

LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
415 Franklin Street  
Carlisle, PA 17013

MINUTES OF THE LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
March 15, 2018

The meeting was held on Thursday, March 15, 2018, at the Carlisle Community Center. The meeting was called to order by Andy Parker at 7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Members / Representatives

Present: Bill Berwick, Brett Flower, Sandy Kern, Dominik Maida, Andy Parker, James Ruhl, and Herb Weigl

Members / Representatives Absent: Dennis Burkett and Jinnie Monismith

Staff Present: Kathy Russell

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**PRESENTATIONS** – Anna Yelk, Executive Director of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy and Ken Oakhorn, a Board Member of the CPC, attended our meeting.

Anna reported:

- On February 28, 2018, the CPC finalized the purchase of the historic Burgoon watercress farm at the bend on South Spring Garden Street just before its intersection with Bonnybrook Road in South Middleton Township. Bisected by the LeTort Nature Trail and serving as its southern trailhead, the former farm will be CPC's core preserve and the setting for ecological restoration, passive recreation, historic interpretation, and conservation education.
- The CPC expects to close on the 3<sup>rd</sup> lot (4 acres) sometime in May/June of this year.
- The CPC is excited to work with the LRA in helping to manage the trail.
- Anna thanked Brett for organizing the successful Molly Pitcher fund raiser event.
- The CPC would like to hold a public dedication in September. The exact date has not yet been scheduled.
- The CPC will plan a stakeholder walk tour through the property sometime this summer – lead by Ben Mummert.
- The CPC would like to incorporate some of the same rules and regulations that the LRA uses for the trail.
  - o Andy will check to see if we have any extra rules and regulation signs.
- The CPC is also looking to apply to DCNR for a master site management plan to coordinate the wetland restoration with creating a recreational access.
  - o Kathy will email a copy of the LRA's trail management plan to Anna.

Ben Mummert asked Anna to report on the following:

- Tom Shumaker has been mowing the Burgoon property prior to CPC's purchase.
  - o The CPC would like to continue using his services and he has also offered to mow the nature trail.
  - o Anna will contact Dennis Burkett to have him coordinate with Mr. Sumaker.
- Russ Yinger, South Middleton Road Master, has offered to remove honeysuckle at the property and along the trail.
- There is an event scheduled with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation on April 21<sup>st</sup> where seed, seedlings, trees, plantings, etc. will be provided.
  - o We should coordinate with Ben if we need any additions along the trail.

Anna reported on the status of the wetland and stream restoration:

- TNC was involved in setting up monitoring wells on site, gathering data, and downloading the data.
  - o Their funding will end the end of this month – they are trying to get an extension.
- An RFP for Historical Review has been commissioned and funded.
  - o Still waiting for the results.
  - o They will get the preliminary restoration design and closed to permit ready.
  - o Now that the CPC has obtained the property, they will get the LeTort Working Group together again.
- Another option to revisit would be the mitigation bank with the Resource Environmental Services.
  - o The good thing about their program is that when they return the restored site, it comes with a very sizable stewardship to cover stewardship over 5-10 years.
  - o Herb highly recommended to Anna that this option be pursued.

Ken reported on funding for restoration/construction.

- DEP has been invited to the site to look at the wetlands.
- The Fish & Boat Commission has also been on the site to talk about stream restoration.
- Ken expressed a concern with erosion and exposure of tree roots.

Herb explained that we have been having an issue with the rising cost of insurance.

- He asked Anna who the CPC uses for their insurance?
  - o Chubb Alliance insures the CPC – with a "Conserve the Nation" Policy.
  - o Anna will provide Herb with the contact information for Anna Hill at Chubb Alliance.

McCormick Farm: There is an action proposed by the Cumberland Valley School District Board of Directors to seize, by eminent domain, the McCormick Tract. The Tract is 116 acres and is located adjacent to the Harrisburg Pike near the village of Hogestown in Silver Spring Township. The property was voluntarily placed under a conservation easement by the family with the Natural Lands Trust some decades ago. The School Directors have stated that the taking is necessary to have land for future educational facilities but have no immediate plans for use.

