

PRESIDENT
FRANK G. JOSEPH
(908) 475-3561

VICE PRESIDENT
TOM WEBSTER
(908) 475-5366



SECRETARY
EILEEN GREASON
(908) 475-3119

TREASURER
CAROLYN PULLMAN
(908) 763-2219

132 Lakeside Drive West
Belvidere NJ 07823

General Membership Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2008

The 41st annual General Membership Meeting was convened by President Frank Joseph at 7:10 PM with 22 people in attendance. The theme of the evening was to “Plant a tree; enjoy a tree; and to reconnect with the outdoor environment” to coincide with the program presented by Shannon Buckley on Liberty Township’s Community Forestry Management Plan. Continuing the tradition of give-a-ways, attendees received Dot Pots as gifts to use for starting next year’s seedlings.

After the efforts and contributions of many volunteers were acknowledged, a motion to accept the Association Minutes from 8/17/07 was made by Terry Leonard, seconded by Liz Rossi, and passed. Alice Bechok gave the Treasurer’s Report in Carolyn Pullman’s absence noting our income and expense summary and 2008 closing balance. The Board of Trustees was authorized to invest up to \$10,000 in mutual funds to increase the Association’s return on investment. The report was accepted on a motion and second by Terry Leonard and Liza Thomas.

Following a brief discussion centered on weed harvesting, hiring an executive director via a grant, increasing membership, initiating a volunteer dock registration program and supporting a municipal ordinance limiting boat and dock sizes, Pat Hutterer moved and Art Strock seconded the adoption of our 2009 Goals. The motion passed. In the President’s Report, it was noted that our final 2008 membership stood at 112 (three lifetime-Alice Scheffler, Carolyn Pullman and Liz Rossi) with the 2009 membership drive beginning with the mailing of minutes this fall. MLCA again participated in the annual Liberty Township Community Day co-hosting an informational booth with the environmental commission and sponsoring music with the fire company. We received our 10th consecutive Clean Communities Grant of \$300 for on-going work at roadside litter clean up. We have disposed of properly and recycled over 14,500 gallons of waste. Results of our water monitoring program were shared for June and July with clarity ranging from a high of 10.5 feet on 6/21 to a low of 5 feet on 8/1. It was reported that the Joan Knechel Memorial Walk would take place on 10/19/08 with the Association again taking an active role volunteering and donating funds as a co-sponsor. Although not in attendance, our second annual high school scholarship award winner, Stephanie Meyer from Hackettstown HS, was recognized. This was followed by the announcement of the second recipient of the Ruth Ballou Environmental Activism plaque to Eileen Greason for outstanding contributions to local environmental initiatives. The President’s Report was concluded with a brief update from Eileen Greason on the status of the township’s open space property acquisitions (The Lodge and Lisbon Capri).

The next item on the agenda was the election of officers. The slate as proposed- President: Frank Joseph; Vice President: Tom Webster; Secretary: Eileen Greason; Treasurer: Carolyn Pullman; Trustees: Liza Thomas, Connie Collier, Rob Bechok was accepted on a motion by Joyce Morissey and second by Maureen Bonner.

Prior to the program for the evening, a brief discussion on investigating changing lake management companies from Aquatic Analysts to Allied Biological in Port Murray occurred. Then 4 important books for members to consider reading and one television network (Green Planet) were mentioned (Balance Point by Joseph Jenkins; Commonwealth by Jeffrey Sachs; Earth in the Balance by

Al Gore; and finally Low Carbon Diet by David Gershon whose website www.empowermentinstitute.net provides each of us with a personal carbon diet calculator.

The program for the evening was interesting and informative. MLCA & WAG member, Shannon Buckley, also of the NJ Tree Foundation and our own LTEC, outlined the importance of the Liberty Community Forestry Management Plan. She explained the plan's guidelines, education and outreach and benefits to citizens.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM on a motion and second by Rich Larsen and Kathy Donohue. Next year's meeting was set for August 7, 2009.

Respectfully,

Eileen Greason

Secretary, MLCA & WAG

MLCA & WAG GOALS 2009

1. Continue to support the Liberty Township Committee in **operating the municipal beach and encourage them to purchase an aquatic weed harvester**. Also, request that they consider purchasing a leaf vacuum that would be used to prevent the massive volume of leaves which come down each fall from entering the lake & contributing to the increasing build-up of sediment. This piece of machinery could be used throughout the township to aid all citizens of Liberty who have a problem disposing of leaves and shared with other municipalities.
2. Pursue a grant to hire an Executive Director to guide and oversee the operation of the association.
3. **Increase** the amount of time allocated to **weed harvesting**, both mechanically and via hand cutting. **Continue to encourage members to hand harvest**.
4. Stay active in the watershed management network to assist in seeking funding, if it is available, for a weed harvester, aeration system, or paleolimnologic study of the sediment to understand the history of lake eutrophication as it applies to Mountain Lake.
5. Continue to regularly update bulletin boards & to utilize e-mail to **improve communication** within our organization & the watershed when appropriate to compliment our three, yearly mailings.
6. Increase and sustain a membership level of **200 families committed to an environmental spirit** & to increase the number of life time members.
7. Continue to develop & participate in the **Water Monitoring Project, the Great American Dip-In, and the Clean Communities Program**.
8. Continue holding **joint meetings** with the Liberty Township Environmental Commission featuring speakers that will provide important educational information to our members.
9. Continue to encourage the township committee to **adopt ordinances** that will contribute to the improvement of water quality in the watershed. Laws promoting the increase in size of riparian buffers, storm water retention strategies, lot size setbacks near water, lot size increases for building, and increased **zoning** are all necessary. Also, limits on dock & boat sizes permitted on the lake should be developed and implemented.
10. Continue to raise the awareness of our members and the community thru mailings and our bulletin boards regarding **good, safe, & efficient environmental practices**, i.e., promoting recycling & waste reduction, encouraging a reduction in the use of fossil fuels & the conservation of all natural resources, creating vegetative buffers along shorelines to aid in bank stabilization, filtering nutrients, and discouraging waterfowl; maintaining septic systems; limiting fertilizer and pesticide use; protecting our well water from potential contaminants; and, directing the flow of storm water over natural surfaces to promote absorption, ground water recharge, and filtration of sediments and nutrients.
11. Continue to **attend and participate in township committee & environmental commission** meetings and other state, county, and regional meetings of importance to the watershed.
12. Continue to **seek grants** that will result in improved water quality in our watershed.
13. Continue implementing a **lake management plan** that includes weed management, addresses all aspects of water quality & includes a volunteer dock identification program.
14. Continue to hold a general membership meeting each **August**.
15. Maintain **affiliations** with NJCOLA, NALMS, TR&VC, and the PPWA.