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General Membership Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2006 Mountain Lake Firehouse

President Frank Joseph called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM with 29 members in attendance. He thanked the following individuals for their efforts over the past year: Connie Collier for maintaining the bulletin boards; Joe & Liza Thomas for hosting the quarterly mailing meetings; Rob & Alice Bechok for removing litter from the roadside; Eileen Greason and Marge Joseph for all their donated time; Tom Webster for managing the dissolved oxygen monitoring; Dale Hopkins for meeting set up; Carolyn Pullman for her work as treasurer and the motivation she provides; and Phil & Lorna Wooldridge, Joyce Morrissey, and Maureen Bonner for getting Mountain Lake included in the Jenny Jump designation as an Audubon Society Important Bird and Birding Area. Frank then recommended the book Let My People Go Surfing by Yvon Chouinard, an autobiography of the founder of Patagonia Clothing Company and an excellent commentary on environmental activism.

Terry Leonard made a motion, seconded by Bob Plimack, to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2005 annual meeting. Mr. Leonard again moved, seconded by Mr. Plimack, to approve the 2006 Treasurer's Report with a closing balance of \$35,400.31. Both motions carried.

The 2007 Goals were presented, discussed, and approved. The two most important of the 17 goals that were adopted are:

- Continue to encourage the Liberty Township Committee to operate the municipal beach, purchase an aquatic weed harvester, and consider the purchase of a leaf vacuum. The Township Committee is a valued partner and the good relationship we enjoy must be maintained.
- Pursue grant funds to hire an executive director to guide and conduct the operation of the association. Up to this point, all work has been achieved through volunteer efforts and the organization has grown to the point of needing a paid, part time director. The Watershed Advisory Board would continue to oversee the association. The position would only be paid through grant funds, not from the general treasury.

President Joseph updated the membership on the following items:

1. Membership is currently at 129. The 2007 Membership Drive starts with the fall mailing.
2. The website is accessible through libertytownship.org and will be updated for 2007.
3. Open Space- A map was displayed of the Lisbon/Casino property showing the original open-air pavilion and the future pavilion to be erected once the building is razed. The boat launch fee for trailers is \$5. Car-top launching is free & allowed on the Lodge side. In 2006, over \$2,000 has been taken in from fees, which will be used for improvements. The Lodge property is undergoing septic system improvements. It will be subdivided, with the grove and beach areas retained for public open space, and the restaurant either sold or leased.
4. Water Monitoring Program/Richard Dunlap Memorial Grant- Received \$1,000 from the Warren County Environmental Commission for the purchase of a dissolved oxygen meter. Tom Webster reported on the three initial tests he has performed using the new meter. He conducted the tests in approximately 20 feet of water. Measurements were taken at one-foot intervals, and down to 15 feet the readings indicated sufficient oxygen. A buoy will be positioned for a permanent test site. Secchi disk readings have ranged from 3-5 feet. Last year's maximum reading was 12 feet. The readings were reported to the national "Secchi Dip-In" for the fourth year. Surface water temperatures are currently at 77 degrees.

5. The Association participated in Liberty Township Community Day. Photos were displayed.
6. Memberships were maintained for NJ COLA, NALMS, Ridge & Valley Conservancy, Foodshed Alliance, Paulinskill Pequest Watershed Association, and ANJEC.
7. The Clean Communities Grant for \$300 was secured for the 8th year now totaling over 1600 volunteer hours & 12,000 gallons of litter!
8. Aquatic Weed Control- Application was made to 20 acres by Aquatic Analysts. Hand cutters are available for loan. Information is being collected on a weed roller for use in the township swimming area in an effort to minimize reliance on chemical weed eradication.
9. Clean Water Act 319h Grant: Installation of the vortex grit separator will begin Sept. 13, along with six catch basin filters. Stormwater monitoring will continue after installation.
10. The Joan Knechel Memorial Walk will be held October 15. The MLCA & WAG is a sponsor.
11. The dates of the 2007 mailing meetings are 1/12/07, 4/13/07, 7/13/07, & 10/12/07.
12. By-Laws: Two amendments were proposed and unanimously approved on a motion and second from Monica and Bob Plimack: 1.) Protection and Indemnity of Executive Officers and Trustees, and 2.) Allowing the hiring of an Executive Director.

Election of Officers: The following slate was presented:

President:	Frank Joseph
Vice President:	Tom Webster
Secretary:	Eileen Greason
Treasurer:	Carolyn Pullman
Trustees:	Liza Thomas, Connie Collier, and one open position

Nominations were opened to the floor. Tom Timbrook, with a second from Eileen Greason, nominated Helene Timbrook for the open position of Trustee. Bob Plimack then moved, with a second from Pat Hutterer, to accept the nominations. The motion carried.

General Discussion:

Rich Larsen commented he had been to the beach three times this summer, and that it was very nice. The lifeguards were mature and did a fine job, although more sand is needed. Tom Timbrook also commented that his father, who is in a wheel chair, visited the beach and raved how enjoyable his experience was.

Arthur Strock suggested, in thinking to the future, that it might be considered to establish a financial trust to grow interest that could be used for special projects. Treasurer Pullman commented that we are not established as a foundation, but are almost at that point. The treasury is being built approximately \$3,000 per year. The executive director would be charged with building the capacity of the organization through memberships and establishing a financial base through philanthropic and business donations. Ms. Plimack suggested sending something out with the tax bills to reach more residents. Our quarterly newsletter is sent to over 600 homes in the watershed, and that covers much of the municipality. Mr. Plimack suggested offering an associate membership, for a lesser fee, and offering something in return. He volunteered to work on a committee to enhance enrollment.

Carolyn Pullman complimented everyone on their hard work and announced that 2007 is the 40th Anniversary of the Association. It will coincide with the ending of our probationary status for our IRS 501(c)3 non-profit designation. Eileen Heydecke suggested finding a local financial professional to donate their services to help the association.

Eileen Greason suggested having "potluck desserts" at next year's annual meeting with coffee and tea being provided by the association. This idea was unanimously endorsed!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. Next year's meeting will be August 17, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eileen Greason, Secretary