This taking, if executed, could have a far-reaching effect beyond this individual Tract. The use of eminent domain to seize land should never be taken lightly especially if the land is in some form of protected status through easement.

- Before the CPC puts out a response letter, they want to make sure they coordinate with the Natural Lands Trust, the holder of the conservation easement, to understand their position, what they are doing to prevent this easement, and how they will communicate with the school board.
  - o The CPC does have a letter drafted and a committee will be reviewing the letter on Monday at the CCC meeting.
  - o Rick Rovegno has been very involved and he is trying to use some of his connections with school board members to impress upon them how important it is to protect this property.

Herb made a motion that once the LRA receives results from the CCC and we hear the consensus on their opinion on how to proceed, that we have a respectful letter drafted to the school board. James seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENT** – None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – James made a motion to approve the February minutes. Brett seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Administrator** - (Kathy Russell) –

Kathy reminded everyone to complete their Statements of Financial Interest Forms.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance / Budget** – (Herb Weigl)

**Monthly Financial Status**

The memorandum of bills is as follows:

**Receipts:**

<b>Current Month</b>	
Plan Review Fees .....	+\$150.00
Friends Cash Contribution .....	+\$50.00
Prior month Interest .....	+\$27.33
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b> .....	<b>+\$227.33</b>

**Bills Requiring Approval:**

Administrator .....	-\$300.00
Verizon Wireless .....	-\$26.82
Cross & Crown .....	-\$180.00
Pixel & Hammer .....	-\$40.00
PennPRIME .....	-\$1,050.00
<b>TOTAL BILLS requiring approval</b> .....	<b>\$1,596.82</b>

Herb made a motion to approve the March monthly bills for payment in the amount of 1,596.82. James seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**BANK ASSET ACCOUNTS:**

**BUSINESS CHECKING ACCOUNT (07)**

Beginning Balance .....	\$100.00	
Transfer from Business Savings Acct. ....	+\$1,596.82	
Paid bill .....	-\$1,596.82	
<b>Closing Account Balance</b> .....		<b>\$100.00</b>

**BUSINESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT (00) GENERAL FUND**

Beginning Balance .....	\$17,119.59	
Interest .....	\$0.61	
Municipal Contribution .....	+150.00	
Transfer to Checking .....	-\$1,596.82	
<b>Closing Account Balance</b> .....		<b>\$15,673.38</b>

**BUSINESS MONEY MANAGEMENT SAVINGS, FRIENDS OF THE LETORT**

Beginning Balance .....	\$8,987.40	
Interest .....	+\$0.68	
Donation .....	+\$50.00	
<b>Closing Account Balance</b> .....		<b>\$9,038.08</b>

**BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL SAVINGS, RESTRICTED FUNDS**

Beginning Balance .....	\$3,774.64	
Interest .....	+\$0.14	
<b>Closing Account Balance</b> .....		<b>\$3,774.78</b>

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #43 (25 Month)**

Beginning Balance.....	\$5,110.17	
Interest .....	+\$5.25	
<b>Closing Account Balance.....</b>		<b>\$5,115.42</b>
<b>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #44 (25 Month)</b>		
Beginning Balance.....	\$5,110.17	
Interest .....	+\$5.25	
<b>Closing Account Balance.....</b>		<b>\$5,115.42</b>
<b>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #45 (25 Month)</b>		
Beginning Balance.....	\$5,203.17	
Interest .....	+\$5.35	
<b>Closing Account Balance.....</b>		<b>\$5,208.52</b>
<b>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #46 (25 Month)</b>		
Beginning Balance.....	\$5,145.62	
Interest .....	+\$5.29	
<b>Closing Account Balance.....</b>		<b>\$5,150.91</b>
<b>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #47 (15 Month)</b>		
Beginning Balance.....	\$5,004.93	
Interest .....	+\$4.76	
<b>Closing Account Balance.....</b>		<b>\$5,009.69</b>
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS ON DEPOSIT: .....</b>		<b>\$54,186.20</b>

- Financial Summary – The financial summary report is as noted.
- Budget Report – The budget report is as noted.

