

LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
415 Franklin Street  
Carlisle, PA 17013

MINUTES OF THE LETORT REGIONAL AUTHORITY  
September 18, 2014

The meeting was held on Thursday, September 18, 2014, at the Carlisle Community Center. Andy Parker called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present:** William Berwick, Dave Cornett, Jerry Gapp, Erich Messerschmidt, Andy Parker, Holly Smith, and Herb Weigl

**Members / Representatives Absent:** Sandy Kern, James Ruhl, Lorin Snyder, James Wilkinson, and Jinnie Woodward

**Staff Present:** Mike Blumenthal and Kathy Russell

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jerry made a motion to approve the August minutes. Erich seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS** - Andy welcomed and introduced our new board member for the Carlisle Borough, William Berwick.

**Recording Secretary** (Kathy Russell) – No report

**Executive Director:** (Mike Blumenthal) – We received the grant money totaling \$33,300.00 from DCNR. Once Herb deposits and transfers funds, Mike will then advise the borough that they can cash their check.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance / Budget** – (Herb Weigl):

**Monthly Financial Status**

The memorandum of bills is as follows:

**Receipts:**

<b>Current Month</b>	
Friends Cash Contributions.....	+20.00
<b>Prior month</b>	
Interest .....	+ 20
	+20
<b>TOTAL Receipts.....</b>	<b>+\$20.20</b>

**Bills Requiring Approval:**

Executive Director .....	-\$300.00
Kathy Russell (Recording Secretary).....	- 95.00
Rob Weibley (Mow and trim trail).....	-175.00
<b>TOTAL bills requiring approval (Subtotal).....</b>	<b>\$570.00</b>
<b>TOTAL BILLS:.....</b>	<b>\$570.00</b>

Herb made a recommendation to pay the September bills totaling \$570.00. Erich 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.....	+570.00	
Paid September bills .....	-570.00	
<b>Closing Account Balance .....</b>		<b>\$100.00</b>

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

Beginning balance is .....	\$3,312.02	
Interest (August) .....	+.15	
Tr'd to Bus. Checking Acct.....	-\$570.00	
<b>Closing Account Balance.....</b>		<b>\$2,742.17</b>

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

Beginning Balance.....	\$2,065.11	
Deposit Donation .....	20.00	
Interest (August) .....	+ 05	
<b>Closing Account Balance.....</b>		<b>\$2,085.16</b>

**NON-BANK FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS****IMPREST FUND – Cash on Hand for Mike**

Imprest Fund Beginning Balance .....	\$150.00	
Paid Imprest Fund Bills (Cash) – .....	-0.00	
Imprest Fund (Reimbursement) .....	+0.00	
<b>Closing Imprest Fund .....</b>		<b>\$150.00</b>

**PAYPAL ACCOUNT, FRIENDS OF THE LETORT:**

Beginning Balance .....	\$00.00
Donations .....	+\$0.00
PayPal Fee .....	-\$0.00
Trfd to Friends Savings Acct .....	-\$0.00

Closing Account Balance..... \$0.00

**TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS DEPOSITED:..... \$5,077.33**

**ON HAND FOR DEPOSIT**

Friends Cash Donations.....	\$0.00	
Plan Review Fee.....	0.00	
<b>Closing Account Balance.....</b>		<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
		<b>\$5,077.33</b>

**Budget Report –**

- The 2015 budget committee will meet on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the new budget.
  - Sandy and Herb met with Middlesex, and Andy and Jerry met with South Middleton to discuss their budget and 2015 contribution to the LRA.
  - Herb reported that Middlesex came up with a \$1,000 (33%) increase on their own.
  - Since it has been almost 10 years since we've asked for an increase in contributions, Herb recommended that the 33% increase be the number used for all other contribution requests.
  - South Middleton and the Carlisle Borough have budget deadlines of September 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Mike will send out 2015 funding proposal letters asking for a 33% increase in their contribution amounts.
  - Herb suggested that if no budget money is available, perhaps Act 13 Marcellus Shale money would be an option for funding.
  - Andy asked that all LRA board members make arrangements to meet with their respective townships to request funding.

**Friends of LeTort (Jerry Gapp)**

- Friends status report –
  - Sandy drafted an informative letter to be mailed out to all current and perspective "Friends" members asking for their support of the Friends group.
  - Jerry reported that presentations to Carlisle area service organizations have been completed.
    - We need to plan for the second round of presentations.
    - If you are a member of a service club or interest group who might be interested in hearing our presentation, please give their contact information to Jerry.
    - We are in the early stages of developing our fall Friends mailing.
      - Based on giving in the past, we have approximately 70 names that are good prospects.
      - As a result of our presentations, 10-12 new names were acquired.
- South Mountain Partnership grant status – Herb and Jerry plan to attend this quarterly meeting.
  - Jerry was contacted by the South Mountain Partnership. They have two questions:
    - They want clarification on the plantings we are proposing.
      - requesting native plants
      - We will choose from among the native non-invasive plants available to us.
      - Jerry received permission from the board to commit to the native plants and continue discussion on the plantings.
    - They want to know what matrix we have to measure the impact in terms of public usage of the trail.
      - South Mountain has a supply of infrared sensors that we could use to collect raw data.
      - We may have to work with a statistical professor from Shippensburg University or Dickinson College to gather the data and interpret the information.
- Mike received an e-mail from Rebecca Whalen, a student at Lebanon Valley College.
  - Her science class requires hours spent volunteering to improve the environment.
  - She is free October 4-6 if we have opportunities available.
  - If anyone can come up with a project, please e-mail Mike or Andy.
- Ben Mummert continues to volunteer to be a trail steward.
  - Holly will contact Rebecca Whalen and Ben Mummert to see if they can meet at 3:00 p.m. on October 4<sup>th</sup> to work on having tree debris and trash removed from under the bridge at LeTort Park.

