuels.

Lobby Day (AEPS (alternative energy portfolio standard)): Jim reported that 20 to 25 Sierra Club members attended the event. They met with staff members rather than the representatives.

XL Pine Line Rally: Dennis has not received any requests for reimbursement to the rally in DC

Member Picnic: We have a permit to use the Betzwood picnic area at Valley Forge on June 22, 2014. We will encourage attendees to bicycle. Dennis will meet cyclist coming for Philadelphia at

Lloyd Hall behind the Art Museum. Jim will lead cyclist coming from the west and Jon Paul said he would look for some to lead folks coming down the Perkiomen trail. Rick Wolf has agreed to lead a short walk in the park. We will ask William to come to speak about some of the environmental issues the club is working on. If the picnic must be cancelled due to inclement weather, Anne will have a message to her phone stating that. Anne's phone number will be given to those who RSVP.

Philadelphia Office of Sustainability: Robin wrote a letter to show our support for making this office permanent. The issue should come before this week. Members are urged to contact their representative in City council.

Eastwick Neighbors: Robin gave us an update on the Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition. Through their work FEMA is adjusting the flood areas to include storm surge as well as storm intensity. The Eastwick is becoming a "poster child" for environmental justice. Amy Lara Kahn is writing an article on their work for the Harvard Law Review. This is the first time a community has been involved in the conversation about these issues.

New Business:

Bucks County Activities: Jon Pau reported that the Bucks County members are planning a number of events. They are focusing on issues related to water. On May 22, Lynette Saunders, a fresh water ecologist will speak to the group and teach them how to test water samples. The group is planning to use these skills during a hike.

Announcements:

The next meeting will be June 4. Future meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month with meetings beginning at 6:45.