

Stream Team Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Attendees: Frank Stillinger, Barbara Wefing, Laura Kelm, Joe Balwierczak, Wes Boyce, Roger Edwards, Lisa Marie McNulty, Tatiana Ivanova, Lisa Stevens

The meeting began at 6:05 PM.

The Stream Team welcomed new volunteers Tatiana Ivanova and Lisa Marie McNulty.

Laura distributed the minutes of the Stream Team meeting held on September 13, 2011. They were approved.

Joe and Barbara shared information from their recent visual assessment of Bayne Brook at Wexford Lane; in addition to seeing 2 pileated woodpeckers during the assessment, Joe and Barbara spoke with a nearby homeowner who was asking questions about maintaining her property along the stream. Laura shared information on a planned GSWA program on landscaping for the environment geared towards homeowners that would address homeowners' similar questions.

Laura gave an update on the Silver Brook Buffer Restoration Project. Bayne Park was successfully planted in October and November – thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the many work days! Some minor work is left to be done, but there is no deadline for this. New deer fencing looks great at the Harding Land Trust property off James St. and the old fencing was repaired where needed. The old fencing should be monitored, especially after storms. A warm season grass buffer will be planted at the Church of Christ the King along the stream in the spring – a fall planting was delayed by the early-season October snow.

GSWA's month-long participation in World Water Monitoring Day had 5 volunteers monitor 10 sites. For 2012, Laura suggested having visual assessment volunteers use the WWMD kits during their fall assessment to monitor their assigned site, which would give GSWA data at consistent locations. Everyone present agreed this was a good idea.

Roger gave a report on the August chemical sampling results in the Passaic River. Total nitrogen was low, possibly due to increased denitrification in summer months – this has been seen in streams in the Great Swamp watershed in the past. Phosphorus was low at all sites. There was a temperature exceedence at PR4. Without continuous temperature monitoring, it is difficult to show temperature exceedences because it may be in exceedence infrequently during a very hot day. Roger mentioned calibration problems for pH with both GSWA's Oakton meter and the rented Horiba meter. Lisa Marie uses the same model of Horiba meter at work and suggested changes to our calibration methods. Flow measured at PR1 during August and November sampling fit well with Omni Environmental's curve showing that at low flow volumes at the Millington USGS gage, more water is flowing into the

Refuge than out. Frank asked about these flow rates compared to precipitation falling on the Refuge. Barbara inquired about the low phosphorus resulting from a reduction of phosphorus in detergents and fertilizers.

Laura gave a recap of the Winter Roads Maintenance Workshop – there were 10 attendees including DPW, condo/apartment managers/maintenance, contractors, environmental groups, and individuals. One presenter gave instructions for hand-mixing salt brine (approx. 2.8 lbs. of rock salt dissolved in 1 gallon of water will create the ideal percentage). Laura is looking into purchasing a sprayer for GSWA to conduct a brine experiment this winter at GSWA headquarters.

During previous meetings, inquiries were made about snow removal at Jockey Hollow and the Refuge. Jockey Hollow uses a 50% sand/salt mix on Park roads, salt on walkways, and tries to use as little as possible. The Refuge uses calcium magnesium acetate, the most environmentally benign deicer, around buildings and the visitor center; they use very little sand and rock salt.

Laura summarized the upcoming State of the Streams project: This will analyze all previous water quality data collected by GSWA and the Ten Towns Committee. Chemical, biological, and visual assessment data will all be analyzed to determine the current health of our streams, how they compare to the past, and determine potential areas of concern to guide future actions by the organization.

Volunteer waivers must be completed by all volunteers who have not completed this in the past. Laura will have waivers at future meetings and e-mail out an electronic version.

Upcoming programs and events were discussed including: *Testing the Waters* educator workshop (Saturday Nov. 19, Refuge Visitor Center, lead by Hazel); CMA work day (Saturday, Nov. 26, details TBA); NJ Water Monitoring Summit (Th-Fri Dec. 1-2, West Trenton)

Future Stream Team meetings will be held:

Wednesday, January 18, 10am
Thursday, March 15, 6pm
Tuesday, May 8, 10am
Wednesday, June 20, 6pm
Tuesday, September 11, 10am
Thursday, November 8, 6pm

The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 18 at 10am.

Respectfully submitted by: Laura Kelm