Information and Education (Dave Cornett)

- The local events calendar – Dave distributed a list of upcoming events.
- Public speaking schedule: previously discussed.
- Website stats and updates (Holly) –
  - Holly e-mailed several website links to board members and asked that they review and provide her with comments.
  - There is a wish list at the bottom of the page where you can add the items you'd like to see on our site.
    - Herb commented that Middlesex Township would like to see a good map of the watershed incorporated into our web site.
  - Once Holly receives everyone's input and a few samples of styles what we like, she'll get some quotes.
    - Please provide your comments to Holly within the next two weeks.
- Facebook pagemaster – This matter is on hold

Nature Trail (Erich Messerschmidt)

- CVTC report – (in scheduled months) – No report – Next meeting will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- New trail volunteer – Erich reported that Ben Mummert is enthusiastic about working with the LRA.
- Trail Maintenance Committee (Andy) –
  - Erich sent an e-mail to Rob Weibley saying that the trail looks to be in good shape, thanked him for his services, and requested that he submit his final trail maintenance billing for the year.
  - There is \$825 remaining in our trail maintenance budget.
    - one final outstanding mowing bill for approximately \$100 to \$150.
    - We will end the year within the budget.
- Kiosk signage – Herb will place information and maps on the kiosk on Bedford Street.
- LWCF signs required (Mike) – Mike received a letter from DCNR stating that we had a deficiency in our inspection of the trail.
  - We are not displaying any Land & Water Conservation Funds posters stating that they helped to finance the grant money used on the trail.
    - Herb will add a Land & Water Conservation poster to our kiosk.
    - Herb will send a digital photo of the posting to Mike to forward to DCNR confirming that we have completed their request.
- The Carlisle Partners for Better Health provided two nutrition cards requesting that we post both sides of the card on the bulletin board at Goodyear Park.
  - Mike will post.

Long-Range Planning & Easements (Andy Parker)

- Land Partnership Grant – We do not have the matching funds to pursue this grant.
- Cumberland Conservation Collaborative (CCC) report (Herb) –
  - A meeting was held on Monday night.
  - Only 11 people attended.
  - Herb handed out copies of our LRA brochures and 11 applications for the Friends.
  - Ben Mummert is a member of the CCC.
    - Ben talked about the Turnpike Commission offering to pay Carlisle to dump road construction debris on Cave Hill Park.
    - This is not a good idea.
    - More information will be e-mailed as it becomes available.
    - The CCC recommended that if this dumping does happen, perhaps we could have some of the funds designated to conservation efforts as compensation.
  - Currently there are 12 presentations offered by five member organizations, including the LRA speech.
    - CCC is also soliciting people to give presentations with a zero response.
  - Fall clean up
    - Only three groups will be participating in this event.
    - The LRA will not be participating.
  - Jim Ciarroco, a GIS specialist and faculty member at Dickinson College, is desperate to get projects for the GIS students. If we have any surveying projects done along the stream, we should contact Jim at [ciarroci@dickinson.edu](mailto:ciarroci@dickinson.edu).
    - One potential project would be to have the students take maps and geo reference and transfer that data to overlay on detail contour mapping.
    - The students could pull information for land use and zoning from each of the townships.
  - Hampden Township sent the Cumberland County Commissioners a letter saying that they are opposed having any general fund money spent on farmland preservation.
    - Rick Rovegno will be attending the Hampden Township meeting on October 2 to try to educate the CCC on the Farmland Presentation Program.
  - The next CCC meeting will be November 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the CCVB conference room at borough hall.

Stream Ecology (Holly Smith)

- ALLARM report and analysis (Julie/Jinnie in even months) – No report

Project Review - (Andy Parker) – None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mike confirmed the contribution amounts he will be requesting from the township, county, and municipalities are as follows:

- Carlisle	\$6,000.00
- South Middleton	\$8,000.00
- North Middleton	\$2,000.00
- Middlesex	\$4,000.00
- Cumberland County	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$23,000.00

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Andy reported that Trout Unlimited will be taking on two projects in the coming weeks:

- Saturday, September 27 - rake the spawning gravels in the Upper LeTort around Bonnybrook and Charlie Fox's meadow.
- Saturday, October 4 - help do some cleanup along Biddle Park, from East North Street down to the railroad culvert.

Herb reported that when he was at Middlesex it was discussed that the tract of land (1-1.5 acres) where the LeTort flows into the Conodoguinet Creek is owned by the Sunday family. Mr. Sunday has reached out to Middlesex in the past asking the township to take on the ownership of that parcel. Middlesex Township is wondering whether Mr. Sunday would be interested in reaching out to the LRA to take on this parcel of land. We may want to consider this offer in our planning session coming up in October. Mr. Sunday would donate the land and the LRA would provide information on how this effort would benefit him with regard to taxes.

Mike reported that the PA Department of Transportation is exercising its eminent domain rights on our property. They will be coming in with drilling rigs and other equipment to perform surveys and engineering and soil studies on the LeTort Regional Authority property located at 200 East High Street.

Herb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Erich seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the LeTort Regional Authority is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Carlisle Community Center in Carlisle, PA.

10/22/14  
Date Adopted  
Prepared by: Kathy L. Russell

Sandy Kern  
Sandy Kern, Secretary