

The Severn River Association, Inc.

The meeting was **called to order** at 2:06 PM by President Lynne Rockenbauch. All Officers and Board Members were present except Andrew Muller and Rusty Gowland who had been excused due to conflicts. (Maureen, David, Lisa and Betsy arrived during the Treasurer's Report.) Also present was Anne DiMajestre, outside auditor.

The (Draft 2) **Minutes** from the 9-24 -2015 Board meeting were unanimously Approved (Lee moved, Kurt seconded).

Treasurer's Report – Lee Meadows

Our assets increased \$8,899 in the past 12 months, but \$1,150 of that was in Restricted Funds (Winchester Stormwater Fund). For the 11 months of 2015, dues are about \$4215 below budget, but the Belvoir Farms fundraiser netted about \$5,000 more than budgeted (despite a \$900 cost overrun) and map sales were \$378 above budget, so net income was about \$1,500 above budget. Dues and donations typically peak in December, so it should be a good year.

Total expenses were about \$3400 under budget, with only the Belvoir Farms fundraiser and River Rats going over budget. Meeting expenses were down slightly because fewer venues were rented. Liability insurance is slightly under budget at \$1669. Kurt questioned the insurance premium –after some discussion it was agreed it is not bad all things considered. The policy now covers our boat, with \$1mm liability. Log expenses (about \$700 per issue for a full mailing) are down somewhat due to fewer requests for hard copies. This cost is about \$2 each and includes packaging and mailing costs.

Audit report (Anne DiMajestre, Bob vom Saal)

Anne gave a brief summary of the process and results. Lee suggested and all agreed that the full audit report should be posted in the secure section of the website, available to officers and directors only. The report found no problems except one minor bank error which has been corrected. Charlotte asked how long we should keep records. Experts recommend keeping tax returns indefinitely, and keeping supporting documents for at least 4 years. Generally, the IRS can audit returns for 3 years after the due date of the return or when it was filed, whichever is later. If there is a substantial omission (more than 25 percent of gross income) the time limit gets stretched to 6 years. No deadline applies to tax years where the IRS can establish that the taxpayer has filed a fraudulent return, or has not filed a return at all.

Budget – Lynne Rockenbauch

The proposed 2016 budget is close to 2015, but with no fundraiser because no volunteer has yet been found to run one. Without the fundraiser, merchandise sales are also expected to be lower, which reduces fundraiser expense and sales taxes. Contributions remain \$150, despite actually spending \$0 this year – we should give \$50 to the Growth Action Fund, and something to CEDS. Professional Fees used to be just legal –the name was made more general to cover any professional consulting.

River Rat – Tom Guay estimates \$35 to register it with DNR, most of the rest of the \$300 is for gas. Repair and refurbishing expenses this year should be minimal. The boat needs a bailing system if we are to leave it in the water, and it needs some minimal wood repair. It has a Rule electric bilge pump, but needs a solar battery charger. We also should fix the Navigation Lights, and get a fire extinguisher. We could store it on a trailer to eliminate the bilge pump problem, if we can get a donated trailer. We could also use a trailer to widen access. Lisa noted it costs \$170 to register a trailer if we want to haul it on public roads. The boat may live at Ben Oaks next summer. One AACo Inspector said he would love a free ride, but not publicly. Lee suggested we make the boat available to our associations for community projects. Good.

John Wright agreed with the \$300 educational meetings budget –most of the meetings will be at DNR and Union Jack's which are free. The Log budget is the same and reflects 2 issues –the 2015 actual was for 1 issue. We are trying to reduce costs by opting out of mail for most issues. Leave \$1600 for now. Jonas Green Park is zero, but a memorial to Walter Jacobs is still planned, using the \$1,000 from last year's budget – it will probably take another year to get permission for this memorial.