**Friends of LeTort** – Brett Flower

- Donor Appeal Letter – Andy reported that the executive board meeting discussed the donor appeal letter and it was decided that since we are getting late in the year, we will table sending out the donor appeal letters until November of 2018.
    - Herb has a draft of the letter.
    - Herb will email the letter to Kathy.
  - Next project(s) for Faulkner Grant? – No report
  - Activities – No report
- Brett reported that the CPC did a roadside cleanup one evening in February.

**Grants** – Andy Parker

- Next Grants – No report

**Audit** – James Ruhl – No report

**Information and Education** - Sandy Kern

- Recent press releases – None
- Facebook posts – Sandy reposted videos on the LeTort and posted information on the fund raiser results.
- Website stats and updates –
  - Andy requested that everyone working on a writing assignment for the new website should submit their writings to Sandy as soon as possible.
  - Herb reported that the CCC has created a new Facebook page and they are looking for links to attach to their site.
  - ALLARM data will be added to the new LRA site.
- Web hosting update – Andy reported troubles with the website hosting.
  - There was a mix up with some of the files being transferred over to Cross & Crown.
  - Our website was configured for an old server and had not been updated.
  - Our website went down for 1½ weeks while this problem was sorted out.
  - Pixel & Hammer posted our site for the first two months of 2018 and was very helpful in coordinating with Cross & Crown to make the transition.
  - Cross & Crown is now hosting us moving forward.

**Nature Trail** – Dennis Burkett

- Trail maintenance – Mowing – Previously discussed above.
- Tree maintenance – No report

- Fill your trail map boxes – Please continue to fill your assigned map boxes as needed.

Long-Range Planning & Easements - Andy Parker

- Cumberland Conservation Collaborative report (Herb) – Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- CCC Volunteer Hour Survey – Herb asked that LRA members complete their volunteer hour survey and send to Kathy.
- CPC purchase of Burgoon property – Previously discussed in tonight's presentation by Anna Yeik.

Stream Ecology – Bill Berwick

- ALLARM report and analysis – (even months) – ALLARM data was reviewed and discussed.
- Stream Vegetation Kill Status – We are seeing some recovery on stream vegetation and will continue to observe.

Project Review - Andy Parker

- Andy received a plan for review for a parking lot off the Holly Pike at Midway Drive.
- Andy has completed and submitted the easement paperwork for the South Middleton Township Municipal Authority Water Inner Connect Project.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Board Vacancies – Middlesex Township and North Middleton Township.
- SUNOCO Mariner East Pipeline Fines – Andy continues to try to contact DEP regarding the Sunoco Mariner Pipeline fines to try to get some of that massive fine earmarked to go toward stream restoration to be beneficial to water quality throughout the watershed.

NEW BUSINESS:

We have an issue with the LRA bylaws.

- The bylaws specifically identify a LeTort Regional Authority Logo that the authority stopped using many years ago.
- The bylaws can be amended only with the approval of at least a quorum of the member of the board at a regular or special meeting on at least 10 days written notice of the proposed amendment.
  - A notice was submitted by Andy that we will vote on amending the bylaws to allow for the new logo at the April 2018 regularly scheduled meeting.

Thursday, March 22 from 9:00-noon, Trout Unlimited's "Feet in the Stream" group is planning a work day to clean up some of the evasive underbrush on their property that is between the parking lot, Bonnybrook Road, and the stream. They will finish with this project on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in helping, please contact Andy.

McCormick Farm: Previously discussed under presentations.

- Herb made a motion that after we receive the results and consensus of the CCC meeting on Monday on the McCormick property, that we respectfully send a letter to the CV School Board regarding the McCormick Farm asking them to reconsider their decision on use of eminent domain to circumvent the conservation easement. James seconded the motion and the motion carried.

James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sandy seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the LeTort Regional Authority is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Carlisle Community Center in Carlisle, PA.

5/7/18  
Date Adopted  
Prepared by: Kathy L. Russell

Sandy Kern  
Sandy Kern, Secretary