

LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
415 Franklin Street  
Carlisle, PA 17013

MINUTES OF THE LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
October 19, 2017

The meeting was held on Thursday, October 19, 2017, at the Carlisle Community Center. The meeting was called to order by Andy Parker at 7:08 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members / Representatives**

**Present:** Bill Berwick, Brett Flower, Sandy Kern, Jinnie Monismith / ALLARM Representative, Andy Parker, and Herb Weigl

**Members / Representatives Absent:** Dennis Burkett, Frank Gally, Dominik Maida, James Ruhl

**Staff Present:** Kathy Russell

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**PRESENTATIONS** - None

**ANNOUNCEMENT** - None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Herb made a motion to approve the September minutes. Brett seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Administrator** - (Kathy Russell) - None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance / Budget** - (Herb Weigl)

**Monthly Financial Status**

The memorandum of bills is as follows:

**Receipts:**

Current Month	
Municipal Contribution – Middlesex Twp .....	+\$3,500.00
Friends Cash Contributions	
Donations.....	+\$20.00
PetFest Receipts.....	+\$300.00
Prior month Interest.....	+\$23.63
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS.....</b>	<b>+\$3,843.63</b>

**Bills Requiring Approval:**

Administrator.....	-\$300.00
Verizon Wireless .....	-\$26.76
PetFest.....	-975.10
GotPrint (print postcards).....	-\$51.11*
Capital Support service (print postcards).....	-\$63.60
Metzger Signs & Graphics (yard signs) .....	-\$270.00
Knisely's Pet & Farm Cent (pet food/supplies) .....	-\$60.22*
Walmart (miscellaneous supplies).....	-\$34.64*
Redd's BBQ (food).....	-\$495.53
<b>TOTAL BILLS requiring approval .....</b>	<b>\$1,301.86</b>

\*Reimburse Brett Flower

Herb made a motion to approve the October monthly bills for payment in the amount of \$1,301.86. Bill 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.....	+\$326.76
Paid bill.....	-\$326.76
Transfer from Business Savings Acct.....	+\$975.10
Paid bill.....	-\$975.10
<b>Closing Account Balance .....</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

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

Beginning Balance .....	\$13,612.36
Interest.....	+\$0.52
Municipal Contribution – Middlesex Twp.....	+\$3,500.00
Transfer to Checking.....	-\$326.76
<b>Closing Account Balance.....</b>	<b>\$16,786.12</b>

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

Beginning Balance .....	\$11,315.11	
Donation .....	+\$20.00	
Interest .....	+\$ .47	
Fundraising .....	+\$300.00	
<b>Closing Account Balance .....</b>		<b>\$11,635.58</b>

**BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL SAVINGS, FAULKNER GRANT**

Beginning Balance .....	\$2,518.96	
Interest .....	+\$ .10	
Transfer to Checking .....	-\$975.10	
<b>Closing Account Balance .....</b>		<b>\$1,543.96</b>

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

Beginning Balance .....	\$5,081.56	
Interest .....	+\$5.60	
<b>Closing Account Balance .....</b>		<b>\$5,087.16</b>

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #44 (25 Month)**

Beginning Balance .....	\$5,081.56	
Interest .....	+\$5.60	
<b>Closing Account Balance .....</b>		<b>\$5,087.16</b>

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #45 (25 Month)**

Beginning Balance .....	\$5,174.05	
Interest .....	+\$5.70	
<b>Closing Account Balance .....</b>		<b>\$5,179.75</b>

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT #46 (25 Month)**

Beginning Balance .....	\$5,116.81	
Interest .....	+\$5.64	
<b>Closing Account Balance .....</b>		<b>\$5,122.45</b>

**TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS ON DEPOSIT .....** **\$50,542.18**

**ON HAND FOR DEPOSIT .....** **\$0.00**

**TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS ON DEPOSIT:.....** **\$50,542.18**

- Financial Summary – Herb reviewed the financial summary figures.
- Budget Report – The budget report is as noted.
  - Herb commented that everything is tracking well with the budget.
- Andy and Brett attended the budget hearing for the Carlisle Borough held on Thursday, October 12th at 6:00.
  - They presented the LRA's funding request to the budget hearing committee.
  - The committee will discuss and make a decision on who it will be funding.

**Friends of LeTort** – Brett Flower

- Faulkner Pet Fest –
  - Brett gave a report that there were approximately 100 people in attendance at the Pet Fest.
  - We've had many reviews on the Friends Facebook page since this event.
  - Although this event was good publicity for the LRA and gave us an opportunity to work with Faulkner Subaru, this event was not a money maker for us.
  - Brett plans to write thank you cards to the people who were involved.
    - Metzger Signs took \$150 off of his fee for the lawn signs.
      - Brett will provide Metzger with a thank you indicating the amount of his donation (discount) so that he can claim on his tax receipts.
    - Andy suggested we give Metzger a window sticker to recognize him.
      - Sandy will check her files to see if she has any window stickers.
  - Andy suggested that Brett contact Mike at the Molly Pitcher Pub/Brewery to arrange another fund-raiser event.