Project Clean Stream was reduced to reflect actual expenses plus some margin - Maureen agreed to coordinate next April. Lee said we can get grant money for trees if she can find a site to plant. Betsy suggested Back Creek, which needs cleanup. Lee suggested St Luke's. - Betsy said a project is ongoing there, but they need to remove invasives. The City has tied permitting of invasives removal to construction. Timing may be a problem due to the need for public comment. Lynne said we can do either a cleanup or planting under Project Clean Stream – the date is set at 4/2/2017. There are

many options – the legacy dump sites are done, but new trash still appears. Betsy and Dan suggested using Skid Skier to remove phragmites – it removes roots& dirt. John noted that Back Creek is in the City, not AACounty, so we need to arrange for trash trucks through new contacts

The Marketing budget includes pamphlets, website domain name registration (\$10/yr), and our web “phone”. The Phone needs a daily phone call to collect messages. Bob vom Saal agreed to monitor the phone. There are lots of voicemails now. Ken H moved to adopt the budget as presented, Kurt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Nominating committee – John Wright

John presented a cap with “Go Rats” to Tom. The cap came from a school sports team in Ann Arbor Mich.

We have one vacancy on the Board (2013-2016), and John nominated David Barker to fill it. Ken seconded and Mr Barker was elected unanimously.

Educational Meetings Update – John Wright

There is no December meeting; our next meeting is Jan 19 @ DNR. They have no security guard any more so we need a volunteer to sit at the door & open it. The speaker will be Dan Nees and the subject is financing environmental projects.

The February meeting will feature a speaker from MDE (not yet confirmed) on 2/16. The subject will be Water Quality.

We need more speakers - Scott Hymes was suggested on the subject of hardening shorelines.

Headwaters SHA Coalition Update – Charlotte Lubbert

The original concept for this storm water control was supposed to be a 100-yr storm design, but that is now being scaled down to cut costs. She asked for a status report in an email to Kaitlyn Summers, Consultant for the Maryland State Highway Administration, Water Programs Division. Kaitlyn advised that it is now in the design phase. SHA is currently working thru an agreement with DNR to facilitate the biological/chemical monitoring. They are also considering partnering with USFWS for geomorphic monitoring. They are continuing to evaluate the stormwater management sites for implementation feasibility

The last Coalition meeting was in September, and they next meet in Spring. The Spring meeting will have specifics of stormwater control & monitoring. The project is on schedule, but will take several years to complete. Mike Robinson said \$20mm is being spent on Jabez. Charlotte and Lynne looked at the blowout, Lynne took photos of a dumpsite. Fortunately the dumper was caught in the act and apprehended. Tom will post this on the wall of shame. Dan asked if the \$20mm includes fixes to I97 overpasses. Lee thought not – just the SHA stormwater project. It is a 6-year project.

Waterfront Access Update – Charlotte Lubbert

Charlotte attended a meeting of the Waterfront Access Committee chaired by Mike Lofton. Dick Spencer and Bob Whitcomb also attended. No additional access is planned for Jonas Green Park – there is presently no swimming but there is a small boat launch beach. Ken said the access to Mayo Beach is so restrictive it's useless. Traffic is also an issue. The Committee is looking for ideas to use \$20k for Mayo, Beverly Triton, and 2 others. The Severn has many communities with dead end roads at the water, but parking is a problem at most sites.

River Rat Update – Tom Guay

See budget discussion above.

New Business

1. Millersville parcel 712 – Dan Mellin. Dan has a client who owns land on Rte 3 just below 175 - AACo& SHA took most of the original parcel and left only 0.9 acres which is valued at \$100 and he pays \$10/yr tax. He would like to donate it to an environmental group since it is undevelopable and is at the headwaters of Jabez right where the mitigation is needed for the storm water problems of I-97/Rte 32. SRK & SRLT are interested, but SRLT owns easements, not land. SRLT had a real problem with a will donating lots of land, and does not want land ownership – they finally took it, and are leaving it open, but they really don't want to own land. Scott Hymes' Crownsville Conservancy was interested but dropped it. It is right where the stormwater comes into the culvert. Nearby, the Baldwin family hired Keith Underwood & worked with SRK to do a major stormwater management project for their Holiday Park development. You can park on Belts Drive and walk on this property (the shoulder of Rte 3) to Rte 32 to see the small stream that starts Jabez Branch 4.

