

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
March 4, 2015
Meeting held at CityCoHo, 2401 Walnut Street

ExCom Members Attending: Pat Beudet, Bill Brainerd, Mathew Himmelein, Mike Hoppus, Jon Paul Jaworski, Anne Lovett, Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath, Dennis Winters, Jim Wylie.

Other Members Attending: Emily Davis, Robin Mann, Karen Melton. **By phone:** Bob Silverman

Absent: John Butler, Len Finegold

The Meeting was called to order by Ann Lovett at 6:45.

Secretary: Minutes accepted.

Treasurer: The balance in the C4 account is \$1838.92. There were expenditures of 351.08 for fund raising, postage, and bank fees. We can expect a refund for calendars of \$201.74.

Standing Committee Reports

Newsletter/Communications: (Jim/Pat) Pat thanked everyone for articles and Jim for formatting. She reported that the electronic newsletter went out on February 25 via convio. Several members reported not receiving the newsletter. Jim said one reason might be that Sierra Club did not have their current email address. Jim reported that no one volunteered for a committee as a result of the newsletter request. He also showed us the format using the Oil train issue. He has formatted the committee web pages to include a statement by the committee chair (oral) and information about the issue presented with text, photograph and video.

Conservation Committee: Jim

Sustainable Energy Hub meeting: Jim reported that the meeting was well attended and well represented by Sierra Club Members. The coalition of more than 15 organizations is not directed from a specific organization. The group divided into 5 subcommittees (Fossil Fuel Transport, LNG Storage and Marketing, Pipelines, Capital (follow the money) and Renewable Energy Vision). Each subcommittee set short, medium and long term goals. The whole group identified five goals for the campaign. A steering committee of volunteers was created to refine the wording to the goals and develop an operating structure. Jim clarified the difference between Sustainability Nexus and Climate Nexus. Sustainability Nexus being the operator of CityCoho and Climate Nexus, a national organization that is working to move to action on climate change.

Political Committee:

Endorsement Recommendation by Email Vote:

Karen Melton and Bill Brainerd recommend Sarah del Ricci, Democrat, for endorsement as candidate for the PA House of Representatives, 170th District. This is a special election that will take place on March 24th. The motion passed unanimously.

Education Committee: Program on Energy efficiency on March 9

Nomination Committee: no report

Old Business:

Recruiting volunteers for Conservation subcommittees: We can set up a table at the Tristate Sustainability Forum at Temple on Friday (March 6). It was also suggested that we might ask members by phone.

New Business:

Good Jobs Green Jobs: Mat reported that Sierra Club is a sponsor of the Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference on Monday April 13th in Washington DC. He is interested in attending and asked if the SPG could provide support. The chapter will also provide support. Sue Edwards is also interested in participating. *Emily moved and Dave seconded that we support Sue and Mat in attending the conference with \$150 each to be for travel, room or conference fees.* The motion passed. Receipts must be submitted to receive funds.

Red Rock Wilderness Act: Emily reported that she participated in a lobbying activity sponsored by the Utah Wilderness Coalition of which Sierra club is part. The purpose of the bill is to give wilderness status to identified areas in Utah. Club members in Mike FitzPatrick's district are needed to contact him urging him to co-sponsor the act which will be presented in April. The Sierra Club has provided funds for the volunteer effort. Those present were asked to complete a postcard.

Montgomery County Event: A meeting was held at Java's Brewin', 296 Ridge Pike in Royersford on February 22. About 15 people attended. Besides music and pastries, Peggy Hartzel talked about the oil trains and Gary talked about Beyond Coal. Places to hike were also talked about. The meeting was advertised through local media, GSK and Gary's list. The next event meeting will be March 29.

Outings: Jim suggested we work with Dave Chapman of *Take it Outdoors* to offer 2 paddle outings, one June 21 on the Brandywine and one on September 17 in the evening – in the Schukill Heritage area near Potstown. Dave is a kayak instructor and has first aid certification. Mike Hoppus said he had several kayaks he could loan. Jim suggested we could subsidize Dave's fees by providing \$200. There was discussion about Sierra Club Outing certification and waivers.

Questionnaire for Mayoral Candidates: Karen is working with a team from several conservation organizations to develop a single questionnaire that all groups can use. League of Conservation Voters' Josh McNeil is heading up the effort. There was a question as to whether the results should be publicized. It was felt that this was fine as long as this was clear to the candidates. It was moved that Karen be authorized to approve the questionnaire for candidates and publicize it. The motion passed.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: April 1, 2015 at City Coho

Mar 19th - Better mobility forum at Friends Center, hosted by Bicycle Coalition

Mar 25th - Temple U, Fox School, the Good Economy Challenge, hosted by Sustainable Business Network

Apr 1st - Temple U, Forum on Equitable Development, hosted by Phila Assoc of Community Development Corporations

Reminders:

Conservation Committee Member Specialties:

- MTR – Jim Wylie
- Energy Conservation & Efficiency – John Butler
- Wind – PTC support – Gillian Norris
- AEPS support – Karen Melton
- Water – Robin Mann
- Smog – Gary Lytle/Jackie Wilson
- Transportation – Dennis Winters
- Land Use – Dennis Winters

Meeting Call-in Number:

1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.