**Grants** – Andy Parker

- Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau mini-grant – trail counts –
  - The grant is closed out.
  - Andy revised documentation and resubmitted.
  - Herb prepared an invoice.
  - All documents seem to be in order.

**Audit** – James Ruhl – No Report

**Information and Education** - Sandy Kern

- Recent press releases – Sandy reported:
  - Bridge dedication for Eric and Jerry.
  - Pet Fest Promotions
  - Calendars of Events
  - Facebook posts – one post per day, which boosted our numbers.
    - The number of people reached went up 300% - 3,444 people.
    - Paid \$20 for a Facebook ad to promote the Pet Fest event.
    - Sandy circulated the various posts and statistics.
- Website stats and updates –
  - Andy asked for volunteers to help re-write the text for submission to Cross & Crown for our new website.
  - The new format of the website will be in Word Press which will hopefully be simple enough that we will be able to manage our own content.
    - C & C will be available for a fee to assist when needed.
    - C & C can host this site or they will provide us with names of other host options.
    - C & C price was considerably less than Pixel, our current host.
  - Topics are: Who We Are, What We Do, the Nature Trail, Get Involved, Friends of the LeTort, News, Contacts and Donations.
    - Who We Are – (Our History). Sandy and Herb will work on this topic.
  - C & C has requested a draft of our content.
  - Sandy pulled the narrative from our existing website.
  - Andy will schedule a separate evening working group meeting where members can be assigned topics to draft re-writes.
    - Within the next week, Andy will email several meeting date options.
- Facebook page updates - Sandy reported on the recent FB updates she posted,

**Nature Trail** – Dennis Burkett

- Trail maintenance –
  - Brett will organize a Friends trail maintenance and clean-up event.
  - Brett reported:
    - Small downed trees need to be removed.
    - Erosion just below the crossing of the quarry that should also be addressed.
    - Exposed drainage pipe by the quarry.
  - Andy tried to get South Middleton Township to cut back the trail with a sickle bar mower.
  - Ben Mummert suggested we organize a trail maintenance event this winter to go in and clear back some of the shrub vegetation that is encroaching on the trail.

Andy will follow up with Dennis to see when the trail mowing is scheduled to happen.

- Union Quarry Help –
  - UQ filled in the gully, which redirected the stormwater drainage pattern, washing out the trail.
    - Andy will contact UQ to get this issue addressed.
- Trail signage – Metzger can make .4 gauge aluminum signs that can be screwed on to the map boxes and replace the peeling stickers.
- Tree maintenance – Andy continues to keep an eye on several leaning trees.
- Fill your trail map boxes –
  - Andy and Herb made temporary repairs on several boxes.
- Saturday, October 21st at 9:00 a.m. – The Carlisle Garden Club will be spreading mulch at the LeTort Trailhead garden site. If you are interested in helping with this project, please bring your own gloves and tools to spread mulch.

Saturday, November 4th at 10:00 a.m. – the Carlisle Garden Club will be holding a bench dedication for the bench located at the trailhead garden. - All are invited to attend.

**Long-Range Planning & Easements** - Andy Parker

- Cumberland Conservation Collaborative report (Herb) – No meeting this month – no report.
- CPC purchase of Burgoon property –
  - Andy attended the LeTort Working Group meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the CVVB conference room.
    - Presentation by Brad Maurer from the Nature Conservancy who is doing the planning phase design for the wetland restoration.
    - There are some conflicts.
      - They have grant money to do the planning and that grant money is running out.
      - The CPC is dragging their feet because they don't actually own the property yet.
      - There will need to be additional funding to take the concept plan of the restoration through final design and permitting and then actually getting it done.
      - They have a number of ground water monitoring wells and are also monitoring stream levels.
      - They are finding that the upper cress beds are reverting back to some high-quality wetlands on their own, but the lower beds are pretty dry.
    - The CPC will close on the two large properties late this fall.

- Follow-up on PennDOT ROW at SR 74 Bridge and SMTA Water Interconnect – No report

Stream Ecology – Bill Berwick

- ALLARM report and analysis –
  - Jinnie reviewed the water quality report, discussed the readings, and answered several questions.
    - How can we partner with the townships and their MS4 programs to control the elevated levels that are of concern?
    - What can we do to leverage MS4 requirements to addressing these issues in the stream?
    - Carlisle is currently very active with their stormwater program.
  - Andy received some data from Holly and has requested additional information for past years. LeTort Elementary students were out and collected samples.
    - They take their samples and identify the critters and place in one of three categories: pollution intolerant, pollution tolerant, or in the middle.
    - For their sampling in 2017 at LeTort Park:
      - the main stem of the LeTort - they recorded a total of 9, which is rated poor.
      - the Mully Grub - they recorded a total of 17, which in the good category
    - This is the first season that the mully grub has rated higher than the LeTort.

