

Minutes for the Joint Meeting of the  
Science & Technology Committee, and the Stream Team  
Monday, November 9, 2009

Attendees: Hazel England, Joseph Balwierczak, Ann Campbell, Steve Gruber, Peter Miller, Tim Cutler, Terri Goldschein, Roger Edwards, Kelley Curran, Sally Rubin, Lisa Stevens, Wes Boyce, Frank Stillinger

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

On account of strongly overlapping interests and expertise among the respective memberships, it was deemed natural to schedule at least a few joint meetings for the Stream Team and the Science & Technology Committee. This was the first such occasion. Roger Edwards presented the first Stream Team item, a detailed accounting of Great Brook water sampling results during 2009. The most notable findings occurred in February, with all six sampling sites showing total dissolved solids (TDS) and chloride ion concentrations strongly exceeding maxima specified by NJ Surface Water Quality Standards. The aggregate results for 2009 indicated that Great Brook is less impaired than Loantaka Brook, but is more so than the upper portions of Primrose Brook and the Upper Passaic River.

Kelley Curran continued discussion of Stream Team activities by outlining features of the Watershed Institute grant directed at restoring portions of Great Brook and its tributaries, and by reporting on the success of the Winter Road Maintenance Workshop held at the GSWA headquarters on October 22. She also signed up some of the attendees for field work to replace some vacated volunteer positions. Finally, for those who might be interested and free to participate, Kelley mentioned an upcoming Water Monitoring and Education Summit.

The Conservation Management Area (CMA) serves as one of the Stream Team's water sampling sites, on the Silver Brook tributary of Great Brook. The attendees were told that a previously weather-postponed CMA hike for GSWA trustees and friends would take place on Sunday, December 6, 3-4:30 pm, so any ST or S&T member able to do so might stop by the CMA just beforehand to see if everything was in presentable order at the site. It was reported that the deer fence vertical extension project around the LaBarre area has been about 50% completed. The three foot bridges and the three benches (including the Helen Fenske memorial bench) are all due for preservation treatments. The disconnected Case property portion of the CMA has received relatively little management attention lately, and may be a candidate for some volunteer activity (cleanup, invasives removal, etc.). Hazel briefly discussed the swamp-maple clearing from the Zimmer property marsh, indicating that while that project was nearly complete it would be desirable to treat the stumps to prevent regrowth. Hazel also reported that approximately 1700 hours of volunteer labor at the CMA had already been logged in 2009.

In view of the fact that a major portion of the Science & Technology Committee's activity is directed toward the CMA, it was tentatively proposed that changing the group's name to the "Land Stewardship Committee" might be worth considering, but no conclusion was reached.

Various scientific/technical subjects were discussed as potential topics for newsletter articles or possibly breakfast briefings. The widespread usage of the antibacterial/antiviral substance triclosan and of the herbicide atrazine has been under study, on account of their possibly deleterious effects on water quality. Artificial turf was mentioned as a possible topic for an informative breakfast briefing at the GSWA

headquarters, with the clear understanding that this would have to be a non-partisan offering of objective technical information for the interested public, while not making specific recommendations.

Attendees were informed that the next scheduled meeting for the Stream Team would occur on Thursday, December 3, 2009, and that the next meeting for the Science & Technology Committee has been scheduled for Monday, Jan. 11, 2010. The attendees were also reminded that a breakfast briefing entitled "Conserving Energy at Home" would be held the following morning (Tuesday, November 10, 2009), to be presented by architect David Rosen.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

These minutes were drafted and have been edited by Frank Stillinger.