It gets the outfall from Holiday Park. SHA is looking for the owner to permit part of the Jabezfix. SRA needs to express interest. Belts Drive crosses this property. Kurt & Lee & Charlotte felt this has many advantages to SRA. Lynne & Charlotte will hike it. Consensus is that this looks like a good idea. Kurt moved to initiate steps to accept the donation, subject to results of the survey committee consisting of Lynne, Charlotte, Ken, John and Maureen. Ken seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2. SRA strategy – Driving membership numbers (Lynne)

Lynne showed a brief slide show formulating the SRA Strategy. The SRA Strategy is not a public document - just an internal memo for Board consideration. Many thanks to Rusty Gowland for putting it together.

We plan to add the Spa & Back Creek Conservancies to our list of partners. Our main Mission is to grow thru educating people in why our growth is important. Scorecard - numbers are only placeholders. Andrew Muller agreed we can fill in those blanks. Please send Rusty any comments. We plan to post the completed scorecard on our website.

3. Annual meeting date – Tuesday June 14, 2106 @ Woods Memorial Church. If we are to include dinner, we need a volunteer to coordinate the caterer, announcements, etc. Maureen can coordinate but may not attend. Also need reservations person & someone to collect money at the door. Lee & John will help.

4. Green heron awards –Possible recipients: include Rick Smith for his help with our Boat & possibly hosting a fundraiser BarBQ, Rockbridge headmaster or Nate Bailey. Maureen suggested the Midshipman Action Group (this is a volunteer effort, not assigned). Possibly a Blue Heron for Charlotte or Bob Whitcomb. Green Heron for Lee, Ken and Matt McGherin (MD Terrapin Club) for Project Clean Streams. Lee suggested Jared Lippman (Annapolis City Council). Diane Butler was also suggested. Lee and David suggested Elvia Thompson and Lynne Foreman for their work with Annapolis Green. Bob vS suggested Richard Klein of CEDS, but we gave him one already. Lee suggested Mel Wilkins but we gave him one. Ken and others felt that people making money from their environmental work should not get awards. Amy Clements was suggested, but she is also a professional. All nominees are referred to the Nominating committee for vetting and recommendations. Mark favors rewarding people we need like the Mid's & Rick Smith.

5. Op-ed piece – not discussed

6. Community & Environmental Defense Services (CEDS) has requested a \$200 donation. Lynne and Bob gave a summary of how CEDS has helped the SRA over several years. We presently have a \$150 contribution budget, unspecified recipient. Ken moved to donate \$200 to CEDS, Mark seconded, motion carried unanimously.

7. Appreciating Projects in the watershed – Lynne: Since we don't sponsor projects, we should recognize work done by others, especially when it was assisted by an SRA grant. Betsy suggested we show up, hand out energy bars, possibly one or more SRA hats (? – this could be expensive) and a thank-you to the project leader. They usually make good Photo Ops. The WSA is a good source for such projects. Mark suggested a Wall of Fame on our website or Facebook page. Lisa suggested putting a map on our website showing locations of projects. Should we budget some money for this? Betsy will create a proposal for our next meeting. We also should recognize at our annual meeting.

8. Annapolis Watershed Network– Lynne: This Network includes the Severn and South River associations, and Spa and Back Creek Conservancies. It is following the Annapolis Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). Annapolis city government has been ignoring these organizations, so they formed a network to liaison. All commented on the Plan.

9. Growth Action Network: Lisa met with Larry Toms, AACo Planning & Zoning chief. David is also on the GAN board until February but does not plan to stand for reelection, so we need a volunteer to replace him. Richard Falk and Ann Fligsten are in charge of it. (Richard is a past Vice President of the SRA.)

10. Other announcements/issues – none. Tom has an issue, but will defer to email.

Next board meeting date: All agreed on Thursday February 4.

Meeting was Adjourned at 4:40 PM (Ken moved, Lisa seconded).

Respectfully submitted



Bob vom Saal, Secretary