Project Review - Andy Parker

- No projects for review.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Board Vacancies – Middlesex Township and North Middleton Township.
- Retired Board Member Recognition –
  - The bridge dedications for Erich and Jerry was held on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the LeTort trailhead followed by a luncheon at Mama Spriggs
    - We received a thank you letter from Jerry for honoring him with a bridge dedication.
- Tree across stream upstream of North Street. – The borough has removed the tree from the stream.
- Apparent herbicide use in stream (S. Spring Garden St. upstream of CVTU property)
  - The LRA received a letter of concern from Mike Hepler, a Boiling Springs resident.
    - Mike originally sent the letter in August 2017 to South Middleton Township as part of his comments submitted on SMT's "Pollutant Reduction Plan for the Chesapeake Bay".
      - He is stating that the extensive herbicide use along township roads at certain locations is facilitating the deposit of sediment and debris into the local waterways.
      - Before and after photos were provided to illustrate the effects of continued long term use.
      - A significant curtailment of this practice could help in reaching the sediment reduction goal outline in the reduction plan.
    - Mike followed up by submitting a letter to Julie Vastine at ALLARM on October 12, 2017.
    - Andy is currently working with Russ, South Middleton's township road master, to repair the ditch in front of his property and clean out several stormwater pipes.
    - Andy is also working with TU because they own that patch of land surrounding the parking lot at Bonnybrook. They expressed an interest in clearing the invasives that are in that area.
      - Andy has marked all of the invasive plants and the plan is to clear out this winter.
- Insurance Renewal – No report from Joann, our agent at Strickler's Insurance. She is looking into finding us a better rate than we are getting with PennPRIME. Andy will follow-up with her.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Andy received a notice and nomination form from DCNR's Rivers Program.
  - "River of the Year" contest.
  - DCNR is seeking nominations for this annual honor.
  - 2018 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program
  - They would like to see several federal or state designated scenic rivers in the nomination pool.
    - The Yellow Breeches Creek was the River of the Year in 1992.
  - Andy will complete and submit the nomination form – due November 6, 2017.
    - He asked for someone to volunteer to help review the nomination form and offer suggestions.
    - The nominating organization of the winning river will receive a \$10,000 leadership grant to help fund the "River of the Year" activities.
    - Possible partners would be the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association, Trout Unlimited, Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, and the Partnership for Better Health & Wellness.
    - Jinnie suggest we submit a nomination for both LeTort and CCWA.
      - DCNR will send out a list of all of the streams that were nominated.
      - At the very least, the LRA will get their name recognized.
- Trout Unlimited's Cold Water Partnership has a cold water conservation planning grant. Applications are due by December 15, 2017.
  - Two awards are available:

- Planning Award for up to \$5,000
- Implementation Award for up to \$7,000
- Do we want to do a planning study, looking at the vegetation kill we had and use these funds as investigation money?
- Andy will pull information together and fill out the application.
  - He requested a volunteer to help with the review.
- SUNOCO Mariner East Pipeline Fines - Andy received a phone call from Gil Freedman at Conodoguinet Water Shed Association.
  - When the SUNOCO Mariner east pipeline was crossing the LeTort, they had some inadvertent return when they were doing horizontal drilling underneath the stream in the wetlands to cross the stream.
  - SUNOCO dumped approximately 60,000 gallons of drilling mud into wetlands adjacent to the stream.
  - DEP gave SUNOCO a warning and finally fined them.
    - The fines were for \$87,000.00.
  - The fine is currently going into DEP's general fund.
    - Gil had the idea to pressure DEP into spending that money on the LeTort.
      - We're going to look into making some contact with DEP and seeing if we can make that happen.
    - Herb suggested that some of the funds could go to CPC's restoration of the wetlands of the watercress beds.
      - That would have direct water quality benefits to the stream.
    - We may also be able to get some funds dedicated to planting aquatic plants to sections of the stream.
- Andy asked for volunteers for a nominating committee to nominate officers for the board for 2018.
  - Brett volunteered to be on this committee.
  - Andy will inform Dennis that he has been appointed to be on the nominating committee.
- Herb is working on the general yearly mailing.

Herb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brett seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the LeTort Regional Authority is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Carlisle Community Center in Carlisle, PA.

11/16/17

Date Adopted

Prepared by: Kathy L. Russell

Sandy Kern  
Sandy Kern, Secretary